

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 14, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 4:12-16
from the *Common English Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” #68

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Come, all who look for God with unseeing eyes, who listen for God but hear nothing.

Many: Oh, that we knew where to find God for we want to hear and understand God’s Word.

One: The word of God is living and active. It pierces, judges, and opens us to God’s grace.

Many: We can’t hide from God, for God knows us. God understands our thoughts and intentions.

One: Set everything aside to follow Jesus in this hour. This is the time to embrace new ways.

Many: Here we set the patterns of everyday life. Here we are strengthened for every day’s challenges.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Gracious God: when we cannot see you, you look in compassion upon us; when we cannot speak a word, you hear the sighs of our hearts; when we are falling apart, you hold us together with your grace.

Jesus, Healing Hand of God: you reach out to take away all which distracts us from discipleship; you challenge us to give away everything which keeps us from following you; you surround us with people, even strangers, who enfold us with your love and hope.

Loving Spirit: when we are too weary to put one faltering foot in front of the other, you

carry us in your strength; as we seek to challenge the unfairness of our world, you stand beside us in your justice; when we are afraid to come near, you bear our prayers to the seat of grace.

God in Community, Holy in One, hear us as we lift our prayer to you this morning. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Gracious God: when we cannot see you, you look in compassion upon us; when we cannot speak a word, you hear the sighs of our hearts; when we are falling apart, you hold us together with your grace.

Jesus, Healing Hand of God: you reach out to take away all which distracts us from discipleship; you challenge us to give away everything which keeps us from following you; you surround us with people, even strangers, who enfold us with your love and hope.

Loving Spirit: when we are too weary to put one faltering foot in front of the other, you carry us in your strength; as we seek to challenge the unfairness of our world, you stand beside us in your justice; when we are afraid to come near, you bear our prayers to the seat of grace.

God in Community, Holy in One, hear us as we lift our prayer to you this morning. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Hear the good news! Because God loves us, we lack for nothing; because God forgives us, we have everything we need; because God surrounds us with sisters and brothers, we do not journey alone.

Many: Committing everything to God, trusting in the One who redeems us, we decide to live as God’s faithful and forgiven people. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Mark 10:17-31

***MIDDLE SONG:** “O Jesus, I Have Promised” #458

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We believe in God, who creates us, who sustains us each moment, who is our life and our

breath.
We follow Christ, who showed us God. He received and shared God's grace. He trusted God in everything. He let go of things so that he might cling to Life. He let go of life, so that he might hold onto Love. He gave of himself, even his very life, for the sake of the healing of the world. Though he was crucified, God have him life again; and he rose and is still among us in a new way.
We live by the Holy Spirit, which alone gives us life. We rejoice in the church, the Body of Christ, and in the oneness of all life, the gift of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, and the mystery of eternal life.
By the power of that Holy Spirit, and in the name of Christ, we devote ourselves to give generously of all that we receive, for the sake of the healing of the world, and the eternal glory of God. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Job 23:1-9, 16-17 from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "God's Gone Missing" Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY** Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG:** "O God, Our help in Ages Past" #84

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Prayer of Confession are from *Led By Love-Worship Resources for Year B* by Lavon Bayler. The Opening Prayer, Call to Confession, and Words of Assurance, are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2018* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

=====

Organist: Liz Reynolds

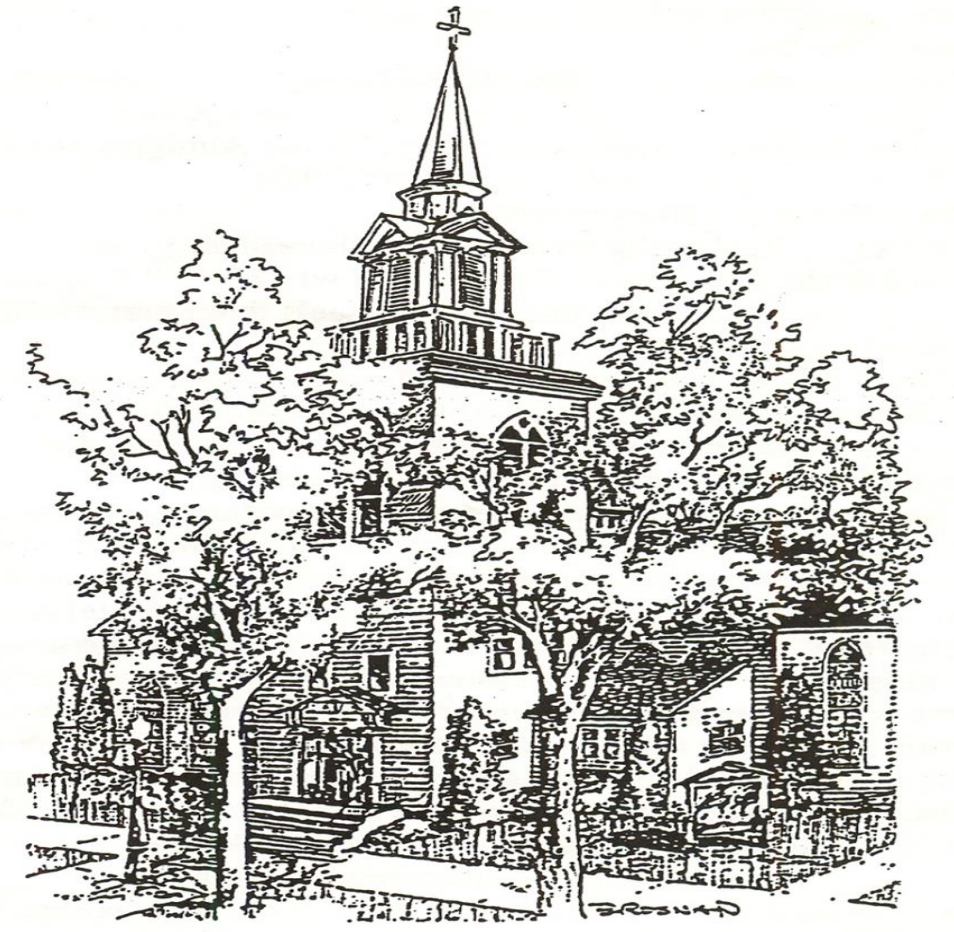
Lector: David Burrow

Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett

=====

October Radio Sponsor: Gregg and Julie Buchanan

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



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

515-295-2845