

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 15, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 1 Timothy 1:12-17

from *The Message*

***OPENING SONG:** “Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise”

#48

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Come! Come, all you who are seeking God. Come! Enter in to this place of protection and comfort and discover that God is seeking us!

People: We rejoice to have God find us here, as we come seeking God!

One: Come! Come in and experience God's joy when we come together.

All: Here in this sanctuary we worship, and meet God!

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Thank you, Holy One, for this opportunity to meet you in this place of worship. We come to this new day after a long week, carrying all kinds of feelings, emotions and expectations. But here, in your presence let your Holy Spirit move us to a place of rejoicing in which new hopes abound. We will celebrate the gift of your caring Spirit. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Although we believe we are experts at faithfulness, Holy God, we must confess we are unskilled workers at doing good for others. Too often, we turn a deaf ear to the cries of people we have judged to be fools. We easily scoff at those we believe have nothing to teach us or share with us.

How foolish, Searching God, how foolish we are! Forgive us, and restore us to your goodness. Then, send us forth to search for all who sit in the shadowed corners of our world, yearning for someone to come and find them, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, came to find us. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Our actions sometimes show we do not know God. Our words and lives show we do not understand God's hopes for us. But with utmost patience, God sets aside our foolishness, and fills us with mercy.

Many: Mingled with faith and love, grace is poured into our souls, giving us new life, restoring us as God's children. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 14

***MIDDLE SONG:** “Our Father, We have Wandered”

#371

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

I believe in an innovative God, who does not wait for us to find ourselves but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way.

I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God's crucial initiative, that when he calls us to follow, he also gives us the power to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God.

I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.

I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ's people, called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the “promised land” of God's future.

Because Christ has called me in this, I truly believe. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Luke 15:1-10

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "Hide and Seek"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

#68

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession (adapted), Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance (adapted), and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by Bruce Prewer.

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

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September Radio Sponsor: David Burrow

Birthdays: 9-15 Taylor Steburg, 9-18 Carol Logue, 9-19 Kathryn Myers

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

The Pastor Parish Relations committee will meet this Wednesday at 4 pm. Thursday Evangelism and Outreach will meet at 10 am and Women's Fellowship will meet at 1:30 pm. A reminder that next Sunday, the 22nd, we will hold the Peace Pole service at 4 pm. Please bring your lawn chairs.

**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