

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Reign of Christ  
November 22, 2020

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Make a joyful noise, a noise of love and care!

Many: Praise God with generosity and compassion!

One: Sing to God with acts of kindness!

Many: Give God glory with missions of mercy!

One: Make a joyful noise, a noise of love and care!

Many: Praise God with justice and righteousness!

**\*OPENING SONG** “We Gather Together”

#81

## OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Gracious God, shine upon us with your Spirit of wisdom and truth. Enlighten our hearts. Help us to know the hope to which we are called. Reveal your ways, that we might share hope and joy in all that we do, and all that we say. In the light of Jesus’ love, we pray. Amen.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

God of glory, we do not always see your glory in the world around us. When we see a person in need, it is not easy to look him in the eye. When we hear a cry for help, it is not easy to offer her quick assurance. When we know of a lonely prisoner, it is not easy to make an unannounced visit. Forgive us when we fail to see you in our everyday lives. Forgive us when we are afraid to act, afraid to care. Encourage us. Help us to see others with the eyes of compassion, that we might be your loving presence in the world. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Though we wander, God searches us out. As a shepherd seeks out their flock, God seeks us out, rescuing us from all the places to which we have scattered.

Many: God reaches out to us, bringing us ever closer. This is good news! We are forgiven and free! Amen.

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 100

## \* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in the debonaire God who clothes the wild flowers dressing them so superbly that they outdo Solomon in all his glory; who is the true Friend of all creatures great and small.

We believe in the God of Christ Jesus the Source of abundance, full of grace and truth.

We believe in the extravagant God who turns the other cheek, goes the second mile, turns water into the best wine, brings healing with their every touch, and who welcomes a woman’s love as she fills the house with unforgettable fragrance.

We believe in the faith-full God of Jesus Christ, who sweated blood in an Olive Grove, and kept the faith to the very end.

We believe in the redeeming God who spared no cost, forgave even his brutal crucifiers, had time for a dying thief at his side, and who on the third day did a thing so prodigious that even his friends were dismayed with joy.

We believe in the God of Jesus Christ, the Source of abundance wherever we turn and no matter what we do. Amen

## GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

## FOCUS SCRIPTURE Matthew 8:18-22

MESSAGE: “I Have Decided”

Karen Dearchs

## PASTORAL AND LORD’S PRAYER

## AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

## \*DOXOLOGY

(music only, not sung) Words #44

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

God of abundance, we give our offerings of material goods as our commitment to give back to you and to care for your people. Use our offerings of money and of our lives for ministry to your purposes. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG** “Now Thank We All Our God” #14

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer (adapted), & Prayer of Confession (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual—2020* edited by Mary J. Scifres & B.J. Beu. Words of Assurance (adapted) & Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Worship Ways—Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is by Bruce Prewer.

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Organist:	Liz Reynolds
Lector:	David Burrow
Worship Leader:	Pastor Karen Dearchs

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November Radio Sponsor: Gregg and Julie Buchanan

Birthdays: 11/23 Gregg Buchanan, 11-28 Dennis Schwab

You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.  
Ezek 34:11-16,20-24 and Ps 95:1-7a

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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