

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
August 16, 2020

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

Many: **It is like a summer rain which restores the parched earth.**

One: It is like a cool breeze at the shore of a lake,

Many: **at the top of a mountain or through a crowded city street.**

One: **God meets us here.**

Many: **We have gathered to worship the Maker of Our Days, the Restorer of Our Souls and the Breath of Our Lives.**

**\*OPENING SONG** “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

#96 verses 1 & 5

## OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

How good and pleasant it is, God, to gather here today. Draw us now into the community you intend for all your people. Help us to listen and understand, both your word for us and our sharing with one another. Keep us from being misled by other voices that call out to us and lead us away from you. Help us to be observant guides to one another, open to your gifts and obedient to your call. Come to us now with healing and blessing. Amen.

## TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

We admit, Providing God, that we have difficulties living as your children. We could live in unity, but our words fracture relationships with family and friends. We have been shown the way to your kingdom, but turn into blind guides when asked for the directions by others. When we could offer others the precious oil of peace, we hand them the vinegar of despair and rejection.

Have mercy on us, Healing Heart. When you call to us, may we listen with open ears, understand with embracing hearts, and share your grace with others, even as we have been graced by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Hear the good news for us: God has provided hope for us, filling us with joy, with mercy, with peace.

Many: **As mercy leads to mercy, we will take these gifts to share with the world. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven! Amen**

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 133

## \* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

**We are God’s. We belong to The One who creates all things, in whose image all people are made.**

**We are Christ’s. He has loved us, healed us, called us and anointed us with his Spirit.**

**We belong to his death and resurrection and ministry.**

**We are the Spirit’s. We belong to the church, the Body of Christ. God gives us the gifts of forgiveness, resurrection, and eternal life, and the gift of participating in the healing of the world by God’s grace.**

**We are God’s beloved, we devote ourselves to God and to God’s will, wholly, joyfully and with the help of Christ. Amen.**

## GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

## FOCUS SCRIPTURE Matthew 15: 21-28

read from the *Good News Bible*

**MESSAGE:** “A Lesson in Listening”

Pastor Burnett

## AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

**\*DOXOLOGY**

(music only, not sung) Words #44

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(prayed together)

Holy God, you are our provider. We dedicate to your service our lives and these offerings from your blessing and our labor. Work in us and through us to extend your love and care, here and around the world. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG** “In Christ There Is No East or West”

#600 verses 1 & 5

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Offering Prayer of dedication are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Taught by Love-Worship Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Gaarnaas-Holmes.

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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: 8-18 Andrew Schlievert, 8-19 Henry Reynolds, 8-20 Adeline Reynolds, 8-22 Larry Person

The Board has rescheduled the Zoom meeting for this Wednesday at 7 pm.

You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.  
Isa 56:1,6-8 and Ps 67

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United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa**



**“Where No One Is A Stranger”**

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