

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is a Stranger"
Trinity Sunday
May 30, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: God, who flung the stars into the night sky, rejoices over all creation, especially us!

Many: Come to us, Laughing God, and gladden our hearts with your goodness and grace.

One: Christ, the Word of joy and life, fills all creation with hope, especially us!

Many: Come to us, Brother and Savior, and reclaim our hearts as your own.

One: The Spirit, who breathes life into emptiness, gives all creation the gift of peace, especially us!

Many: Come to us, Spirit of Gentleness, and refresh us with the dew of delight.

*OPENING SONG

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

#136

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

O God of Mystery, within your very self you model the beloved community. You are the Wisdom within our hearts, The Word who dwells among us, The Spirit who calls us beyond ourselves. Let us know your presence here today in a new way, that we might celebrate your love and go forth rejoicing with the Prophet Isaiah, saying: "Here am I. Send me." Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

In the mystery of creation, Imaginative God, you shaped beauty and goodness, yet we damage it by our selfishness and anger. In the mystery of life, Child of Hope, you became one of us, yet all too often we turn our back on you. In the mystery of peace, Breath of Life, you would gentle our natures, yet we cling tenaciously to our bitterness and hurt.

In the mystery of grace, Holy God, you forgive us our sins, that we might embrace others. In the mystery of mercy, you touch our lips, that we might speak gently to others.

In the mystery of hope, you claim us as family, sisters and brothers of the One who brought new life for all, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Here, in this moment and in this place, the Spirit of gentleness moves in our midst. Mercy, hope and joy are the gifts of God to each and every one of us.

Many: No longer lost, we have found our way home, surrounded by God's peace, by God's grace, by God's love. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 29

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

In spite of many unanswered questions, I believe.

I 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.

I 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.

I 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.

I believe that even I am caught up in the resurgent life of Christ Jesus, and that nothing in life or death can separate me from his love and joy.

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

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

John 3:1-17

read from the *Good New Bible*

MESSAGE:

"Any Questions?"

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Offertory

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(prayed together)

In gratitude, we offer our gifts and bind ourselves to you, God, in the work of justice, love, and wonder as you build your community in our world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“Creator God, Creating Still”

insert

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by Bruce Prewer

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

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May Radio Sponsor: Dennis and Connie Schwab

Birthdays: 6-3: Karen West, 6-5: Becky Bibler

Today, May 30: 10:00 am. – Worship

Monday, May 31: 9:00 am. - Sefrit Service at 9 am at Riverview Cemetery.

Tuesday, June 1: 9:30 am. - Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

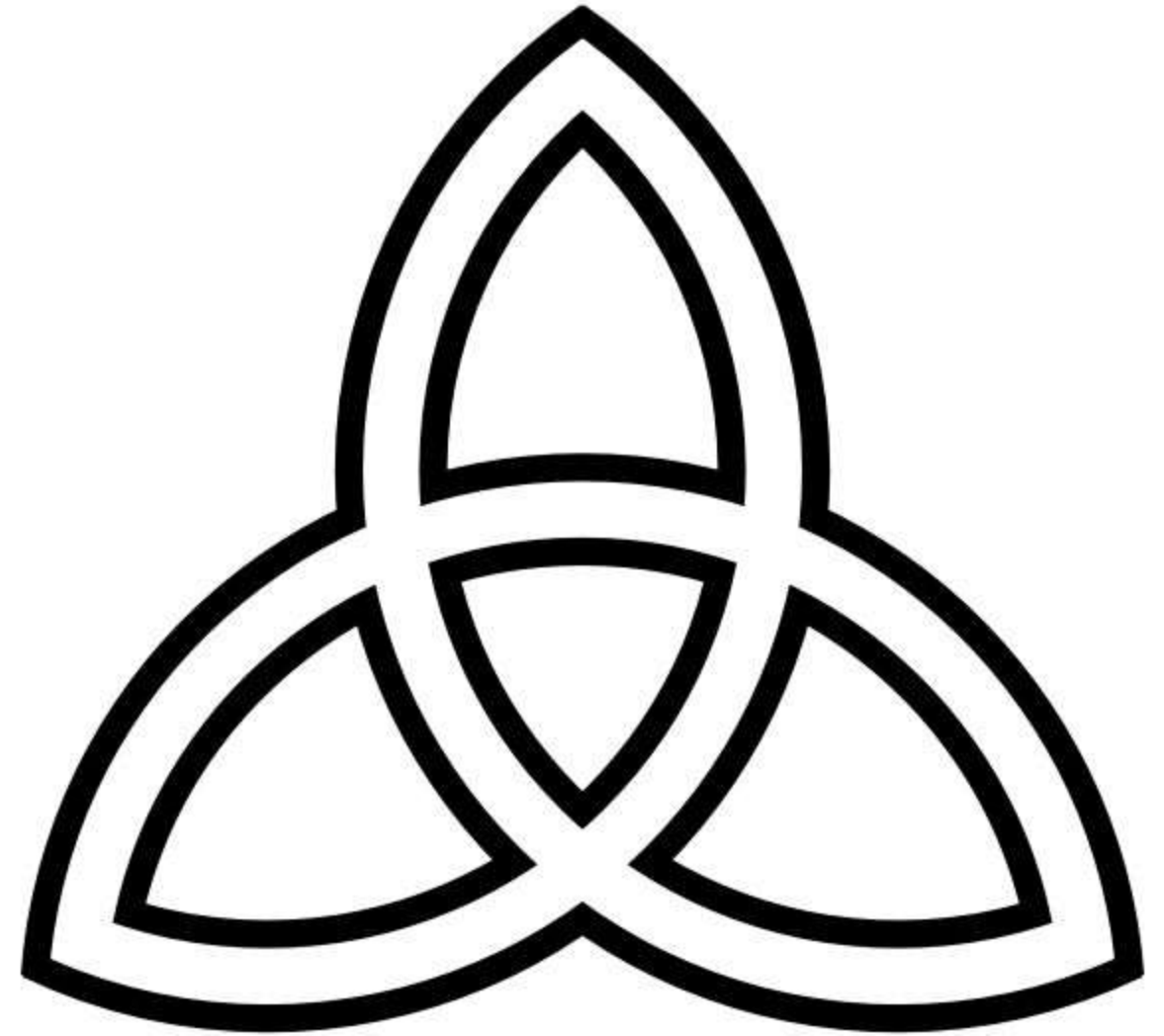
Next Sunday, June 6: 10:00 am. – Worship with Communion
Food Pantry Offering

The June, July and August Our Daily Bread is here and in the Fellowship entry.

Our Church is scheduled to deliver Meals on Wheels from June 16-30. We will be doing all three routes. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the parlor.

Next Sunday is Food Pantry Sunday. Donations of canned food, paper products and monetary donations are welcome. If you include your monetary donation with your offering be sure to mark the amount in the memo of your check.

Algona Community Blood Drive: Monday, June 7 from 12:30-2pm and Tuesday, June 9 from 9 am-2pm. at First United Methodist Church 201 E. Nebraska, Algona.



Trinity Sunday