

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Twentieth-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
November 15, 2020

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: This is the Lord's Day, the day of wonder and grace.

People: This is the day to worship the One who calls us here.

Leader: This is the Lord's Day, the day we are given joy and peace.

People: This is the day promised to us, the day of healing and renewal.

Leader: This is the Lord's Day, and it has come just in time!

People: This is the day we gather with hope, with faith, with love!

### \*OPENING SONG "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

#59 verses 1 & 2

### OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

There is a richness here, God. A richness that greets and grows and holds and challenges and keeps. There is a richness here that surrounds and brings and delivers and gives. There is a richness here that holds us in our weakness and fills us in our hunger. So here, richly blessed, we have come, and we have been found. Let this time together inspire us in richness and grace. Amen.

## TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Again, we must confess, Master of the Universe, our struggles to be faithful disciples. Entrusted with all your gifts, we become fearful once again of misusing them, missing the chance to be a blessing to others. Invited to dance in the light of your love, we stand against the wall once again, keeping company with our old friend, sin. Called to be emptied for those who struggle in life, we fill ourselves once again, with scorn for the poor, the choices they make.

Have mercy, Journeying God, have mercy on us. Once again, open our eyes to your realm in our midst, so we might discover that your day of hope and grace has already come in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: This is the good news: God intends for us to find life, to embrace hope, to receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Servant.

People: The end of our journey is not rejection and emptiness, but the fullness of grace and hope in our God. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

### \* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

Jesus stays with us in the Spirit, who renews our hearts, moves us to faith, leads us in the truth, stands by us in our need, and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant.

The Spirit's gifts are here to stay in rich variety—fitting responses to timely needs.

We thankfully see each other as gifted members of the fellowship which delights in the creative Spirit's work.

He gives more than enough to each believer for God's praise and our neighbor's welfare. Amen.

### GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

### FOCUS SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:14-30

read from *The Message*

### MESSAGE: "No Time for Caution"

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)

Now, in these moments of gratitude, we would offer you a portion of all which you have given to us, Gracious God. We do so, trusting that you will take them, multiplying them in your realm, so all might be blessed by your love, your peace, and your hope. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG** “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” #644 verses 1 & 4

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), Words of Assurance, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is from *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*, Article 31, 33, ©1987, CRC Publications, Grand Rapids MI,

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

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November Radio Sponsor: Gregg and Julie Buchanan

Birthdays: 11-15 Charlotte Reynolds, 11-19 Christian Grindberg, 11-20 Pat Bilsborough, Phil Heath

You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.  
Judg 417 and Ps 123

Pastor Burtnett will be on sabbatical starting the 18th until the 25th of November. Karen Dearchs will be on call during that time. Please contact Mick Schlievert and he will contact Karen if you need her.

The Algona Annual Community Thanksgiving dinner will be held Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 26<sup>th</sup>. Due to the COVID pandemic, however, it will delivery and carry out only, no dine in serving will be available.

Please send your pledge cards and any Neighbors in Need donations to the church by the end of this month.

The December through February Our Daily Bread booklets are in the Fellowship hall entry.

Please call the office if you can't come to get one and the office will try to get one to you.

The newsletter articles for December and January need to be in the office by the 30<sup>th</sup> of November.

**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**

## Church Christmas Family 2020

The Mission's Committee is excited to once again invite our church to sponsor the Saunsoci Indian family this year. Most of you are aware of this family as our church has sponsored them for a number of years. For those of you who are new to this family let me share the following:

The family consists of Grandmother Christine, Mother Teresa, Granddaughter Maria (age 25), Granddaughter Roslyn (age 22), Grandson Christopher (age 13), Grandson Xander (age 12 in Feb.), and Granddaughter Leah (age 10). Grandfather Frank passed away three years ago.

The Saunsoci's live on the Omaha Reservation and Frank (while alive) and Christine are the spiritual leaders of Strongheart. This is a non- drinking/drug using family dedicating their lives to the Indian people through traditional Indian ways. Phil has known them for 26 years and participates in the Sundance Ceremony annually. The family frequently includes our church family in their ceremonial prayers. They also gave the star quilt in the church parlor in appreciation of our relationship.

In sponsoring this deserving family, the Mission's Committee would request "gifts" be made in the form of monetary contributions. This request is based on the family's extreme need for money to pay utilities, food, rent, and overall needs. With Roslyn in college and Frank's passing away they struggle greatly. The grandmother is trying her best to encourage the granddaughters to pursue their desired nursing education.

As many of you know someone who has suffered from Covid-19. I am saddened to say both Maria and Teresa have suffered from getting infected. They are relatively stable at the present time. Unfortunately this has also impacted their finances.

In order to have the gift for the family available prior to Christmas, it is requested donations be placed in the offering plate and marked Christmas family or sent to the church no later than December 6th. If you have any questions please ask Phil. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

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