

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Worship Liturgy
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 8, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 from the *Common English Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** “Come, Let Us Praise the Lord” #9

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Searching, seeking, wondering, thinking,

Many: we come to find our God.

One: Calling, crying, praying, singing,

Many: we come to worship God.

One: Walking, running, wandering, straying,

Many: we yearn to follow Jesus.

One: Bring your questions and open your hearts,

Many: for God has invited us here. Let’s worship!

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Creator God, you have formed us carefully with your hands. We have come to offer you our worship and praise. You know us better than we know ourselves. You alone understand the value of every creature and of all that exists. Help us to become all that we were created to be. Help us love you and our neighbors with all that we are. Help us to follow the way of Jesus, not in the hope of what we might gain but for all we might give in the spirit and joy of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Gracious God, search our hearts. Root out the thoughts and plans that draw us away from you. Forgive us, for clinging to the things of our lives; for holding on to our need for control; for denying the cross you would have us bear; for choosing the paths that seem easier or safer when you call us to the path of discipleship. Forgive us and guide us back to you. Reshape us in your image, that we may be your people—a people that serves you and others with love and compassion. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: As we turn to God from our own ways, God reclaims us as God’s children.

Many: In God’s mercy, we are formed anew in the image of God. Thanks be to God!
We are forgiven.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 14:25-33

***MIDDLE SONG:** “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” #344

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

I believe in God, the source of all life, wholeness, and love.

I believe that God is revealed in Jesus Christ.

I believe that in his life, Jesus reveals God in grace, mercy, forgiveness, and justice.

I believe that in his death, Jesus reveals God’s determined presence in the world even in the face of hatred, violence, and pain.

I believe that in his resurrection, Jesus reveals God calling us to abundant life both now and forever; life beyond our fearful and fragile imaginations.

I believe that God lives among us, within us, and through us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I believe that God moves us to be together in communities of faith, hope, and love.

I believe these things not out of certainty but out of faith; as one who trusts in the reality of God revealed in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. Amen

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Philemon 1-21 read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "On the Basis of Love"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

#393

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and words of Assurance are adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2010* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Opening Prayer is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2019* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession and Offering Prayer of Dedication are adapted from *Words of Worship-Resources for Church and Home* by Glen E. Rainsley. The Affirmation of Faith is by Daniel Sire.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds

Lector: David Burrow

Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett

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September Radio Sponsor: David Burrow

Birthdays: 9-11 Rebecca Moore

Pastor Burtnett will be in Calumet on Tuesday for a meeting. Also, the Missions and Memorial committee will be meeting at 4 pm that day.

Wednesday, the 11th the Fellowship gathering will take place at 5:30 pm.

Next Sunday will begin the new year of Sunday school.

The September through November Our Daily Bread pamphlet is out and can be found in the Fellowship hall entrance.

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United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

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