

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
October 28, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 34:1-8 from the *Good News Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” #56

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: The Holy Spirit is present with us in this time and this space.

Many: When we open our hearts to Spirit, God fills us with grace.

One: When we open our lives to God’s mercy, God fills us with compassion for one another.

Many: The Holy Spirit is present with us in this time of worship and praise.

All: Let’s worship God!

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Gracious and loving God, we come with open hearts to see what you will do today. Help us recognize your presence when life takes twists and turns we do not expect or anticipate. Help us to turn to you when we are weak and unsure of ourselves. Help us listen to your voice above all other voices. Most of all, help us to follow Jesus, your Son, and our redeemer. May we walk in his footsteps, that we might be perfected in your unconditional love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

We hear people crying out for justice, God of compassion, but tell them to be quiet so we can hear our favorite politicians. There are those who stand by the side of the road with a sign reading ‘will work for hope,’ and we speed up to get past them. There are those

who have been tripped by the struggles of life, and we wonder why they can’t pull themselves back to their feet.

Have mercy on us, God whose tears mingle with those we have ignored. You challenge us to gather up the poor, the angry, the hopeless, the lost, the most vulnerable, and to bring them to you, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, has brought us to you through his life and love. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Take heart, dear friends. Look at what God has done! God gathers us from wherever we have wandered and brings us home along hope’s highway.

Many: With forgiveness, God has restored our hopes; with grace, God takes our tears and transforms them into bouquets of joy; with the light of love, God rescues us from nightmares of our fears. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Mark 10:46-52

***MIDDLE SONG:** “O Christ, the Healer, We have Come” #630

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together)

We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the church; to celebrate God’s love and presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Job 42:1-6, 10-17 from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "A Reformation Story"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG:** "How Can I Keep from Singing"

#424

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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

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

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October Radio Sponsor: Gregg and Julie Buchanan

Today	Potluck after worship and clean up day
Monday	ExOp here
Next Sunday	Communion, Food Pantry collection Congregational Budget meeting following worship

A reminder to bring linens and towels, new or slightly used, and place them in the front pews. These will be given to the Care Team before Thanksgiving. Also, a reminder that the women's fellowship will again be doing the spring Trash, Treasure and Bake sale. Items can be put in the southeast basement room of the fellowship hall.

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



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

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