

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is a Stranger”
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 8, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Watch what God does: mostly God loves us.

Many: We would learn a life of such love so we might do as God does.

One: Watch how Christ loves us: not with caution, but with extravagance.

Many: We would practice such lavish love, not noticing what it costs us.

One: Watch how the Spirit loves us: moving in us, breathing love into us.

Many: We would live such love for others, keeping company with God.

*OPENING SONG

“For Beauty of Meadows”

#28

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

God of Healing and Transformation, we hunger and thirst for your abundant life. We bring you our sorrow and ask for the bread of joy; we bring you our despair and ask for the bread of hope; we bring you our weariness and ask for the bread of inspiration. Meet us here. We need the bread of heaven to sustain us for our journey to find our way, that we may be one with you. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

We break your heart, God of all the world, by the respectable lives we lead. Blessed by you with every gift, we practice thrift towards others. Seeking to be good and proper Christians, we overlook you in the company of the poor, the oppressed, those without a voice. We choose to spread gossip about our friends and neighbors, when we could speak gently to them.

Forgive us for the pain we cause you and other people, Grieving God. Help us to make a clean break with those habits which keep us from wholeness. Open us to the

movement of your Spirit within us. Feed us with the Bread of Life, so we might have the love and passion to feed the world. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: It is really that simple - God loves us. Through the Holy Spirit, God works in us, transfiguring our old ways, breathing life and love into us.

Many: We receive God's grace, so we can offer it to others. We are caressed in God's gentleness, so we can hold the broken. We will be quick to forgive, even as God has forgiven us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 read from the *Common English Bible*

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

I believe in God, the giver of grain and bread, and in Jesus Christ, the bread of life broken for us, and in the Holy Spirit, God's nourishing power in every grain and loaf. I believe that Christ is to be leaven in us, so that we may offer the bread of life to the hungers of every human heart. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

John 6:35, 41-51

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE:

“Jesus Bread”

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER

BRINGING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

Bountiful God, in praise and thanksgiving for your many blessings, receive our offerings that they may be for the world signs of the bread of heaven and the fullness of your grace. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

“May the Mind of Christ, My Savior”

#464

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 is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by B. J. Beu from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by Alvin Franz Brightbill (adapted), and posted on the Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren website.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Worship Leader: Pastor Chris
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August Radio Sponsor: Chuck West and Becky Bibler

Birthdays: 8-8: Chris Burtnett, 8-10: Todd TerHark, 8-13: Michelle Clegg

Today, August 8: 10:00 am. – Worship
Food Pantry Offering
Coffee
Mission & Memorial Committee Meeting after Worship

Tuesday, August 10: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill
6:30 pm. – Food Pantry Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 11: 5-8 pm. – Mobile Mission at Party in the Park

Thursday, August 12: 8:30 am. – Ministerial Breakfast

Friday, August 13:

Saturday, August 14: 9-11 - Mobile Mission at Farmer’s Market
2 pm. - Visitation for Gregg & Julie Buchanan at 1st Congregational UCC
3 pm. - Memorial Service for Gregg & Julie Buchanan with a reception following in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, August 15: 10:00 am. – Worship
Coffee

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



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

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