

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 14, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Colossians 1:1-14 from the *Good News Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** “God of Grace and God of Glory” #569

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Leader: We come, bringing our souls to God.

People: God delights in us, just as God has found wonder in every generation.

Leader: We come, bringing our hands to Jesus.

People: Jesus challenges us to see each person as the neighbor we are to serve.

Leader: We come, bringing our hearts to the Spirit.

People: The Spirit teaches all we need to know so that we may be faithful in our lives.

Everyone: We come to worship, giving thanks with joy to our God!

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

We want to measure up to your hopes for us, God. Open our eyes to see the places in our world where our compassion can help. Give us loving hearts, that we might reach out to our neighbors when they are in need. Grant us courage to take risks for the sake of your realm. Help us to live lives that are worthy of you. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Holy God, called to walk with the vulnerable, we run to catch up with the powerful. Asked to pray constantly for others, we are too busy bragging about ourselves. Challenged to notice and to care for those tossed aside by the world, we rush by with our to-do list in our hands.

Have mercy on us, God who loves us completely. May we be the grace that a lonely person needs this week; may we be the hope the forgotten are looking for; may we be the peace that the broken long for in every moment, even as Jesus, our Lord and Savior, has been our peace, our hope, our grace, and so much more in our lives. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

Leader: Today, in this moment, the word is very near to us. The word of forgiveness, the word of hope, the word of our God for all of us.

People: God's heart is open to us, pouring mercy, wonder, and peace into our lives. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 82

***MIDDLE SONG:** “We Give Thee but Thine Own” #688

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

We believe in God, Creator of all things, heavenly father and mother, Soul of infinite love, wisdom, and power, ruler of all that is and all that is to come, who is mystery, yet revealed.

We follow Christ, God's chosen one, who loved and served humbly, who healed the broken and included the outcast, who chose to suffer rather than harm for the sake of the healing of all Creation, who gave his life for our redemption, and who was raised by God to new life. In his teaching, in his death and resurrection, and in his presence with us in all circumstances, he reveals God to us. He calls us to serve him for the sake of proclaiming God's grace. We trust that he accompanies us and will help, guide, heal, and defend us through all difficulty and suffering.

We believe the Holy Spirit sustains us, and guides us and empowers us as servants of God's grace.

We live as the body of Christ, in the power of forgiveness and the reality of resurrection, and the light of eternal life. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Luke 10:25-37

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “Neighbors”

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG** “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

#587

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted) and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2019* edited by Mary J, Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ.* . The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

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

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July Radio Sponsor: Arlen Benschoter

Birthdays: 7/15 Pam Burtnett, 7/18 Jeff Hines

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



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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