

First Congregational United Church of Christ
315 S Moore St.
Algona, Iowa
515-295-2845
Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
November 13, 2022

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: This day! This day we will give thanks to God, who cradles us in the waters of baptism.

Many: This day! This day we will trust in the One who has saved us, who strengthens us.

One: This day! This day we dance to the fountain of life, drinking deeply of salvation's goodness.

Many: This day! This day we praise our God for every blessing; telling everyone of God's amazing grace in our lives and in our world.

One: This day! This day we sing God's praises; testifying to all creation of our God.

Many: This day! This day our songs are filled with joy, for God is with us, this day and in all the days to come!

*OPENING SONG "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" #56

*OPENING PRAYER (read together)

There is no place to turn, God, for the comfort we desire; no place but you alone. Bless us this day, that we might be a blessing to others. Bless us this day, that we might be faithful witnesses to the life of Jesus, our redeemer. In our songs and prayers, in our scriptures and spoken words, reveal your purposes through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are here, God. Equip us for ministry with the faith and assurance only you can provide. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

We confess that our lives weaken us, Strengthening God. We do not exercise our faith as we should, and so fatigue easily. We see houses as investment property, not as homes built on love, hope, and dreams. We whimper our petty complaints about our friends and families, rather than shouting our hosannas to heaven for the gift of their lives.

You are our hope, Tender God, so forgive us. Create in us new hearts, and fill us with

new energy to serve our sisters and brothers, bringing them to the deep wells of salvation, where they can fill their parched souls, even as we have been led to them by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Rather than remaining white hot, God's anger melts into streams of living water, washing us clean of our sins and refreshing our spirits with hope and joy.

Many: This day! This day we give thanks to the God who is our strength and our salvation. Praise God! Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Luke 21:5-19

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom. 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. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI #734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men, A-men.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Isaiah 65:17-25 shared from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "The End Is Near" Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER (using debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (prayed together)

May the gifts and offerings we bring before you reflect the light of Jesus that shines in our lives, Gracious God, a light that can heal the world. In our living and our giving, help us act in concert with your ways, that the world might see in us the power of your Spirit. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“As Saints of Old Their First-fruits Brought”

#570

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

POSTLUDE

*Indicates all who are able please stand

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

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Worship Leader: Pastor Burnett
Lector: David Burrow
Organist: Vicki Merchlewitz
November Radio Sponsor: Meredith Hines & Geoff Buchanan in memory of Gregg Buchanan
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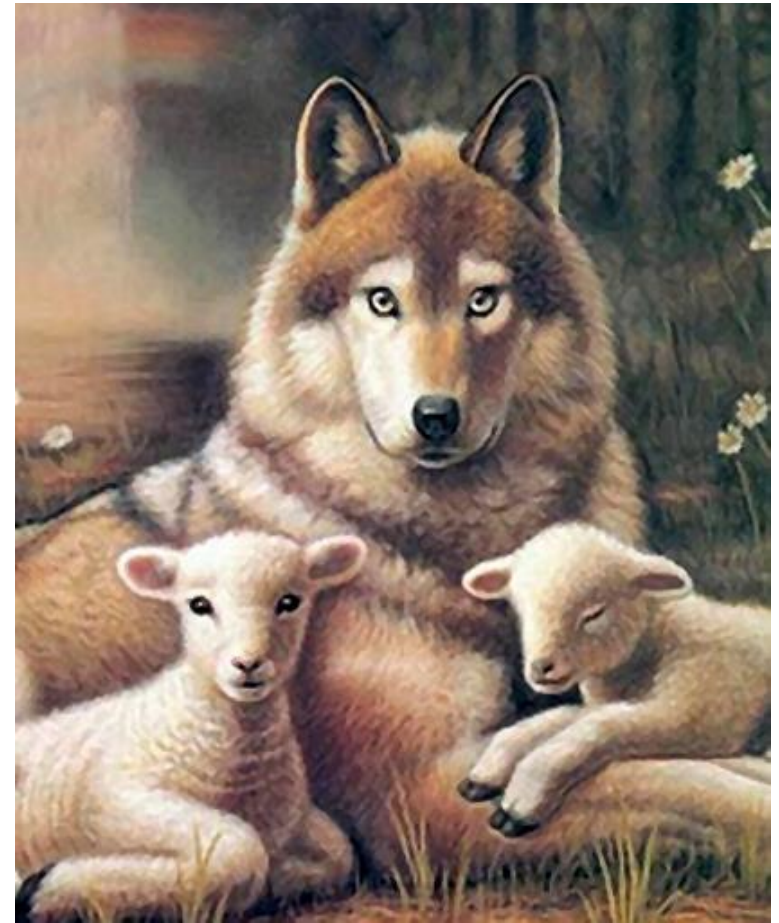
Birthdays: November 19-Christian Grindberg
Today, November 23: 10:00 am.- Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
Music and Worship Team meets following worship

Tuesday, November 15: 9:30-11am. - Pastor Chris at Feed Mill
Wednesday, November 16: 8:30a.m. – Multi-Disciplinary Team Meeting in Fellowship Hall
7 pm. - Board Meeting

Sunday, November 20: 10 am.- Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
Congregational Budget Meeting
Thanksgiving Potluck

“Our Daily Bread” Character-Driven Leadership: 10 Reflections is here. It may be picked up in the Fellowship entry.

The Carter Center newsletter update is in the parlor.
The Senior Center Meals on Wheels menu and activities calendar is on the ramp bulletin board.
The Algona Annual Community Thanksgiving dinner at St. Cecelia’s Parish Center will be held Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24th. There will be delivery (Algona area only) and drive through. You **must** call in advance for home deliveries. Reservations for home deliveries can be made by calling 295-3435 no later than Wednesday, November 23rd at 12pm. Free will donations accepted. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, call Mary Bleich at 341-0225.



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