

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
July 29, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

read from the *Common English Bible*

Ephesians 3:14-21

OPENING SONG: “God of the Ages, History’s Maker”

#78

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Bring your lives, bring your gifts.

Many: **We all are welcome here.**

One: Bring your hopes, bring your dreams.

Many: **Our hopes and dreams are inspired by God.**

One: Bring your prayers, bring your praise.

Many: **We gather to worship in love.**

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Lead us in our worship today, God, that our lips might praise you, our lives might bless you, and our thoughts might glorify your name. We have come to sing and to pray, knowing that you always hear us. Help us to hear you. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Miraculous God, we are often slow to notice your miracles in lives. Inspire us to see them. Sometimes we doubt our own gifts, gifts you have given to us. Grant us the vision to see as you see and trust in them. We are often too afraid to follow you into places unfamiliar and uncomfortable to us, places you would have us go. Give us the courage to go where you lead. Time and again, we are tempted to use our gifts selfishly. Grant us servant-hearts, that we may share our gifts generously in the service of others. Forgive us, God. Inspire us this day, that we may be part of your miraculous love. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: There is more than enough grace for everyone. We may not understand why, or how, or when; but God will make it happen. That is all we need to know.

Many: **When it comes to grace, hope, peace, forgiveness – there are so many leftovers from God’s abundant heart, that we can put them in to-go boxes to share them with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

2 Samuel 11:1-15

MIDDLE SONG: “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

#470

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

Jesus stays with us in the Spirit, who renews our hearts, moves us to faith, leads us in the truth, stands by us in our need, and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant.

The Spirit's gifts are here to stay in rich variety—fitting responses to timely needs.

We thankfully see each other as gifted members of the fellowship, which delights in the creative Spirit's work.

God gives more than enough to each believer for God's praise and our neighbor's welfare. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

John 6:1-21

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “Gifts Fit for a King!”

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG: “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

#575

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2018* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Invocations and Benedictions for the Revised Common Lectionary* by John M. Drescher. The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is from *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett
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July Radio Sponsor: Arlen Benschoter

Birthdays: 7-30 Olivia Bachman, 8-1 Marilyn Deal

Thank you all for your donations to the Sundance meal. Plans are that they will use this money for the last meal. What a wonderful gift to our friends.

Thanks for sharing your talents with us this morning Corn Belt Chorus.

The last day to share newsletter items will be Tuesday, the 30th.

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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