

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints Sunday
November 7, 2021

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

One: Come, for God is in this place.

Many: And in our hearts.

One: Come, open yourself to the nudging God.

Many: We feel the presence of the Spirit.

One: Come, remember God made flesh.

Many: Jesus, who taught us a new way.

One: Come, let's worship!

***OPENING SONG:** “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” #176

***OPENING PRAYER** (prayed together)

Great God, who makes all things new, create new attitudes and awareness within us as we join the saints of all times and places in singing your praises. Fill us with the knowledge of your will. Lift us up and unbind us in this time of worship so we may serve, to your honor and glory. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (prayed together)

We are unprepared to meet you this morning, God, but we cannot put off this encounter with you. You continue to summon us to the mountaintop to feel your presence and respond to your word. You invite us to lift up our heads and see you, but we have stubbornly refused to acknowledge your works among us or see any purpose emerging from the depths of our despair. We fear death and we shrink from life, cutting ourselves off from you. Forgive us and help us. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: God's word to us is a word of forgiveness, a word of assurance, a word of grace.

Many: We are loved and accepted because we are we and God is God and nothing can finally separate us from our Creator, our Parent, our Sustainer. Thanks be to God! Amen.

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

All Saints Litany insert

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 24

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** UCC Statement of Faith (read together)
(inside back cover of hymnal)

***GLORIA PATRI** #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Isaiah 25:6-9 read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “On This Mountain” Pastor Chris

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Creative, connecting God, you have sent your Spirit and made us the body of Christ; From child-like faith, to youthful energy, from middle-aged mindfulness, to elder's wisdom. We thank you for this feast, this time, this remembrance. Amen.

BRINGING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of abundance, may the gifts we offer this day be blessed and multiplied so that all may come to know your steadfast love, your abundant blessings, your unlimited grace. Amen.

***Closing Song** “For All the Saints” #529

***Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) are from *Worship Way-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Opening Prayer and Call to Confession are from *Whispers of God-Liturgical Resources for Year B*, by Lavon Bayler. The Prayer of Confession (adapted) is from *Led By Love-Worship Resources for Year B*, by Lavon Bayler. The Words of Assurance (adapted) are from the Wheadon United Methodist Church, Evanston, Illinois, from *Flames of the Spirit-Resources for Worship Like Bread for the Journey*, edited by Ruth C. Duck. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by Deborah Sokolove from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is a version of our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Burtnett
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November Radio Sponsor: In Memory of Gregg Buchanan's birthday. (November 23)

Birthdays: November 10-Laura TerHark, Nov. 12-Liz Reynolds

Today, November 7: 10:00 am. – Worship with Communion
All Saints Day
Sunday School
Food Pantry
Coffee
Fall Clean up after Worship with lunch

Tuesday, November 9: 9 am. Committee on Ministry
6:30 pm. – Food Pantry Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 10: 7 pm. – Board Meeting

