

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 5, 2020

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: The music is playing. God is calling.

Many: **We have come to sing and dance with God.**

One: The Prayers are flowing. The Spirit is moving.

Many: **Breathe on us, breath of God.**

One: Jesus promises rest and renewal, when we come to him.

Many: **We are here, trusting this sacred promise.**

***OPENING SONG** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

#59

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Creator God, you have created us to walk with you. Help us walk with you in this time of worship, that we may be strengthened to walk with you all the days of our lives. As we come to you this day, bless us with your grace and your rest, that we may find renewal and the strength to serve you with confidence and joy. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Prophetic one, you call us to new places and new ways. You challenge us to new dance steps and to sing new songs. We yearn to follow you with confidence and joy, but our resistance is often stronger than our willingness. At times, our steps falter: At moments, we can't even hear your voice, let alone recognize your song in our hearts. Strengthen us with your mercy. Renew us with your grace. Sing to us with your compassion. Connect us with the yoke of unconditional love, that we may follow joyously, dance confidently, and sing, praise and love with every act and with every word of our lives. In your holy name, we pray. Amen

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: It sounds so simple, we think it is too simple. But which is the burden you would choose: hate or love; anger or forgiveness; pain or peace? God invites us to receive the gifts which make it possible to have lives of faithful obedience.

Many: **This is the good news: God forgives us and takes our burdens from us. We will let go of them and welcome hope, joy, and grace into our lives. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Romans 7:15-25a

* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together) inside back cover of the hymnal

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "Take a Load Off!"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

Receive the gifts we offer, God. Bless them to be gifts for your world. Through our gifts, renew others, that they too may know your love. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG "How Firm a Foundation"

#411

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectioary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is one of the variations of our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Burnett
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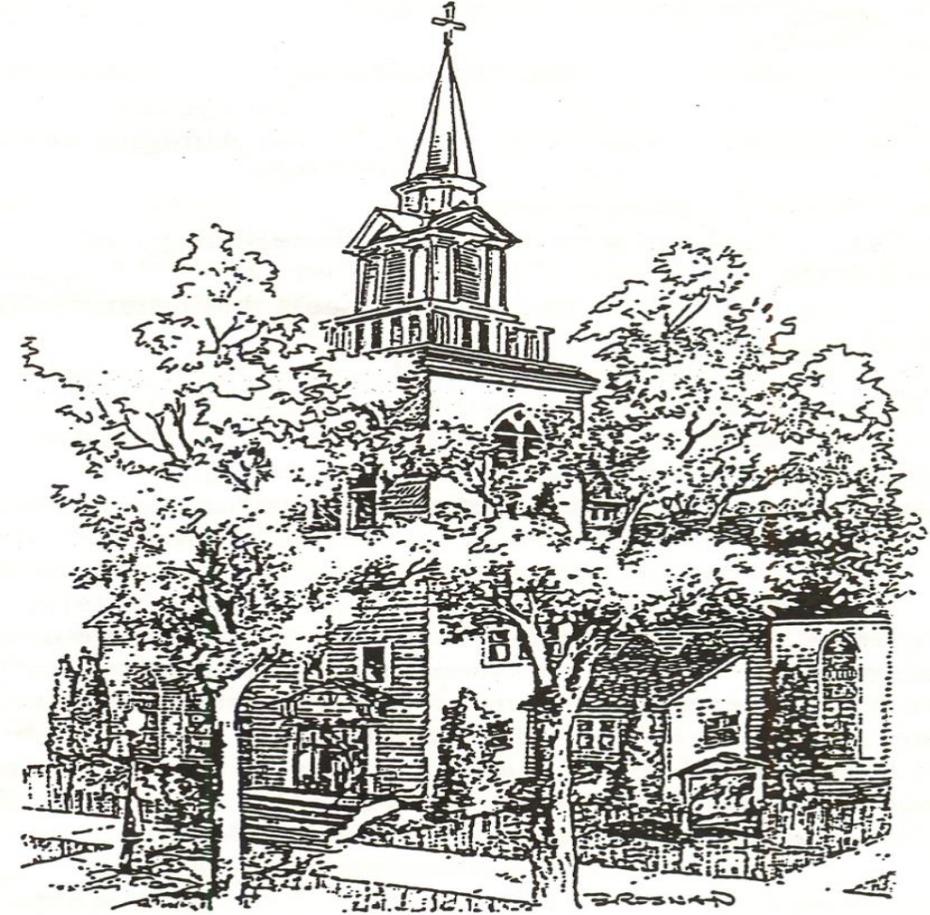
July Radio Sponsor: Arlen Benschoter

Birthdays: 7-5 Arlen Benschoter, 7-9 Fatu Tennih, 7-11 Ken Beaver

The Board will have a zoom meeting at 7 pm this coming Wednesday.
The June, July, and August Our Daily Bread is in the Fellowship Hall entrance.
You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.
Gen 24:34-38,42-49,58-67 and Ps 45:10-17
Son of Sol 2:8-13

We encourage people to send Arlen a birthday card. His hip surgery went well and he is recovering at KRHC room 304. He will be there for an extended period of time with no visitors allowed because of the virus.

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ Algona, Iowa



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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