

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
“Where No One Is a Stranger”  
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost  
October 24, 2021

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: God has gathered us from many different places.

**Many: Happy are those who take refuge in our loving God!**

One: We are gathered to pour forth laughter and joyous singing.

**Many: We gather to join in shouts of praise to our Most High God.**

One: We gather to bless our God in this time and place.

**Many: Let's exalt God's name together!**

### \*OPENING SONG

“From All That Dwells Below the Skies”

insert

### \*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

All-powerful God, we seek your presence among us this morning, for we need the knowledge and energy you alone can provide. Your ways are wonderful beyond our understanding. When our strength is spent, our vision clouded, and our hope gone, you reach out to us in ways we often fail to discern. We take heart to think that you call us to yourself, opening our eyes to see your wonders as if for the first time. We want to be a part of your faithful followers in a world that too often loses sight of the holy. Help us, we pray. Amen.

## TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Gracious and holy God, we admit that it is easier to have pain-causing words on our lips, than praise for another. Our foolishness often keeps us from seeing the deep hurts and hunger of the suffering who are around us. We stand by the side of the road, afraid to step forward in faith, afraid to trust that you are with us, afraid to cry out for healing and hope.

We are not people who repent in ashes and dust, but we do know we need your mercy, and ask that you forgive our faithlessness, our fears, our hurts. Healer of all people, we

lift our hearts and souls to you, that through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we might find your grace, discover your love, and serve your people in your name. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Take heart: God hears your prayers. Get up: God has healed your brokenness. Listen: God calls to you with hope, with forgiveness, with life.

Many: Now, our eyes are opened and we can see; now, our ears are opened and we can hear; now, we can follow Jesus into God's realm. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven.

Amen.

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:46-52

read from the *Common English Bible*

### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

**In spite of many unanswered questions, I believe.**

**I believe in the living God, the joy of the universe, who is the pulse and purpose of all things seen and unseen, who from the dust of earth calls up living beings to be children of eternity, who through countless ages has provided for us many liberators and tirelessly seeks to bring victory out of defeat and life out of decay.**

**I believe in Jesus the Christ, who is bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, who took upon himself the healing of the human race, who was betrayed, crucified, dead and buried in a borrowed tomb, who on the third day was found to be gloriously alive, meeting with those who trust him and serve him to the end of the world.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, within and among all who cherish Jesus and his way, who brings hope out of despair, love out of apathy, and joy out of sorrow, who unceasingly regenerates and reforms the church that it may always be the contemporary body of the risen Christ, loving the world through prayer, word and deed.**

**I believe that even I am caught up in the resurgent life of Christ Jesus, and that nothing in life or death can separate me from his love and joy.**

**In spite of unanswered questions, yes, I believe. Amen!**

### \*GLORIA PATRI

#734

### FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

read from the *Common English Bible*

### MESSAGE:

“Sometimes, It's a Mystery”

Pastor Chris

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

## BRINGING OUR GIFTS

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(prayed together)

**Accept and bless these gifts we offer, God. Let them change the world into which we send them. Take them and multiply them to be a blessing in the world you love! Amen.**

**\*CLOSING SONG**

“My Life Flows On”

#424

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Opening Prayer are from *Led By Love-Worship Resources for year B* by Lavon Bayler. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by Bruce.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds

Lector:

Worship Leader: Pastor Chris

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October Radio Sponsor: In Memory of Julie Buchanan’s birthday. (October 9)

Birthdays:

Today, October 24: 10:00 am. – Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee

Tuesday, October 26: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

Friday, October 29: 9am. - Algona Care Centers Worship

Saturday, October 30: 4:30 - UCC Mobile Mission at Burt Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 31: 10:00 am. – Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee

**Congregational Meeting** to approve the budget for the year 2022.

5-6:30 pm.: **Trunk or Treat:** at 1<sup>st</sup> Methodist Church Parking lot. Donations needed: bags of individually wrapped pieces of candy or monetary donations toward non-candy, help for bagging popcorn. There is a sign-up sheet for help.

Today, start using the 10 digits telephone number (515 + phone #) for all local calls!

Saturday, November 6: Set Clocks back before you go to bed! Day Light Savings ends



