

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 20, 2020

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: We come to praise our God, whose steadfast love is always with us.

Many: God does not stand by idly, but fills us with grace to share.

One: We are here to praise Jesus, who chooses to be gracious with all.

Many: Jesus does not stand by idly, but brings justice to all treated unfairly.

One: We will praise the Spirit in these moments, who is always at our side.

Many: The Spirit is with us now and always, so we may live as faithful people.

### \*OPENING SONG "Morning Has Broken"

insert verses 1 & 3

### OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

You have called us to important work in your vineyard, holy God. Wherever we go, we represent your church and interpret your ways to those who observe our words and deeds. Enfold us in your presence and give us strength and courage to pass on the light you have sent to illuminate our journey through life. We are eager to be fed by your Word today. Amen.

## TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

It is true that we grumble too much, Patient God. We are easily stampeded by the promises of those around us, only to wonder how we end up where we find ourselves. We see so much of everything on our devices, and become convinced we deserve more. Though we know others have the same struggles, we have trouble standing by their side.

Forgive us, Unpredictable God, as you continue to shower us with your steadfast love. You are so slow to get mad, yet rush to share your grace with us. May we continue to seek to live in the way of justice, hope, and peace shown to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Unlike us, God chooses not anger, but mercy; not punishment, but peace; not just what we earn, but more grace than we can begin to imagine.

Many: Now we know what the kingdom of heaven is like - steadfast love, joy and laughter, the life for which we have yearned. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 1:21-30

### \* 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 our lives today. In faith, we affirm that God continues to send prophets and speak through willing vessels to guide the course of history toward its end. In faith, we imagine that end to be characterized by the traits we find in Jesus: compassion, justice, and love. In faith, we long to be part of that purpose. Amen.

### GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

### FOCUS SCRIPTURE Matthew 20:1-16

read from *The Message*

### MESSAGE: "It's All the Same!!"

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)

Grateful for your many blessings, God, we return these gifts to you. Bless them and send them forth that others may be showered with your love and grace. In faithful trust, we pray. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG** ““Community of Christ”

insert verses 1 & 2

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Taught By Love-Worship Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. 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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September Radio Sponsor: Scott and Sandy Buchanan

Birthdays: 9-26 Margaret Herbst, Derek Person

The Peace Pole Service will be at 4 pm today. Please bring chairs and join us on the Fellowship lawn.

You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.  
Ex 16:2-15 and Ps 105:1-6,37-45

The September-November Our Daily Bread is in the Fellowship hall entry.

Dave Skilling will be on call while Pastor Chris is on sabbatical for the next week. He can be reached at his cell 319-290-2302 or home 395-1102.

Newsletter articles and pictures are due September 29<sup>th</sup>.

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



**“Where No One Is A Stranger”**

**315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511**

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