

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 4, 2022

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Like clay, we arrive at this time of worship:

Many: Shapeless and full of potential, we arrive.

One: Like clay, we prepare for this time of worship:

Many: Stretched and twisted into formation, we prepare.

One: Like clay, we enter this time of worship:

Many: Formed and ready for warmth, we enter.

OPENING SONG

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” #59

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Loving Creator, maker of everything good, we are in your hands. Be with us now as we gather ourselves to seek your wisdom and strive to become the people you would have us be. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Searching God, we are so attached to our possessions, we have trouble sharing them. We are so connected to our pleasures that we cannot feel the pain of those around us. We are so stuck on ourselves, we cannot sense our souls slipping away into the shadows.

Most merciful God: loosen us from the grip of the world, so we may feel your healing touch. Sever us from our sin, so your Spirit might bind us to you. Reshape us, redeem us, renew us, so we may take up our crosses and follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: The God who calls us is the God who created us; the God who formed us is the God who forgives us. This is the Good News - we are God's new creation.

Many: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are reshaped, renewed, forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Read from *The Message*

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

UCC Statement of Faith

(read together)

(inside back cover of hymnal)

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 18:1-11

shared from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

“The Work of the Clay”

Pastor Chris

GATHERING AT CHRIST’S TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord’s Prayer

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

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, because we have been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be reshaped and renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

#34

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy Giver of all Gifts, we thank you for this opportunity to share our gifts and participate in the various ministries you've placed before this faith community. Bless these monies and each one of us as we go back out to continue your work in the world. Amen.

***Closing Song** "Have Thine Own Way" #486

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

***Indicates all who are able please stand**

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication, and Prayer of Confession are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurances are from *Lectionary liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is a version of our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is by David Beebe from *Flames of the Spirit-Resources for Worship Like Bread for the Journey* edited by Ruth C. Duck.

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Organist: Vicki Merchlewitz
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Burtnett
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September Radio Sponsor: Connie Schwab

Today, September 4: 10:00 am.- Worship with Sacrament of Communion
Coffee
Food Pantry

Monday, September 5: Labor Day

Tuesday, September 5: Pastor Chris's Knee Surgery

Sunday, September 11: 10:00 am – Worship
Coffee

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.

“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.

Rotary Flight Breakfast will be held Sunday, September 11 from 7am-12:30pm at the Algona Airport.

Algona Community Blood Drive at 1st United Methodist Church: Monday, Sept. 12, 12:30-5:30pm and Tuesday, September 13, 9am-2pm.



*First Congregational
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