

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Twenty- fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Reign of Christ/Thanksgiving Sunday
November 24, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Deuteronomy 26:1-11 read from the *Good News Bible*

*OPENING SONG: “We Praise You, O God” #726

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: This is the day that God has made; let’s rejoice and be glad in it. As we gather in worship, may our gratitude find expression.

Many: Let’s thank God for spinning things: the good Earth that arcs through space, the whirl of ideas that pulse in our minds.

One: Let’s thank God for stable things: the regular habits of sun and moon, stars and tides; the solidarity of firm friendship.

Many: Let’s thank God for soft things: the favorite chair that absorbs our tiredness, the pliable sounds of a baby trying to talk.

One: Let’s thank God for simple things: the snapping taste of an apple, the gentle strength of faith.

Many: With thanks in our hearts for all these things and more, we come to worship God!

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Gracious God, creator of all, giver of life, we praise you! We worship you in humility and gratitude. Surrounded by your love and care—we live and breathe, laugh and cry, labor and rest. When our souls faint within us, you satisfy our hunger with the bread of life, and satisfy our thirst with living water. With joy and thanksgiving, we celebrate the unselfish bounty you have bestowed upon us! Amen!

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Because we live in this modern, tech-driven, twittering age, we often forget what you have done for us, God of every blessing. We pat ourselves on the back for our ability to learn new computer skills, but have forgotten that life is more than a machine. We have more than we could ever use yet, like squirrels, store up more and more. Our faith is often pushed to the back of the closet, to make room for all the fears we wear so easily. Forgive us, Restorer of life. As you clothe us with your grace and mercy, may we share with those who have so little. As our hearts overflow with your love and wonder, may we offer them as gifts to everyone we meet. As you feed us with your joy and hope, may we welcome to the Table all those whose lives are filled with tears and pain. As we gather with family and friends during this season, may we continue to give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: This is the good news: as God dresses creation in wonder, so you will be clothed in grace; as God pours out abundance upon the earth, so you will be blessed with peace and joy.

Many: We don't say it often enough, but thanks be to God for healing, for life, for wonder, for mercy. We are blessed, for we are forgiven. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Colossians 1:11-20

*MIDDLE SONG: “Holy God, We Praise Your Name” #138

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We believe in the debonair God who clothes the wild flowers dressing them so superbly that they outdo Solomon in all his glory; who is the true Friend of all creatures great and small.

We believe in the God of Christ Jesus the Source of abundance, full of grace and truth. We believe in the extravagant God who turns the other cheek, goes the second mile, turns water into the best wine, brings healing with every touch, and who welcomes a woman’s of love as she fills the house with unforgettable fragrance.

We believe in the faith-full God of Jesus Christ, who sweated blood in an Olive Grove, and kept the faith to the very end.

We believe in the redeeming God who spared no cost, forgave even his brutal crucifiers, had time for a dying thief at his side, and who on the third day did a thing so prodigious that even his friends were dismayed with joy.

We believe in the God of Jesus Christ, the Source of abundance wherever we turn and no matter what we do. Amen

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE John 6:25-35

read from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE: "Thank God!"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

*DEDICATION OF OFFERING

*CLOSING SONG "For the Fruit of All Creation"

#723

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship is from *Words of Worship-Resources for Church and Home* by Glen E. Rainsley. The Opening Prayer (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance 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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November Radio Sponsor: Gregg and Julie Buchanan

Birthdays: 11-28 Dennis Schwab, 11 30 Ann Stillman

Please join us for the annual Thanksgiving potluck after church today.
 Let the office know today if you wish to have a poinsettia for the altar.
 Newsletter articles and pictures are due in the office by Tuesday the 26th.
 Linens and Towels should be placed in the front pews. They will be taken to the Care Team at the end of this month.
 Next Sunday after church we will decorate for the season. Many hands will make the task go faster.

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 United Church of Christ
 Algona, Iowa



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

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