

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost
November 18, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Joel 2:21-27 from the *Common English Bible*

*OPENING SONG: "Come, Ye Thankful People Come" #721

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Come with hearts overflowing in gratitude.

Many: God has done great things for us!

One: Be glad and rejoice!

Many: We have come to rejoice in God's gifts.

One: Sing praises of joy!

Many: Our mouths are filled with laughter.

One: Shout with thanksgiving, in sunshine and rain.

Many: We are here to praise God for our lives, for harvest, and food.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Giver of life, for sunshine and showers, we give you thanks; for food and drink, we give you praise; for clothing and shelter, we bestow our gratitude. Gather our worries and our burdens this day, and shelter us from fear and despair. Help us rest assured in your arms, knowing that your loving care is enough. It *is* enough. It is *enough*. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

You know the truth about us better than we know it ourselves, God. We've gathered the bounty of your earth to fill our bank accounts, struggling to get ahead, blinded by greed. We have not stopped to gaze with wonder at the beauty of your creation, We have not taken the time to listen to one another or to walk with Jesus among the outcasts and sinners. We turn away from the promptings of the Holy Spirit, choosing to worry rather than praise. Forgive us and turn us around, that we might enter into a time of true thanksgiving. Amen

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: God does not shame us but deals wondrously with us, restoring our fortunes, and blessing us with peace.

Many: God desires our salvation, our healing, our embracing of truth. Therefore, we will not worry. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven!

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING AND REMEMBRANCE

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 126

*MIDDLE SONG: "We Praise You, O God" #726

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We believe in the debonaire God who clothes the wild flowers dressing them so superbly that they outdo Solomon in all his glory; who is the true Friend of all creatures great and small, who feeds magpies and laughing kookaburras, and even doleful ravens and drongos.

We believe in the God of Christ Jesus the Source of abundance, full of grace and truth. We believe in the extravagant God who turns the other cheek, goes the second mile, turns water into the best wine, brings healing with his every touch, and who welcomes a woman's love as she fills the house with unforgettable fragrance.

We believe in the faith-full God of Jesus Christ, who sweated blood in an Olive Grove, and kept the faith to the very end.

We believe in the redeeming God who spared no cost, forgave even his brutal crucifiers, had time for a dying thief at his side, and who on the third day did a thing so prodigious that even his friends were dismayed with joy.

We believe in the God of Jesus Christ, the Source of abundance wherever we turn and no matter what we do. Amen

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:25-33

from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “Stepping Out of Worry”

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG:** “For the Fruit of All Creation”

#723

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Opening Prayer are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2018* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu . The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are all adapted from *Led By Love-Worship Resources for Year B* by Lavon Bayler. The Affirmation of Faith is by Bruce Prewer

