

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is a Stranger”
Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 13, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of seeds on earth;

Many: it grows up and becomes the greatest of shrubs, and the birds of the air make nests in it shade.

One: Give thanks to God, whose promised reign is coming.

Many: Thanks be to God!

*OPENING SONG “Open My Eyes That I May See” #480

*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

God, you are the gardener of all creation. You planted this world with the seeds of your love and grow them with your faithfulness. We are your harvest; we find our meaning and sustenance in you.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (prayed together)

Holy God, the parable of the mustard seed teaches us that a little faith can produce great work in your kingdom. Yet we are too timid to bear the fruit of your righteousness, for we walk by sight and not by faith. Forgive us, Lord; we do not uphold the poor or the oppressed. We do not advocate for the powerless or the voiceless. We do not sacrifice ourselves for the needs of our neighbors. Renew us with the love of Christ so that we live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ who became the seed of your righteousness in us. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: We who walk by faith and not by sight believe the good news – If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Many: Praise be to God for the mercy and grace that forgives our sins. Alleluia. Amen!

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 1 Samuel 16:1-7

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We believe in God, maker of all things, provider of all things, who loves all people.

We follow Jesus, in whom salvation has come to us; he sees us for who we are, heals the wounds of our hearts, and makes us new. In his death and resurrection we see the deepest truth of life.

We live by the power of the Holy Spirit, which empowers us for self-giving love.

We give thanks for the Church, the Body of Christ, and for the gift of forgiveness, the power of resurrection and the mystery of eternal life. Amen

*GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Mark 4: 26-34 NRSV

MESSAGE: “The Gospel of Mark, A Book of Riddles?” David Skilling

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER

AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY Words #44

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (prayed together)

Bless, O God, the gifts that we bring this day, that they may be a sign of our commitment to your kingdom and a pledge of our love for you and your world. Multiply the work done by our time, treasures, and talents, that your presence and compassion may be known in all the earth. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name” #100

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 The Affirmation of Faith. The Liturgy is from *Feasting on the Word-Worship Companion*. Kimberly Bracken Long, editor.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Dave Skilling
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June Radio Sponsor: Scott and Sandy Buchanan

Birthdays: 6-13: Shelly TerHark, 6-15: Julia Hines

Today, June 13: 10:00 am. – Worship

Wednesday, June 16 Meals on Wheels delivery begins through June 30.

Next Sunday, June 20: 10:00 am. – Worship

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. Thank you to everyone who signed up!

Thank you to Dave Skilling for leading worship for us today!

Thank you to Shelly TerHark for helping out in the office.

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ Algona, Iowa



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