

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 6, 2020

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Praise God!

**Many: Sing to God a new song!**

One: Give thanks to our Maker.

**Many: We rejoice in our sovereign God.**

One: Let us praise God with dancing and music.

**Many: Let the faithful sing for joy as we praise God together!**

**\*OPENING SONG** "Praise the Lord! O Heavens, Adore Him"

#17

## OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

As we gather here in your name, Jesus, you are already among us. Keep us open to your presence in us and around us that we may grow closer to you. Amen.

## TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

You do not ask much of us, Guardian of hope - to love, to serve, to welcome. Yet, too often, it is words of bitterness we speak to others. It is our stiff-with-judgment backs we offer to those looking for help. It is our hardened hearts people find, when they reach out, hoping to touch grace.

Love lived as Compassion, forgive us. We are broken, so make us whole through the life of Christ. We are empty of peace, so fill us the reconciling Spirit of Christ. We are alone, so take us by the hand and lead us into your realm of joy and grace, brought to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Gathered as God's people, we hear the good news: God has forgiven us, God has made us whole, God sends us to serve.

**Many: We will not wear jealousy or resentment but put on the garments of peace and hope. We are forgiven by our God. Amen.**

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 18:15-20

## \* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

inside back of hymnal

## GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

## FOCUS SCRIPTURE Psalm 149

read from the *Common English Bible*

## MESSAGE: "Double-Edged Disciples"

Pastor Burtnett

## GATHERING AT THE TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Prayer of Consecration, Lord's Prayer

## SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, we thank you for this meal and for all of the ways you nourish us. Grow in us that we may nourish others. Sustain us as we press toward the goal of your call in Christ Jesus. Amen.

## AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

## \*DOXOLOGY

(music only, not sung) Words #44

## \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

We dedicate to you, generous God, our lives. Receive these offerings as a sign of our gratitude and commitment. Amen.

\*CLOSING SONG “Arise, Your Light Is Come”

#231 verses 1 & 4

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication, Communion Liturgy (except for the Consecration Prayer), and Prayer of Thanksgiving are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resourced for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Communion Prayer of Consecration (adapted) is by Rev. Gary J. Brinn.

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

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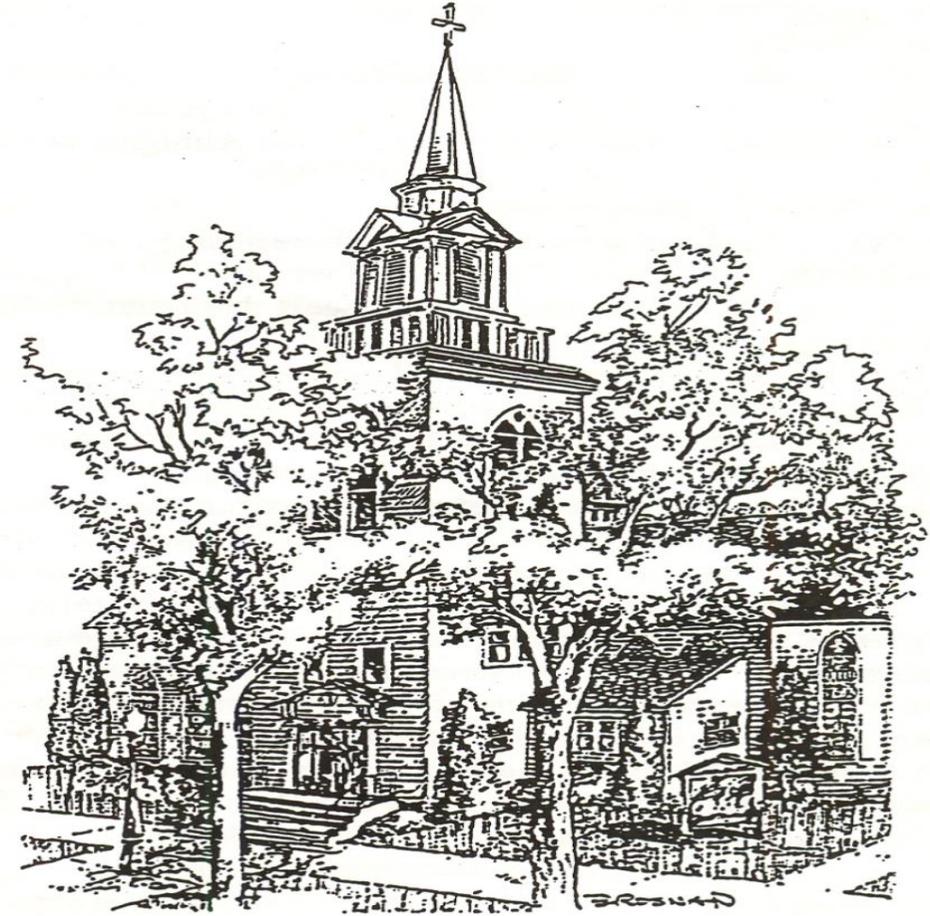
September Radio Sponsor: Scott and Sandy Buchanan

Birthdays:

You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.  
Ezek 33:7-11 and Ps 119:33-40

Next Sunday we will again be worshipping out side on the Fellowship lawn. Please bring your chairs and bring your own meal if you wish to remain after the service.

# First Congregational Church United Church of Christ Algona, Iowa



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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