

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
October 4, 2020

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: We are gathered here this morning in hope!

Many: With community and creation.

One: With neighbors near and far.

Many: With those known and new.

One: With Christians across geography and across time.

Many: Together in hope! Let us worship!

***OPENING SONG** “How Great Thou Art”

#51 verses 1 & 2

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Holy and gracious God, let us be open to your presence among your people, those gathered for worship, and all of your people, throughout your creation. May we receive you fully and respond to you wholeheartedly. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

We certainly have reasons to brag, Watching God. We know all the rules and keep them (well, most of them). We have dotted our i's and crossed our t's, even if we have trouble with words like forgiveness and hope. We polish our trophies and mount our diplomas on the walls, but ignore those who haven't had the advantages which were such a big part of our lives.

Forgive us, Merciful God. We believe we are such a rich bouquet of wine, but our tangled lives often produce sour grapes for others to taste. Whether it is our pride, our achievements, our success which we value the most, may we let them go to grasp that which all too often eludes us - that love, that peace, that hope which Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior presses on to offer to us in each and every moment. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Let us not boast, but simply open ourselves to the grace, the forgiveness, the hope given to us by our God. It is that faith in Christ which restores us to new life, faith beyond anything of any value.

Many: Thanks be to God for this good news. We are prized, we are loved, we are valued. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

inside back of hymnal

GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Philippians 3:4b-14

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “Grab Hold, Hang on Tight, Never Let Go!”

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

God of new life, with joy we receive this sacrament of bread and cup and give thanks for Jesus Christ, our peace and our hope. Unite your church throughout the world in continuing Christ's ministry of love and servanthood, that your name may be praised in all the earth. Amen.

AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY

(music only, not sung) Words #44

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(prayed together)

Receive our gifts, God, that they may satisfy the needs of your people. Receive also our thanks and praise, our industry and our love, that all might know your abundant blessings. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG** “God of Grace and God of Glory”

#569 verses 1 & 4

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Opening Prayer are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Communion Liturgy (adapted) is by Ruth C. Duck from *Bread for the Journey-Resources for Worship* edited by Ruth C. Duck.

=====

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

=====

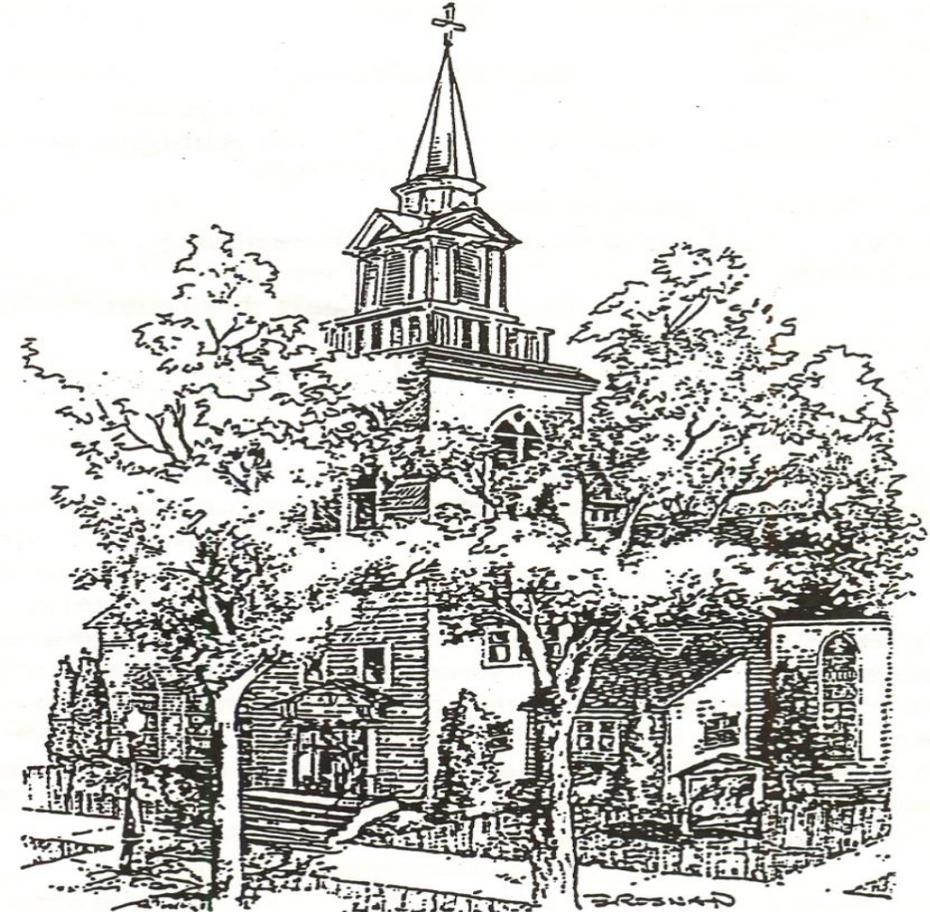
October Radio Sponsor:

Birthdays:

You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.
Isa 25:1-9 and Ps 106:23

A Zoom Budget meeting will be held this coming Wednesday at 7 pm.
The Ministerial group will meet at 8:30 am, Thursday at Trinity Church.
Next Sunday the Crop Walk (Drive) will begin at 2 pm at First Lutheran Church.
Beginning in November we need a volunteer to do the message board through April. Please let the office know if you can help.

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



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

515-295-2845