

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
“Where No One Is a Stranger”  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 22, 2021

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Welcome to this holy space where God’s Spirit dwells among us!

**Many: We come longing to feel the presence of God.**

One: Open your hearts, for this is a place of prayer and healing.

**Many: This is a place of joy and faith.**

One: This is the place for you.

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

### \*OPENING SONG

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

#148

### \*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Holy One, you have called us to this place, a place where we find your Spirit. We have gathered here to pray and to be forgiven, to love and be loved, and to hear the Word boldly proclaimed as we apply it to our lives. Open our hearts to the mystery of your Word. Remind us that your Word is proclaimed in the life of Jesus the Christ. Help us believe in you and in your love for us. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

God, our sun and shield: we may long to be in your house, but our deeds show how tough it is for us to live there. Called to follow, we search for paths to take us back to our old ways; given the words of eternal life, we weakly proclaim the gospel to others; offered the path of salvation to walk upon, we stumble down the rocky roads of our world.

Forgive us, Guardian of our lives. Strengthen us with your Spirit, so we may serve your people with all that brings them life. Let your Word, Jesus Christ, the One we have come to believe and know is our Lord and Savior, be confirmed in us in every word, every deed, every thought, every moment in the days to come. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Today, receive the Bread of Life; today, hear the words of eternal hope; today, trust in the One who hears your prayers, and showers grace and forgiveness upon you.

**Many: Today, we are set free to serve God's people, and to sing God's praises. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 84

### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We are God's work of art—each one of us a precious gem, a marvelous melody, a potter's delight. We are God's handiwork—woven together in love, shaped with infinite compassion, painted with incredible beauty.

We are the church of Jesus Christ—diverse in human qualities, but united in our call to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

We are the Body of Christ—living in his truth, sharing his peace, carrying his hope, embodying his love, throughout the world he loved so much.

We are here to be reminded once more who we are, whose we are and what our lives are about. We are here to be uplifted, renewed and empowered to live out the miracle of who we are, by the power of God working in and among us. We open ourselves to God, who makes all things new. Amen.

### \*GLORIA PATRI

#734

### FOCUS

1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43

read from the *Common English Bible*

### MESSAGE:

“A God Reputation”

Pastor Chris

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER

## BRINGING OUR GIFTS

### OFFERTORY

### \*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

We offer you these gifts, God, seeking your blessing that they might be used to welcome all, and to inspire faith in our community. We offer our very selves also, asking that we might become your faithful followers. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG**

“Renew Your Church”

#462

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, and Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by Karin Ellis from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from “God’s Work of Art,” written by the Rev. David Inglis, of Henrietta (NY) United Church of Christ.

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

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August Radio Sponsor: Chuck West and Becky Bibler

Birthdays: 8-22: Larry Person, 8-26: Holly Filson-Heath

Today, August 22: 10:00 am. – Worship  
Coffee

Tuesday, August 24: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

Wednesday, August 25: 5:30 pm.- Mobile Mission at 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church

Thursday, August 26: 9:30 am Evangelism & Outreach Committee Meeting  
7pm.: Thursday evening Adult Discussion group at Marilyn’s

Saturday, August 28: 11 am. - Bob Daniels Memorial Service

Sunday, August 29: 10:00 am. – Worship  
Coffee

Our Daily Bread for September, October, November is here. They may be picked up in the Fellowship entry.

The Kossuth Co. Food Pantry is in need of the following items: Hamburger helper, cans of corn, peas, mixed vegetables, peaches, pears mixed fruit, tuna, chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, cereal, cookies, instant potatoes and rice, small jars of peanut butter and jelly, pasta: spaghetti, macaroni wide egg noodles, bottles of juice, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, bar soap, dish soap, laundry soap, toothpaste, toilet paper.

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



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