

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 2020

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Here, in this place, God welcomes all the dreamers, as well as the doubters:

Many: here, the worriers and wanderers can call on God by name.

One: Here, in this time, we can remember all the ways God has graced us:

Many: here, in these moments, we are reminded that God is with us, always!

One: Here are gathered those daring enough to step out of comfort into the unknown:

Many: here, in this faith space, we will find the courage to cry out, 'God, save us!' in every situation.

***OPENING SONG** “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

#82 verses 1 & 4

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Eternal God, you visit us in dreams, offering us glimpses of new possibilities. Rescue us from life's storms, and lift us from the raging waters. Be with us now, as we call on your name. Reveal your purposes for our world, that we may be of use and service. Bless us with the courage to spread your word, that it may be said of us: “How beautiful are the feet of those bringing good news!” Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

It seems so easy to get into the boat and set sail on our journey, God of Promises. But when the winds of change begin to blow, we want to turn around and head back to the past's safe harbor. When sin's waves crash over the side, we try to wrap ourselves in the cloak of pride thinking we will not get wet. When Jesus calls to us to get out and follow in faith, we look around, hoping he is not speaking to us.

Swamped by our fears, and sinking in doubt, we long for someone to help us - so save us, Holy One, save us! Stretch out your hand, so we might be lifted from our despair to hope, from our worries to trust, from our foolishness to faithful living. Then, we will dare to follow Jesus, even if it means getting out of the sheltered lives we have built for ourselves. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: In confessing that Jesus is Lord, we let go of the past, and turn to God's future. We step out of our fears, and walk into the light and life offered by our God.

Many: In trusting Jesus, we trust all of God's promises, letting the Spirit work in and through us, healing and making us whole. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 14:22-33

read from the *Good News Bible*

* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

In faith, we acknowledge that God has acted in the past, in a holy history. In faith, we confess that God seeks to rule over our lives today. In faith we affirm that God continues to send prophets and speak through willing vessels to guide the course of history to its end. In faith, we imagine that end to be characterized by the traits we find in Jesus Christ: compassion, justice, and love. In faith, we long to be part of that purpose. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “Big Dreamers”

Pastor Burtnett

AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

***DOXOLOGY**

(music only, not sung) Words #44

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (prayed together)
Loving God, accept and bless our gifts as tokens of our dreams and commitment to make all people one in your holy name. Use us; multiply us and the gifts we offer, to extend the invitation of life and community to everyone we meet. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG** “Be Thou My Vision” #502 verses 1 & 2

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is from the *Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Offering Prayer of dedication (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu and *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is by James T. Fatzinger from *Touch Holiness-Resources for Worship*, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi.

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

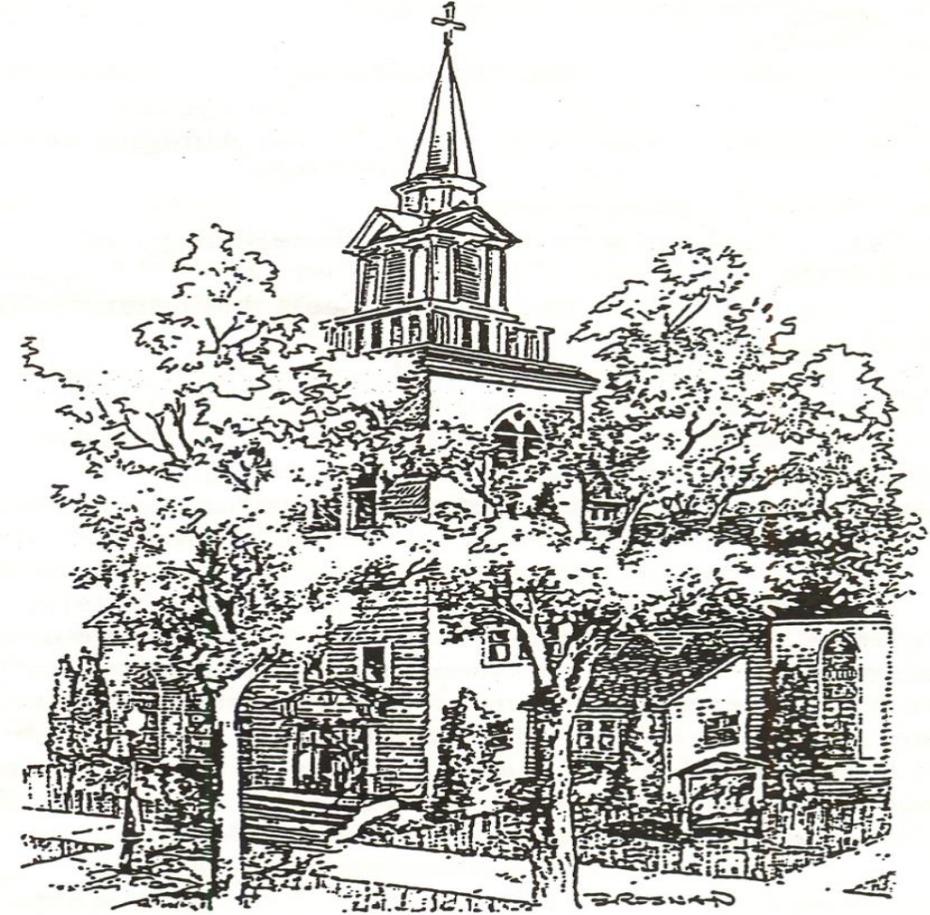
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August Radio Sponsor: Chuck West and Becky Bibler

Birthdays: 8-10 Todd TerHark, 8-11 Angela Cother, 8-12 Richard Cother, 8-13 Michelle Clegg

You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.
I Kings 19:9-18 and Ps 85:8-13

The Board will meet this Wednesday via Zoom at 7 pm.
This week’s sermon broadcast won’t be on the internet until mid-week.

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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