

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 12, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG: “Grace Alone” #436

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

(adapted from Psalm 130, Common English Bible)

One: I cry to you from the depths, God. God listen to my voice.

Many: Let your ears pay close attention to my request for mercy.

One: If you kept track of sins, God, who would stand a chance?

Many: But forgiveness is with you—that’s why you are honored.

One: I hope, God. My whole being hopes, and I wait for your promise.

Many: My whole being waits for God—more than the night watch waits for the morning.

All: Come! Let’s worship God!

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

God of Healing and Transformation, we hunger and thirst for your abundant life. We bring you our sorrow and ask for the bread of joy; we bring you our despair and ask for the bread of hope; we bring you our weariness and ask for the bread of inspiration. Meet us here. We need the bread of heaven to sustain us for our journey to find our way, that we may be one with you. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

We cry out to you from the depths of our souls, God. You know our deepest sorrows. You know our sincerest regrets. You know the wounds that pain us and the memories that haunt us. Redeem us with your steadfast love. Forgive us with your mercy and grace. Restore us with your healing touch. Feed us with the bread of heaven, which is Christ’s love and grace. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Faithful love and great mercy are ours.

Many: We are restored and reclaimed for eternal life through the power of the Spirit.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE inside front cover of the hymnal

GLORIA PATRI #734

SERMON HYMN “Through It All” #452

SERMON SCRIPTURE Isaiah 43:1-4

SERMON “Running Through the Thistles” Pastor Karen Dearchs

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY** Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG “Day by Day” #449

***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 Dearchs
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August Radio Sponsor: Chuck West and Becky Bibler

Birthdays: 8-12 Richard Cother, 8-18 Andrew Schlievert

Our cookie supply is dwindling. Homemade cookies would be appreciated.

Wednesday, the 15th, at 2 pm, will be the last Bible Study of the summer.

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ Algona, Iowa



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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