

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is a Stranger"
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 25, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: The foolish say, "There is no God! We are alone, on our own."

Many: We gather to declare the glory of God in our lives.

One: The foolish say, "It is your life; you are accountable to no one."

Many: We gather, strengthened by the Spirit, trusting that Christ dwells in our hearts.

One: The foolish say, "Everything I have is mine; I owe nothing to anyone."

Many: We gather to praise the One who calls us to serve others in love.

*OPENING SONG

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

#138

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Lead us in our worship this morning, God, that our lips might praise you, our lives might bless you, and our thoughts might glorify your name. We come to sing and pray, knowing that you always hear us. Help us to hear you. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Wisdom's Heart: deep within, we know how we have failed to be your people. Our hardened hearts are closed to the love of Christ; our lust for more and more blocks the fullness of your grace from transforming our lives; our trust in the powers of the world reveals our foolish nature.

Have mercy, God of every generation. Pour out the rich blessing of forgiveness on our parched souls. Feed us with Heaven's Bread, so we might be nourished by your gentleness. Shape us as your people, and restore us to faithful living, as we seek to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in service to everyone we meet. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: The wideness of God's mercy, the range of God's forgiveness, the infinite love of God, the Heart of hope which is never empty: all these gifts are ours, as God restores us to the fullness of life meant for us.

Many: Grounded in love, rooted in discipleship, we offer ourselves in service to others, recognizing the limitless grace which is ours to share in Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

John 6:1-21

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in God, who is love, whose love is manifest in all Creation, in our lives, and in all people.

We follow Christ, who embodied God's love. In his life and ministry, his death and resurrection, and his granting to us of his Spirit, he filled us with that love as well.

We live by the Spirit, the presence of God's love in us.

In that love we participate in the Church, Body of Christ, in loving God by loving our neighbors through our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service.

Love is our faith, and it is a gift from God. We thank God, and ask God's blessings, that we may love in the name of Christ and the power of the Spirit, to God's glory. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:14-21

read from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE:

"How Deep Is Your Love, God?"

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

BRINGING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(prayed together)

Bless these gifts that we offer in your name, Generous God. Multiply them, our hopes, and our efforts, that your wonders might come into the world around us. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad”

#244

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 (adapted) is from *Invocations and Benedictions for the Revised Common Lectionary* by John M. Drescher. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by B. J. Beu from from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021* and *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

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

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July Radio Sponsor: In memory of Arlen Benschoter

Today, July 25: 10:00 am. – Worship
Following worship CE will meet
Fellowship coffee

Tuesday, July 27: 9:30 – 11:30 am.: Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

Wednesday, July 28: August/September Newsletter deadline
5-8pm - Mobile Mission at Party in the Park Mobile Mission

Saturday, July 31: 9-11 am. - Mobile Mission at Farmers Market

Next Sunday, August 1: 10:00 am. – Worship with communion
Food Pantry
Fellowship coffee

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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