

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
315 S Moore St.  
Algona, Iowa  
515-295-2845  
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 14, 2022

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: In the fire and the flames,

Many: Spirit appears to bless and inspire us.

One: In the division and the despair,

Many: Jesus arrives to challenge and invite us.

One: In the shadows and the sorrow,

Many: God walks alongside to lift us up.

One: In this moment, we gather together to worship, to pray, to sing, to lament.

Many: We gather on this blessed journey of life, death, and resurrection.

### \*OPENING SONG

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

#87

### \*OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Loving and Gracious God, form a new song of soul within us. Take every fragment of our lives and fashion a new creation. Plant us deep in the soil of your love, that your living water might rise in us, forming a fruit of possibility unimaginable on our own.

Grant us grace to trust your promised presence already meeting us here, now, and always. By this, gift us with a new strength of heart for whatever your love demands. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Gardener God, you plant us in a gifted place, but often we return sour grapes. In the midst of your abundance, we complain of not having enough or being enough. Your call “to give justice to the weak and the orphan; to maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute” is easily overlooked or ignored. We are uprooted by our own inaction,

selfishness, and fear. Re-root our hearts, our minds, and our lives in the soil of your forgiving love. Bear up in us a boldness to sing a song strange to the world but known by you. Let it be the song of shalom, the chorus of Jesus-love, a hallelujah rising as the world is mended by our consent to you. Yes, plant this anew in us today. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Hear this good word. God can never cease to be love. God has no joy in plants uprooted or journeys detoured by distraction. The ancient promise of God proclaimed again and again throughout history still rings true.

Many: Nothing can separate us from the love of God, made known to us in Christ Jesus. God forgives you and is already planting you anew. This is the good news and you can trust it with your life. Thanks be to God!

### SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE RADING

Isaiah 5:1-7

### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's realm. We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good. We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever. One day all tears will be wiped away; the lamb will lie down with the lion, and justice will roll down like a mighty stream. True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired, they are assured and guaranteed in Christ. This is our faith. This is our hope.

### GLORIA PATRI

#734

### FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Luke 12:49-56

shared from *The Message*

### MESSAGE:

“To Start A Fire”

Pastor Chris

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

## PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

### OFFERTORY

### \*DOXOLOGY

#34

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(prayed together)

It is by faith that you bless us, hopeful God. So, it is by faith that we offer back to you a portion of what we have and who we are, trusting that you will take these gifts and use them in the work of that kingdom of justice and hope, of grace and wonder, which is yours. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

#569

**\*GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

\*Indicates all who are able please stand

The Call to Worship (adapted) is by Mary Scifres from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is from the 20th century South African reed. Posted on the **Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren** website. <http://rockhay.tripod.com/>.

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Organist: Vicki Merchlewitz

Lector: David Burrow

Worship Leader: Pastor Burnett

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August Radio Sponsor: Marilyn Deal

Birthdays: 8-18: Andrew Schlievert

Sunday, August 14: 10:00 am.- Worship  
Coffee

Tuesday, August 16: 9:30 -11am. - Pastor at Feed Mill

Wednesday, August 17: 7pm.- Board Meeting

Thursday, August 18: 6pm. - Association Evaluation meeting by zoom

Saturday, August 20: 3:30pm – Thilges/Williams Wedding

Sunday, August 21: 10 am – Worship  
Coffee

