

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 2020

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,

Many: Seek God here.

One: We who come to be inspired and changed,

All: Seek God's Spirit here.

One: We who know how little we know,

Many: Seek God's word here. Let's worship!

***OPENING SONG** "Morning Has Broken"

insert (verses 1 & 3)

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

God, you are made known to us in the rustling wind that blows, in the blazing fire that does not consume, in the face of the good, in the deep of the unknown. We meet you here. We accept your greeting. We welcome your inspiration. We await the change you have in store for us. Draw us in to you. Inhabit our spirits. Focus our attention. Bring us to you – you who are already with us. Help us to be as you would have us be. Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, here and everywhere, now and always. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

God of mercy and forgiveness, we confess that: our love isn't always genuine; we see evil and wring our hands instead of resisting it; we forget to consider more ways to serve you; we turn our back on strangers who could benefit from our hospitality; we do not pray enough for our enemies; we associate with our own kind, fearing the "other"; we relish in fantasies of revenge. For all this, and for all that burdens our heart today, God, we seek your forgiveness. Have mercy on us and hear our prayers. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: God's mercy extends beyond the bounds of even our collective imagination. God's love seeps through any wall we could ever put up. God's goodness holds more power than the sum of all sin.

Many: It is because of that extensive, seeping, powerful and bold love that God forgives us all our sins. Thanks be to God!

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 16:21-28

* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

I believe in an innovative God, who does not wait for us to find ourselves but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way.

I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God's crucial initiative, that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God.

I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.

I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ's people, called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the "promised land" of God's future.

Because Christ has called me, in this I truly believe. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Exodus 3:1-15

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "Take Your Shoes Off!"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

***DOXOLOGY** (music only, not sung) Words #44

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (prayed together)

In your Creation, God, we stand on the holiest of ground. May these gifts be a blessing to all that you have made. May the church, organizations and people that receive them act as your hands. May needs be seen and met, and may the giving fit the need. Through Christ, who models infinite giving. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG** "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord" insert (verses 1 & 4)

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Offering Prayer of Dedication, are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resourced for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession is from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is by Bruce Prewer.

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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

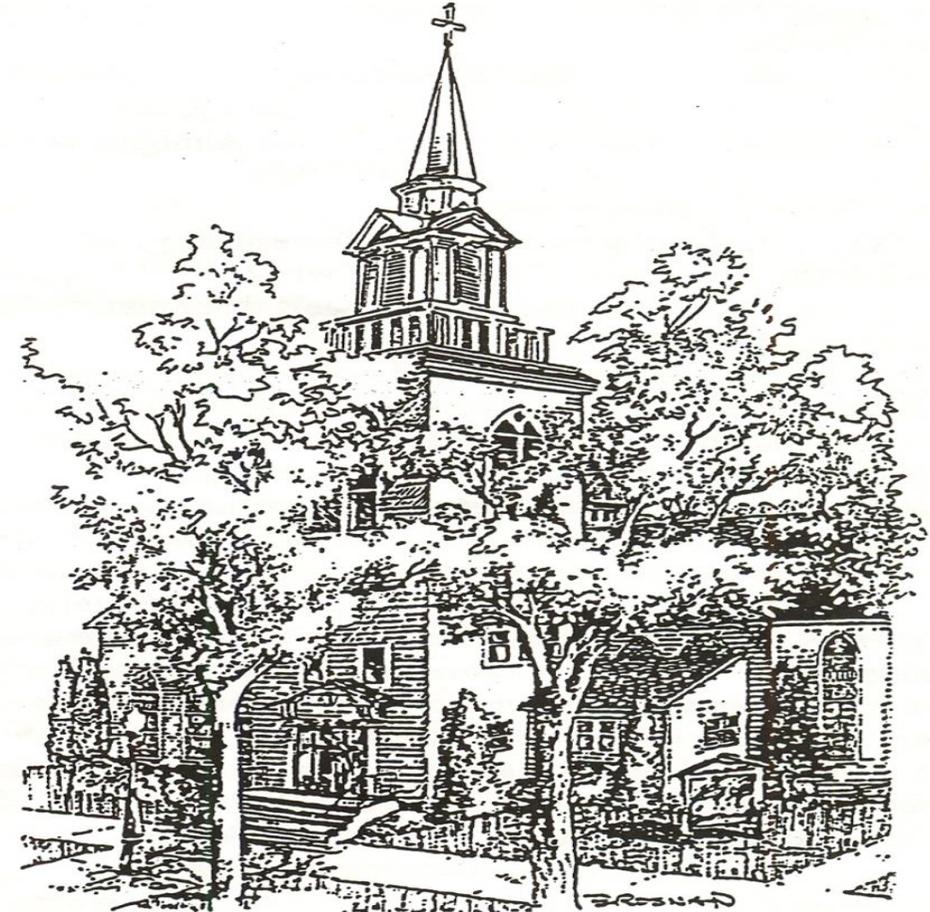
Birthdays: 9-1 Tyler Rochleau

You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.
Rom 12:9-21 and Ps 105:1-6.23-26,45b

Copies of the special edition "Clinging to Hope in the Storm" from the publishers of the "Our Daily Bread" are available in the Fellowship Hall entry.

Next Sunday is Communion Sunday. We will do the liturgy only in worship. When you get home, choose things that represent the bread and cup to you, pray and partake. If you listen to the service, have your element at your side.

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United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

515-295-2845