

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2020

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Invited by God,

Many: we gather to worship.

One: Partnering with God,

Many: We gather to grow in faith and to change the world.

***OPENING SONG** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

#72 verses 1 & 2

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Beloved God, we gather in the shelter of your love, grateful for the banquet of worship you have prepared for us. Focus our hearts and our minds on the beauty of this time, the blessings of our lives, and the fullness of your message. Strengthen our call to fulfill our role as your partners in ministry to the world. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

If we were to name all the gods we have before you, Rock of Redemption, we would be here for a very long time. We elevate politicians into saviors, though they are as broken as we are. We misuse your name so much during the uncertain and terrifying days, we have trouble speaking to you in prayer at night. We are so busy being worried and fearful, we do not notice how creation witnesses to your goodness and grace. Forgive us, God our Hope. Even in our uncertainty, may we trust that your love never abandons us. Even in our fears, may we know that your presence never leaves our side. Even when our faith falters, may we know that your grace is the most valuable gift we have, and we can open our emptiness, our hearts, our lives to the healing and loving presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Persistently, patiently, lovingly, God pours out grace and joy into our lives, healing our brokenness, forgiving our sin.

Many: Loved, we are sent to love those who have been forgotten. Forgiven, we are freed to offer mercy to those who are cruel to us. Graced, we can offer our gifts to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 22:1-14

* 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.

As 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 Exodus 32:1-14

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “Divine Repentance”

Pastor Burnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

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

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

Gracious God, receive the gift of our lives and this offering of our service to carry your love from this place to a world in need. This we pray in the name of Christ, whom with you and the Holy Spirit, reign in our hearts and lives, one God now and forever. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG** “O Jesus, I Have Promised” #458 verses 1 & 3

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Burnett
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October Radio Sponsor:

Birthdays: 10-11 David Burrow, 10-12 Misty Bachman

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

The Crop Walk is at 2 pm starting at First Lutheran Church.
Monday is the blood drive at the Methodist Church from 12:30 until 5:30 pm.
The Board will meet via Zoom this Wednesday at 7 pm.
We still need a sponsor for the October Radio broadcasts. Please let the office know if you wish to help.

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United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

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