

First Congregational United Church of Christ
315 S Moore St.
Algona, Iowa
515-295-2845
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 21, 2022

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Before we got up this morning and decided to come to church,

Many: God was waiting for us, to welcome us with grace.

One: When we are unsure of what to do; when we falter before the next step,

Many: we come to listen to God's voice, to learn from the One who teaches us all we ever need to know.

One: When we are surrounded by cruelty and injustice; when our fears cripple our souls,

Many: God delivers us with steadfast love; we are set free to be God's sons and daughters.

One: Let's worship God.

*OPENING SONG

“Praise to the Lord, The Almighty”

#71

*OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Mothering God, we rejoice that you placed us in the womb and called us forth. You called us forth to build and to plant. Give us the blueprint as we build and bless our hands as we plant. We rejoice in knowing that our steps are guided by you, and you are reliable. We delight ourselves in your presence and give thanks as you deliver us from fear and let your love have its way in us. Embolden us to speak your truth to power and let the power of your truth always be evident in us. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Transforming God, too often we have been afraid to speak out against the injustices of this world. We have worshipped in ways that made us feel good rather than honor you in our words and deeds.

Forgive us. Show us the path to faithful living. Show us how to build beloved and just communities. Teach us how to do your work in this world. Empower us to plant seeds of love, faith, and hope. May we bloom where we have been planted to your glory. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: God chooses not to turn a deaf ear to us, but to listen to our prayers. God chooses not to shame us, but to save us.

Many: This is, indeed, good news for us! We are set free to drink deeply from the waters of life. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven!

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 12:18-29

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We trust in God, the Creator Spirit who moved upon the face of the deep at the beginning of creation, who created all that is, and who spoke through the prophets of old.

We trust in Jesus into whom God's spirit was poured in fullness and in power, that the whole creation might be restored and unified; and who promised that the Spirit would come and fill the faithful with power to witness to the mighty love of God.

We await on that Spirit today with longing hearts, seeking to be empowered to the witness to God's love, with fresh words and courageous actions of love and hope.

Glory be to God – Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit – now and always. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 1:4-10

shared from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE:

“The Words of a Prophet”

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

#34

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

Generous God, you have blessed us throughout our lives. Take these offerings, and every gift we give, and use them to show others the breadth of your unfailing love. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“Lord, Speak to Me”

#593

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

POSTLUDE

*Indicates all who are able please stand

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is by James Dollins from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is from Creeds and Statements of Affirmation found on <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org>.

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Organist:	Vicki Merchlewitz
Lector:	David Burrow
Worship Leader:	Pastor Burtnett

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August Radio Sponsor: Marilyn Deal

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

Sunday, August 21: 10:00 am.- Worship
Coffee

Tuesday, August 23: 9:30 -11am. - Pastor at Feed Mill

Sunday, August 28: 10 am – Worship
Coffee

“Our Daily Bread” Unity in Jesus: 10 Reflections on Christian Unity is here. It may be picked up in the Fellowship entry.

“Our Daily Bread” September, October, November issue is here. It may be picked up in the Fellowship entry.

The Mission and Memorial Team has designated August as Care Team Month. We will collect a special offering for the Care Team throughout the month of August. You may make out a special check or designate an amount in the memo section on your regular offering check. This way it will be credited to the right account.