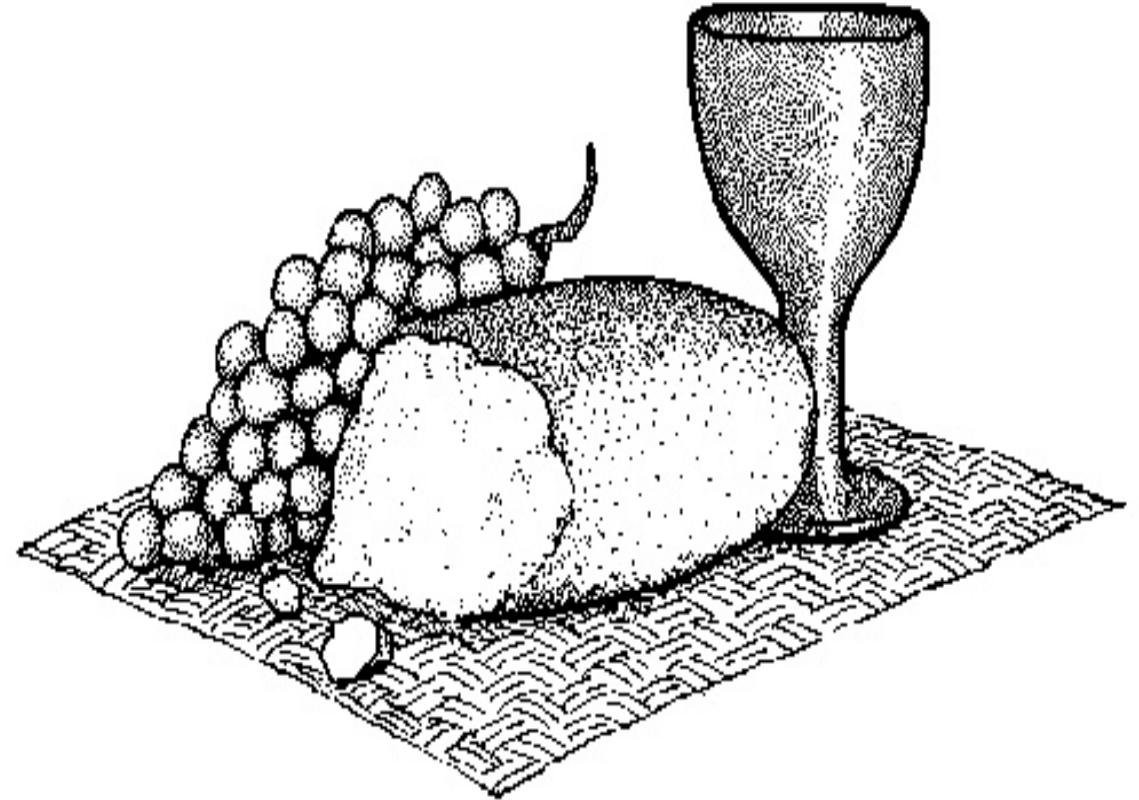
Thursday, November 11: 8:30 am. – Ministerial Meeting at 1st Congregational UCC

Sunday, November 14: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
Mission & Memorial Meeting after worship
3:00 pm.- Dave Skilling Commissioning at Garner Presbyterian

We will be celebrating the sacrament of communion this morning. Everyone is welcome at the table. The inner ring is wine and outer ring is grape juice.

Today is Food Pantry Sunday. Donations of canned food, paper products and monetary donations are welcome. If you include your monetary donation with your offering be sure to mark the amount in the memo of your check.

The Algona Annual Community Thanksgiving dinner will be held Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25th. It will be delivery (Algona area) & drive through only. More information is in the Week Ahead.



**THEIR EYES WERE OPENED,
AND THEY RECOGNIZED
THE RISEN CHRIST
IN THE BREAKING
OF THE BREAD.**

All Saints Litany

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for all the saints of our lives and the witness they have shared with us even as we continue to walk the journey of faith and make our way to the glory that God is preparing for all of us. Let us pray.

Eternal God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, we praise you for the saints of all times and places who have walked the road of faith before us and beside us. For their witness to your love and their commitment to your justice, for their trust in your mercy regardless of the circumstance, we give you thanks and praise.

People: God of all creation, we praise you for all your servants who have witnessed to your truth, who have shown us your love, who have inspired us to have hope. By their example of faith, hope, and love, remind us of your calling to join in making your new creation real in this world and the next.

Leader: God of grace and peace, we praise you for women and men and children who reflect your love into our world. Guide us to continue their faithful work as we too walk in the light of your love.

People: God of all saints, today we especially remember the saints from among this community who have departed our company over the past year.

Everyone: We thank you for the faithful witness of Arlene Kenyon, and for her courage amidst strife and her hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence)

We thank you for the faithful witness of Julie Buchanan, and for her courage amidst strife and her hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence)

We thank you for the faithful witness of Gregg Buchanan, and for his courage amidst strife and his hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence)

We thank you for the faithful witness of Donald Myers, and for his courage amidst strife and his hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence)

We thank you for the faithful witness of Arlen Benschoter, and for his courage amidst strife and his hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence)

We thank you for the faithful witness of Judy Boyd, and for her courage amidst strife and her hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence)

Leader: We remember so many other saints who have walked this road with us, whom we name before you in silence: *(a moment of silent prayer is kept)*

Continue to inspire us by their faithful witness, that we too might join in bringing your justice, mercy, and peace to our world.

Everyone: Eternal God, as we walk this pilgrim way, make our faith firm, our hope clear, and our love pure, that we might join the saints of all the ages in praise eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

~ adapted from a post on LiturgyLink, October 30, 2014. <https://www.liturgylink.net/2014/10/30/litany-for-all-saints/>

All Saints Day

The Lord redeems the life of
his servants;
none of those who take refuge
in him will be condemned.

Psalm 34:22

