

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 2, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Song of Solomon 2:8-13 read from the *Good News Bible*

*OPENING SONG: "Fairest Lord Jesus" #123

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Here, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds in our hearts:

Many: calling us to generous acts, to share the gifts we have been given.

One: Now, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds in our land:

Many: calling us to generous acts, to open our hearts to all in need.

One: In every place, in every moment, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds in all creation:

Many: calling us to generous acts, to stand with God's people: the least, the lost, the little, the last.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Creator God, You have loved us passionately into being. We come today seeking your presence and to know we are your beloved! Enter our sanctuary and enter our hearts that we may look into your loving gaze and see ourselves reflected there, as you see us. Let our love for you reflect and mirror your perfect love as we gather as your Beloved Community. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Holy One of leaders and little children, we hear your words every day, but rarely live them out. Our anger roars like a flooded creek, but our forgiveness drips like a rusty faucet. Our impetuous tongues rush to judgment, while our words of hope sound like a sluggish soundtrack. We listen with impatient ears to the cries of the poor.

Forgive us, God of Lights. May your mercy fall on us like a summer shower on parched grass; may your hope overflow our hearts; may your Beloved Child, Jesus Christ, speak to us and call us to life. Amen

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Listen and understand - the voice of the Beloved speaks to us, implanting the word of hope, the word of grace, and the word of forgiveness into our hearts.

Many: We listen and understand. Every gift comes from God, especially the gifts of mercy and love. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING James 1:17-27

*MIDDLE SONG: "God Whose Giving Knows No Ending" #572 (tune: Beach Spring #695)

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together) inside back cover of hymnal

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "Follow the Rules" Pastor Burtnett

GATHERING AT JESUS' TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, *Sanctus*, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west, from north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of this bread and cup. By the power of the Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG:** "Take My Life and Let It Be" #466

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2018* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith. The Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is from *Book of Worship-United Church of Christ*. .

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Organist:	Liz Reynolds
Lector:	David Burrow
Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris

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September Radio Sponsor: Dennis and Connie Schwab

- Birthdays:
- Today – 10:00 am. Worship with Communion, Food Pantry Fellowship coffee and cookies
 - Monday- 11:00 am. Exceptional Opportunities
 - Tuesday- 9:30-11:30 am. Chocolate Season
 - Wednesday- 7:00 pm. Adult Discussion at Chuck Wests
 - Thursday –
 - Sunday – 9:00a m. Seekers
 - 10:00 am. Worship
 - 10:15 am. Children’s Sunday School Kick off celebration
 - Fellowship coffee and cookies
 - Worship and Music Team will meet after worship.

Our prayers and sympathy to the Olivia Rae Bachman family. Her memorial service was held August 30 in our church sanctuary. The flowers today on the alter and piano are from her service. Thank you to Olivia’s family for sharing them with us today.

The Our Daily Bread for September, October and November are on the cart in the west entry way.

Next Sunday, September 9th is the last day to turn in your box tops for education.



**THEIR EYES WERE OPENED, AND THEY
RECOGNIZED THE RISEN CHRIST IN THE
BREAKING OF THE BREAD.**