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Organist: Liz Reynolds

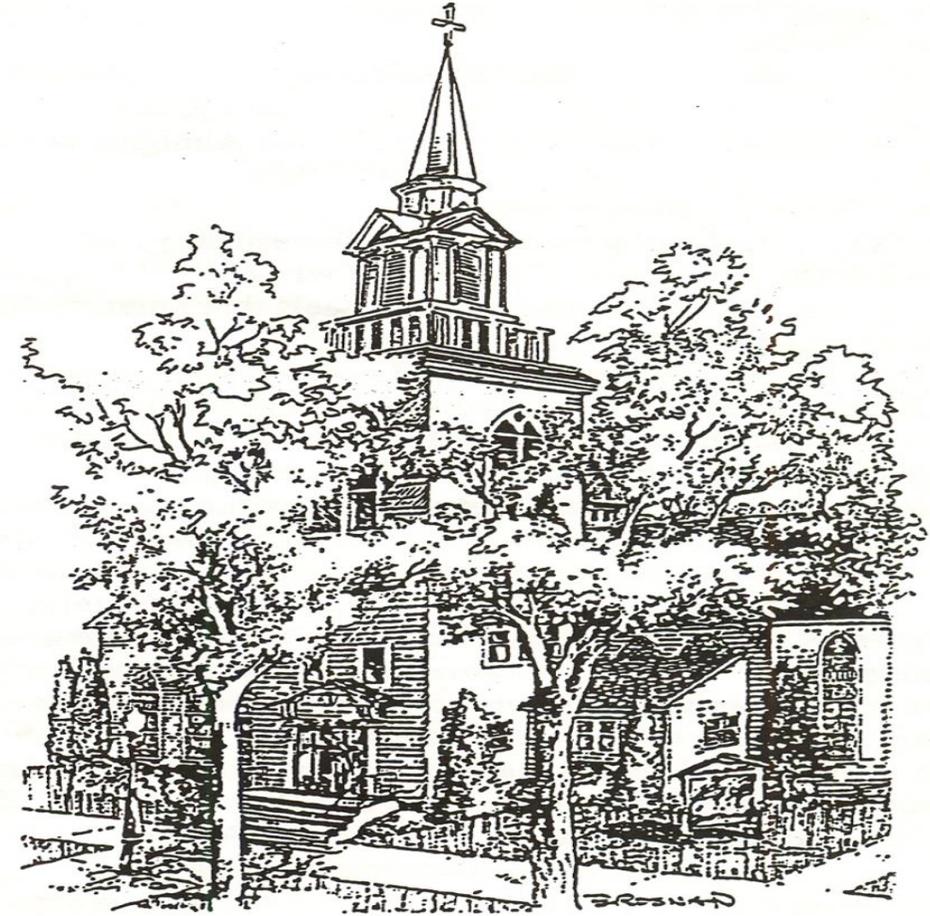
Lector: David Burrow

Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett

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November Radio Sponsor: David Burrow

**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

Birthdays: 11-19 Christian Grindberg, 11-20 Pat Bilsborough, Phil Heath, 11-23 Gregg Buchanan

Announcements

The annual Thanksgiving potluck will follow the service today. All are welcome to join us. Today will be the last day to turn in linens and towels for the Care Team. The Ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be held Tuesday, 7 pm, at St. Thomas Episcopal. Poinsettias will again be ordered from Hy Vee. The cost will be \$10 per plant. Please let the office know by November 23rd if you want us to order for you. The sign-up sheet for Meals on Wheels is posted in the parlor. Please offer your help. We know December is a busy month for all. Pledge cards were distributed last Sunday. Please try to get them to the office or in the offering by the end of the year. Forms are in the parlor. December 1st we will be decorating for the Christmas season. Newsletter articles are due in the office by November 27th.

A Litany of Thanksgiving and Remembrance

One: We remember our ancestors of our Faith, from Abraham and Sarah, to Paul and Phoebe:

Many: Ancestors of the faith, we remember you.

One: We remember the prophets and priests, the ministers and teachers who have taught us the way of God:

Many: Teachers of the Faith, we remember you.

One: We remember our grandparents and parents, aunts and uncles, those who have gone before us in our lifetime:

Many: Family of our faith, we remember you.

One: We lift up memories of children and grandchildren, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives and parents whose lives ended too soon:

Many: Those close in our heart, we remember you.

One: We lift up to you, God, the names of the members of our congregation who we have lost in this past year from our lives, knowing that they are in your heart forever. *(We will pause after each person's name is read, toll the bell, and remember and give thanks for their life.)*

Olivia Rae Bachman
Marlene Joy Dutton
Dennis Carl Secrease

One: We celebrate the lives of those named, God, and lift up many more names in our hearts.

Many: Family of God, we remember you, honor you, and give thanks for your lives. We know you are with us in the Spirit of Worship, and you will not be forgotten.

One: Let us pray together:

Many: We give thanks, God, for all who have gone to join with You beyond this life. We trust in the hope of the resurrection and the promise of new life in Jesus, and know that in our grief and celebration, God, you are with us through it all, and we are not left alone. In the strong name of Jesus, in whom love lives forever, we pray. Amen.