

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is a Stranger”
Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Reign of Christ Sunday
November 21, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Our help is in the name of God who made heaven and earth.

Many: We glorify our God with songs of thanksgiving and joy.

One: God has done great things for us, filling us with grace.

Many: God fed our ancestors in the wilderness, God clothes us with hope.

One: We will offer our hearts to God, always saying, "Thank you!" to the One who loves us.

Many: We will sing our praises, shouting of God's presence in our lives.

*OPENING SONG

“Now Thank We All Our God”

#14

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

God of love, we are thankful that we belong to your realm, which is greater than any human power. Everyone finds a home in your realm of peace. Give us ears to hear the voice of Jesus our ruler above the din of human voices. Settle the dust that becomes stirred up inside us by debate or division. Give us eyes to see your will and ears to hear your word, so that we may love one another, ourselves and you with all that we are. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

The choices we make, Mighty God, reveal who we are. Choosing the lies of the world, your Word has not been on our lips. Choosing independent and isolated lives, we do not reflect your Spirit in our actions towards others. Choosing to exalt the powerful of our day, we are unable to follow the One whose weakness gives us life.

Forgive us, God who became weak for our sake. Do not turn your face from us, but help us to face ourselves honestly. Free us from our captivity, so we may faithfully follow Jesus Christ, our Sovereign Lord and Savior. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Shout for joy, children of God! The God who was and is and is to come loves you, forgives you, and renews you.

Many: God's Spirit rests upon us, grace and peace are the gifts of our loving God. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 132:1-12

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We belong to God, creator of all that is and all that is to come, abundant provider of the gifts in this life and the gifts in our own hearts. It is God alone who gives life, who is generous beyond measure with grace and blessing.

We follow Jesus, whom God sent to teach and heal, to show us a new way of living, with love and trust and courage, with joy and generosity. In this faith Jesus gave of himself, even his very life. He was crucified and buried; yet God raised him from death, and he lives among us, and grants his spirit to us. We live by that Holy Spirit, and entrust ourselves to its guidance and empowerment.

As members of the church, the Body of Christ, we devote ourselves to lives of love, rejoicing in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

John 18:33-37

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE

“Ruler of the Realm”

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

BRINGING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

As we offer our gifts in this moment to you, Holy God, we pray that they might be used to bring hope, to bring healing, to bring new life to all your people. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

“Rejoice the Lord Is King”

#342

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), Words of Assurance, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is by James Dollins from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2021* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

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

Birthdays:

Today, November 21: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

Thanksgiving Dinner Potluck: meat, potatoes, gravy and drinks will be provided.
Decorate for Advent/Christmas after our Thanksgiving Dinner

Tuesday, November 23: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill
4 pm Mission & Memorial Committee Meeting at Van Buren Terrace

Thursday, November 25: Happy Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 21: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

November 30: Newsletter Deadline

Please remember if you are making a Pledge for 2022, please return to the church office by December 5. Thank you.

It is time to order Poinsettia. They are \$10.70 for a 6" plant. Please call the church office and let Pam know if you would like one and who it is in honor/memory.

The "Our Daily Bread" for December, January, February is here. They may be picked up in the Fellowship entry.

The Algona Annual Community Thanksgiving dinner will be held Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25th. It will be delivery (Algona area) & drive through only. You **must** call in advance for home deliveries. Reservations for home deliveries can be made by calling 295-3435 no later than Wednesday, November 24th at 4pm. Free will donations accepted.

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ Algona, Iowa



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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