

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost  
All Saints Sunday  
November 3, 2019

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 from the *Common English Bible*

**\*OPENING SONG:** I Love Your Kingdom, Lord” #549

## SHARING JESUS' PEACE

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

One: We gather, with the company of the faithful:

**Many:** those who know the way to the kingdom and those who are just beginning their pilgrimage.

One: We gather, remembering the ones we call saints:

**Many:** those who made compassion their day job, and those who have no day named after them.

One: We gather, praising God for all who have shaped our faith:

**Many:** those who showed us the dance steps of heaven, and those who taught us to play the instruments of joy.

**OPENING PRAYER** (read together)

We are here to worship you, God. Open the eyes of our hearts that we may know of the hope to which you call us; that we might understand the richness of the inheritance we have in Jesus; the greatness of your power that works through him, who has been raised to be sovereign of all in ages past, this age, and for all ages to come. Open our eyes, hearts and our understanding. Continue to show us the mystery that is you. Reveal to us your eternal purpose for us. We hope in you and praise your glory. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (read together)

On this long journey we call life, Holy God, we fail to live as your people. Too often, we do not in glory shine, but dig through the garbage of life. We are too busy in our pursuits for more and more to rest in you. We prefer our own company rather than that blessed communion of your household of faith.

Have mercy and forgive us, Creator of life. While we are born of dust, we are nursed by your grace, so that we might share pictures of your realm which is unfolding in our midst, so we might tell the stories of your wonder which wraps around us like warm shawls, so we might sing of the One who has come to transform us from sinners into saints, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (read responsively)

One: Do you see them, there out of the corner of your eye? The people to your right and left, in front of you as well as behind? They, like you, are God's saints – ordinary, everyday, forgiven people of God.

**Many:** Baptized, called, gifted -- we will go to share the Christ-flame with everyone we meet, for we are God's children, forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God! Amen.

**REMEMBERING THE SAINTS** (see insert)

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 6:20-31

**\*MIDDLE SONG:** “Faith of Our Fathers” #530

**\*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together) Back of the Hymnal

**GLORIA PATRI** #734

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE** Psalm 149 read from the *New International Version*

**MESSAGE:** “A Saint's Sharp Sword” Pastor Burtnett

**GATHERING AT JESUS' TABLE**

Invitation, Communion Prayer, *Sanctus*, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

**SANCTUS**

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

We thank you, Most Holy God, for refreshment at your table where along with your saints we receive all Christ's gifts. Provide for your church on earth a strong faith and increased love for one another. Give us the grace to praise you with our lives in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

**\*CLOSING SONG:** "Rejoice in God's Saints"

#531

**\*BENEDICTION**

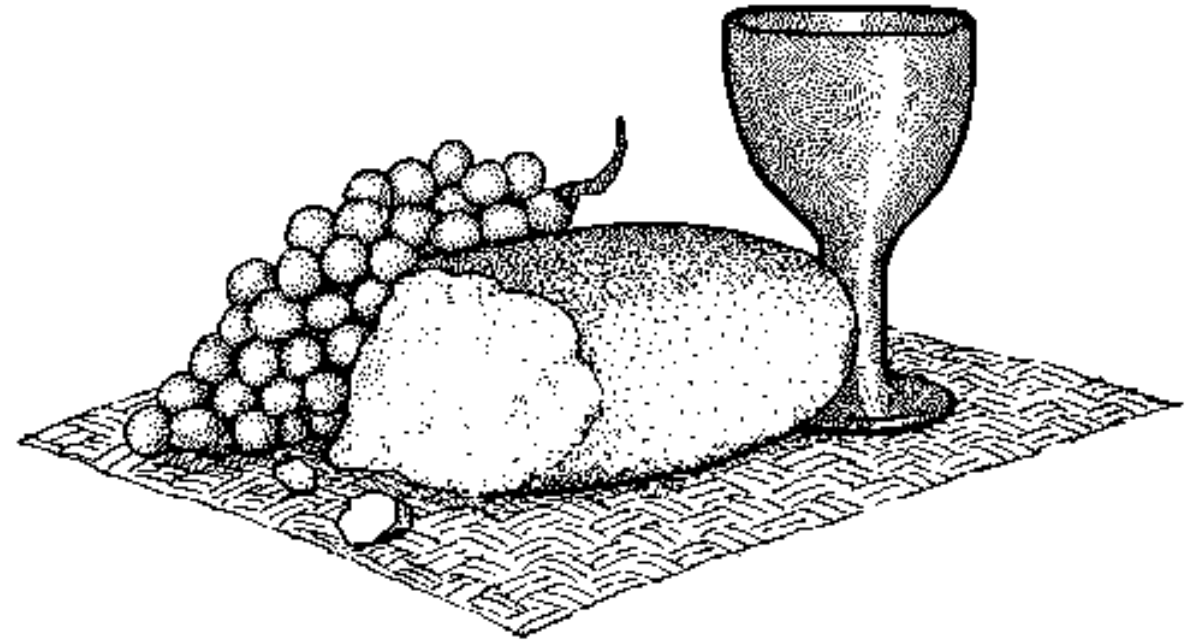
**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Invocations and Benedictions for the Revised Common Lectionary* by John M. Drescher. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2-19* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Prayer of Thanksgiving is from in **Praise of Saints – When "Yes" is the Only Response: Service of Holy Communion for All Saints Day** written by Henrietta Stith Andrews

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

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*Their Eyes Were Opened,  
And They Recognized  
The Risen Christ  
In The Breaking*

## *Of The Bread*

### **All Saints Litany**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for all the saints of our lives and the witness they have shared with us even as we continue to walk the journey of faith and make our way to the glory that God is preparing for all of us. Let us pray.

Eternal God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, we praise you for the saints of all times and places who have walked the road of faith before us and beside us. For their witness to your love and their commitment to your justice, for their trust in your mercy regardless of the circumstance, we give you thanks and praise.

**People: God of all creation, we praise you for all your servants who have witnessed to your truth, who have shown us your love, who have inspired us to have hope. By their example of faith, hope, and love, remind us of your calling to join in making your new creation real in this world and the next.**

Leader: God of grace and peace, we praise you for women and men and children who reflect your love into our world. Guide us to continue their faithful work as we too walk in the light of your love.

**People: God of all saints, today we especially remember the saints from among this community who have departed our company over the past year.**

*Everyone: We thank you for the faithful witness of Nancy Kolp Erickson, and for her courage amidst strife and her hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence)*

*We thank you for the faithful witness of James Rush Kolp, and for his courage amidst strife and his hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence)*

*We thank you for the faithful witness of Judy Ann Johnson, and for her courage amidst strife and her hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence)*

Leader: We remember so many other saints who have walked this road with us, whom we name before you in silence: *(a moment of silent prayer is kept)*  
Continue to inspire us by their faithful witness, that we too might join in bringing your justice, mercy, and peace to our world.

***Everyone: Eternal God, as we walk this pilgrim way, make our faith firm, our hope clear, and our love pure, that we might join the saints of all the ages in praise eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

~ adapted from a post on LiturgyLink, October 30, 2014. <https://www.liturgylink.net/2014/10/30/litany-for-all-saints/>

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Board will meet this Wednesday, the 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm.

This month the women's fellowship will be collecting new or slightly used linens for the Care Team. Please place these items in the front pews.

Next Sunday will be Stewardship Sunday. Please keep the stub for your records.