

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Twentieth-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 2020

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God knows our hearts.

Many: Guide our hearts, God.

One: God sees our ways.

Many: Shape our ways, God.

One: God calls our spirits.

All: Call us now, God, as we call on you.

***OPENING SONG** “The God of Abraham Praise”

#16 verses 1 & 3

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Happy are we, God, when our hearts are full, our ways are yours, our spirits enlivened by your call. Happy are we, God, when our lives are guided by delight. We gather here today for just that, holy God. We gather to draw on all you would give us to be more fully yours. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

As you know, God our healer, we stand on the edge of your promises and hopes, yet cannot seem to let ourselves cross over into the life you intend for us. We seek praise from our families, yet are unable to tell them how much we love them; we care more about our needs and desires, than for the struggles of our neighbors; we think more about the trash we read and see than focusing on the Spirit of wisdom.

Forgive us, Everlasting God. Renew our lives with your grace; restore our hopes with your vision of tomorrow; refresh our spirits with your joy which comes to us new in each moment in the gift of your Child, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: This moment, this morning, this day, and in all the days to come, God's compassion and hope fill our lives. What joyous good news!

Many: Our hope is not in vain. God forgives our sins, and is the dwelling place for all people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 22:43-46

* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

In spite of many unanswered questions, we believe.

We believe in the living God, the joy of the universe, who is the pulse and purpose of all things seen and unseen, who from the dust of earth calls up living beings to be children of eternity, who through countless ages has provided for us many liberators and tirelessly seeks to bring victory out of defeat and life out of decay.

We believe in Jesus the Christ, God's true Son, who is bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, who took upon himself the healing of the human race, who bearing the burden of our sins went to Golgotha carrying his cross, who was betrayed, crucified, dead and buried in a borrowed tomb, who on the third day was found to be gloriously alive, meeting with those who trust him and serve him to the end of the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit of God, within and among all who cherish Christ and his way, who brings hope out of despair, love out of apathy, and joy out of sorrow, who unceasingly regenerates and reforms the church that it may always be the contemporary body of the risen Christ, loving the world through prayer, word and deed.

We believe that even we are caught up in the resurgent life of Christ Jesus, and that nothing in life or death can separate us from his love and joy.

In spite of unanswered questions, yes, we believe. Amen!

GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Deuteronomy 34:1-12

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “The End of an Era”

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)

May the offerings we bring this day be a sign of our commitment to be known by our love, God. Bless these offerings and our loving in your holy name, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG** “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

#712

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Opening Prayer (adapted) 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 Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is written by Bruce Prewer.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds

Lector: David Burrow

Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Burtnett

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October Radio Sponsor: Larry and Sandy Person

Birthdays:

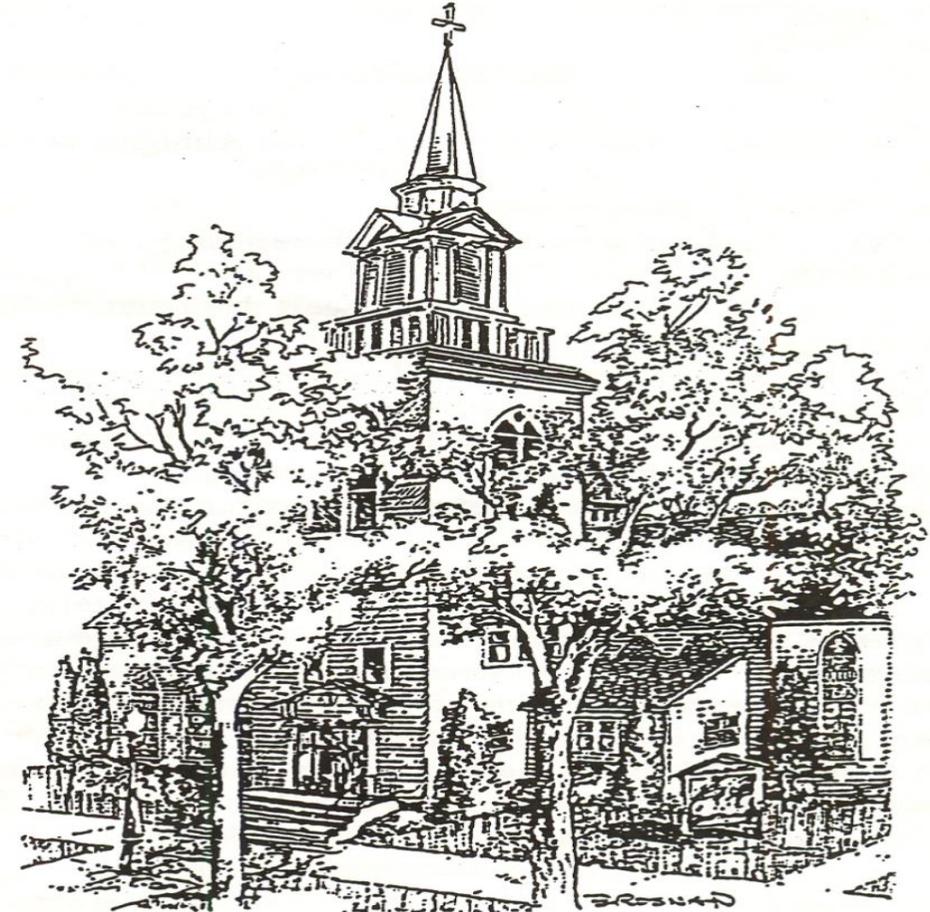
You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.

Lev 19:1-2, 15-18 and Ps 1

The Missions and Memorial committee will meet at 4:30 pm this coming Tuesday.

Remember to set your clocks back this coming Saturday.

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ Algona, Iowa



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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