

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 9, 2018

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

read from *The Message*

Mark 7:24-27

## OPENING SONG: "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

#96

## SHARING JESUS' PEACE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Here, in this place, we will not be afraid to sing the good news.

**Many: We will praise our God, now and always.**

One: Here, with this people, we will not fear in living the good news.

**Many: We will walk with Jesus, as he comes with justice in his hands.**

One: Here, in these moments, we will not be scared to tell the good news.

**Many: We will be open to all the Holy Spirit is doing in our midst.**

## OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

**Come among us this morning, Lord God. Give light to our minds, which hunger for truth. Give peace to our hearts, which hunger for rest. Give strength to our spirits, which hunger for help. Renew your work of grace and salvation within us as we join in worship, so that we may go from here strong in your strength to be your people and to do your will. Through our Lord Jesus Christ we pray. Amen**

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

**We say that we are good listeners, God of holy ways, but we turn stopped up ears to the vulnerable around us. We say that we live as your people, but too often, put ourselves ahead of the people we love. We say that we are people of faith, but then try to overwhelm people with words, rather than acts of service. We say so much, God of compassion, that we cannot hear you calling us to faithful living. Have mercy on us and send us out to offer kindness to the lonely. Have mercy on us and send us to be generous with the love you offer. Have mercy on us, so we might be open to all the chances we will have to follow, and to serve alongside our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Whisper it. Say it. Shout it. Sing it! Our God comes with justice, not judgment; with hope, not a heavy hand, with grace, not grudges. This is the good news for us.

**Many: We will not be scared to tell anyone, and everyone, of our God who overflows with mercy, who sets us free, who watches over us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

## MIDDLE SONG: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

#30

## AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

**We are God's. We belong to The One who creates all things, in whose image all people are made.**

**We are Christ's. He has loved us, healed us, called us and anointed us with his Spirit.**

**We belong to his death and resurrection and ministry.**

**We are the Spirit's. We belong to the church, the Body of Christ. God gives us the gifts of forgiveness, resurrection, and eternal life, and the gift of participating in the healing of the world by God's grace.**

**As God's beloved, we devote ourselves to God and to God's will, wholly, joyfully and with the help of Christ. Amen.**

## GLORIA PATRI

#734

## FOCUS SCRIPTURE

James 2:1-17 from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "Opinions"

Pastor Burtnett

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

**CLOSING SONG:** "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

#712

**\*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 *Invocations and Benedictions for the Revised Common Lectionary* by John M. Drescher. 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 by Steve Garnass-Holmes.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds  
Lector: David Burrow  
Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett  
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September Radio Sponsor: Dennis and Connie Schwab

Birthdays: 9-11 Rebecca Moore, 9-15 Tylor Steburg

Tuesday morning Pastor Burtnett will be in Calumet.

Fellowship will meet this Wednesday at 5:30 pm.

Next Sunday the Peace Pole gathering will start at 4 pm. Bring a chair and join us. After the ceremony there will be ice cream and strawberries. There will be a free will offering for peace programs.

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



**"Where No One Is A Stranger"**

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

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