

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is a Stranger”
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
June 27, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Come among us, Healing God; we wait for you.

Many: **We come, hungry for your Word to bless us.**

One: Come among us, Compassionate Christ; we hope in you.

Many: **We come, hungry to be filled with the Bread of Heaven.**

One: Come among us, Restoring Spirit; we wait and hope in you.

Many: **We come, eager to rest in your peace.**

*OPENING SONG

“When Morning Guilds the Skies”

#111

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Faithful God, You yearn to be so close to us that we can know you in every breath, in every hope, in every relationship. You long for us to trust in your power to bring to life new possibilities where there has been no hope. Meet us here today and teach us to recognize the ways of life and hope into which you are leading us. So may our desires become your desires, our work become your work, and our community the place where you are sought and found. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

We want to touch the hem of your garment, God. Forgive us for being afraid to touch those who come to us for hope; we want to love the whole world: forgive us for ignoring our neighbor; we long for peace: forgive us for the pain we inflict on our families and friends; we want to share with those we love and like: forgive us for walking past those who need you most.

Forgive us, Loving God, for we do not excel in everything you call us to do. Give us grace: to touch those who frighten us; to carry the Bread of Life to the hungry; to offer the blessings of the kingdom to everyone we meet, even as you have graced us in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Listen to the Good News! Hope in God, for God's love has no ending; God fills us with grace and hope, this day, and forever.

Many: God hears our voice, and listens to our prayers, redeeming us from all our sins. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 5:21-43

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

I believe in an innovative God, who does not wait for us to find ourselves but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way.

I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God’s crucial initiative, that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God.

I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.

I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ’s people, called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the “promised land” of God’s future.

Because Christ has called me in this I truly believe. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE:

“The Best We Can”

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER

AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(prayed together)

Generous God, take our gifts this day and use them so that we may be part of your great work in this world. Through our giving, bring a brighter day not just in our community but in the world beyond these walls. Strengthen our church, the United Church of Christ and the Church Universal so that we grow together each day into a powerful voice for healing and peace. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

#712

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer and 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 Chris

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June Radio Sponsor: Scott and Sandy Buchanan

Birthdays: 6-28: Lance Zook

Today, June 27: 10:00 am. – Worship

Monday - Wednesday: Delivery of Meals on Wheels

Tuesday, June 29: 9:30 – 11:30 am.: Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

Saturday, July 3: 9-12noon Mobile Mission at Farmers Market

Next Sunday, July 4: 10:00 am. – Worship with Communion
Food Pantry

The June, July and August Our Daily Bread is here and in the Fellowship Hall entry. We have a special devotion of Our Daily Bread: The Compassion of Jesus. They are placed in the Fellowship Hall entry by the June, July and August Daily Bread.

We are still in need of radio sponsors for July, October and November.

Have a safe 4th of July weekend.

**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