

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 22, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

read from the *Common English Bible*

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

OPENING SONG: “Come Away from Rush and Worry”

#655

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Welcome, strangers and friends, long-timers and newcomers, those from nearby and far off.

Many: We gather as one because Jesus is our peace.

One: We gather as the temple where God lives through the Spirit.

Many: We gather with Christ Jesus as our cornerstone, the one who joins us together.

One: Hear the good news of peace that brings us together.

Many: With our brothers and sisters, we are no longer strangers, but residents with God.

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Jesus, our Peace, our Cornerstone, we come from a world of division longing for the promise and good news of your peace. Remind us again of your work of reconciliation—reconciliation that breaks down the barriers of hatred in our communities and our own lives, and between nations and peoples. Make us a place of belonging and peace, where you may dwell in joy, in the name of the God of Sure Promises and of the indwelling Spirit. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Steadfast God, we confess that we are so busy putting up walls between ourselves and others, we cannot see the home you are building for all of us. We spend so much time noting the differences between us and others, while you are embracing everyone as your child. We run to welcome those who look, talk, and act like us, and you throw open your doors to the stranger, the alien, in our midst.

Forgive us, Faithful Heart. By your grace, help us to see the household you are building for all people: there are no plastic protectors on the furniture; there are no rooms that are off-limits; and even the smallest child is welcome to sit at the big peoples' Table and be fed by your grace. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our peace, our hope, our Lord, our Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Do you remember? At one time, you were without Christ; you were the stranger, the outsider, and the alien. But now, in Christ, you have been brought home, living in God's household of hope and peace.

Many: God's covenant with us is everlasting; God's steadfast love is forever; God's forgiveness makes us new and whole. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

MIDDLE SONG: “I Love Your Kingdom, Lord” #549

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We worship and adore God, source, essence, and aim of all things, spirit that enlivens all beings.

We follow the way of Jesus, who found God in himself and shared a way for others to find God in themselves. He was born through love, he lived for love, he suffered for love, he died for love. But love never dies.

We submit ourselves to the leadings of the love that is God, that we may be compassionate to all beings, that we may live and serve in community with others, that we may ask for and offer forgiveness, that we may praise and enjoy God forever. Amen!

GLORIA PATRI

#734

