

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 18, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 80: 1-2, 8-19 from the *Common English Bible*

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

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Let us sing to the God of Hosts

Many: who provides for us, and whom we worship in this space.

One: How awesome is our God

Many: who created from nothing all that is beautiful in this world;

One: who anticipates our every need;

Many: who loves us beyond measure.

ALL: God, our God give heed to our presence. Hear our voices lifted up to you in praise.

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Most Gracious God, we greet you once again in this sacred space. We have come because we need to be reminded of your love and your expectations for our living. We are like the vine you planted, watered and protected. We know in our hearts that we need, want and desire your presence in our lives. So we come in prayer and listen for your Word to speak to our hearts and reveal again your desires for us. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

What more can we say, Expectant God, that you don't know already? You long for justice for all people, but it is washed away by the flood of violence in our world. You hope that righteousness will walk with us, but you hear the clear cries of those we mistreat. You ask us to speak up for those in need, but we shut our mouths and turn away.

Forgive us, Righteous God. Have mercy when we do not bear the fruit we could. Even though we have not lived our faith to the fullest, may we receive the promises of hope and grace you have given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Listen! Can you hear them? The saints of heaven - those who have gone on before us - are cheering us on as we run towards the finish line of our faith.

Many: Thanks be to God! The victory has already been won for us in Jesus Christ. We are forgiven. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 12: 49-56

***MIDDLE SONG:** “God Moves in a Mysterious Way”

#65

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in God, the Root of all living, Creator of all things.

We live in Christ Jesus, God's Son, who loved all people and who makes us one in his love. He suffered and died, and was raised to new life. In his death and resurrection we are also raised to life that is transformed. Christ is our Vine, and we are his branches; and without him we cannot live.

We live by the Holy Spirit, flowing through us so that we may bear fruit for God, the fruit of love. In the Spirit we are one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.

We trust in the one holy church, the communing of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the mystery of resurrection, and the grace of eternal life. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Hebrews 11:29-12:2

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “Acts of Faith”

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG** "How Firm a Foundation"

#411

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. 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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August Radio Sponsor: Chuck West and Becky Bibler

Birthdays: 8-18 Andrew Schlievert, 8-19 Henry Reynolds, 8-20 Adeline Reynolds, 8-22 Larry Person

Next Saturday, the 24th, the Methodist church will be having an ice cream social and we have been invited to attend. This will begin at 6 pm.

Next Sunday we will be having our annual out door worship here on the west lawn followed by a pot luck. The Burtnetts will furnish the smoked pork. Please bring lawn chairs along with side dishes for this event.

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United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

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