

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
315 S Moore St., Algona, Iowa  
515-295-2845  
Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost  
Reign of Christ Sunday  
November 20, 2022

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Blessed be our God who looks with kindness on us.

Many: **We are the inheritors of the promises made long ago to our ancestors.**

One: Blessed be our God who gathers us here in this place.

Many: **From across the street, from halfway around the world, God brings us home to the heart of grace.**

One: Blessed be our God who has remembered us.

Many: **Scoffers and singers, watchers and wigglers, we are those redeemed by God.**

### \*OPENING SONG

“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”

#138

### \*OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Tender Shepherd, you gather us here to dwell in your love and grace. You comfort and guide us. You heal and redeem us. As we sing your songs of praise, send your light into our lives. As we commit ourselves to the ways of Jesus, our guide, ruler, and savior, bless us with your presence. In his name we pray. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

In these moments, Remembering God, we bring to you all the ways we have not lived as your people: we stand by watching while those in need struggle to survive; we cast our lots with those who worship power and success; we offer insults rather than words of grace to those who care for us; we scoff at your words which call us to a different lifestyle.

Forgive us, God of Mercy, for not knowing what we do to you, to others, to ourselves. Speak to us through Jesus, our sovereign and Savior, who bears words filled with your tender mercy and gracious hope. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: This is the good news: God remembers! Not our sins, not our foolish lives, not our rebellion. God remembers us - and redeems us!

Many: **God prepares the way for us - the way to grace, to hope, to new life. Joyfully, we offer our thanks to God. Amen.**

### SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 23:1-6

### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in God, our Maker, and Creator of the universe. God created the Earth and all that is in it and saw that it was very good. We believe that God has called us to protect and care for the Earth – its landscapes, waterways, oceans and skies, its flora and fauna, and its human inhabitants.

We believe God calls us to consume only what we need, and not unthinkingly to grab what we want out of selfishness and greed.

We believe in Jesus the Anointed One, Preacher, Teacher and Healer, sent by God to show us the way to live and to love. Jesus teaches us still. His message of God’s Reign, a Reign of peace, justice and love, a Reign which favors the poor and the pariahs is our eternal goal. We believe we are called to work with God to make this Reign a reality for all people.

We believe in God’s Spirit, a powerful moving motivator, available to us at all times, to be used by us to show God’s great love to those in need.

We believe in God’s community of saints, past, present and future – this great gathering of people working for the greater good.

We are grateful for God’s saints down the ages – Christian thinkers, Christian pioneers, renewers of society, reformers of the church, martyrs, apostles, faithful servants, people of prayer and witnesses to Jesus. May we be numbered among them. Blessed be God for ever. 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

Luke 1:68-79

shared from the *Common English Bible*

### MESSAGE:

“How to be Saved”

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)

We're grateful for your invitation to move and give faithfully and abundantly, God. We ask that you would extend your blessings over these gifts that we now offer so that they can be multiplied in service to you and the missions of this congregation. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG**

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

#342

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

**POSTLUDE**

\*Indicates all who are able please stand

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is by Karin Ellis from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is by Ross Mackinnon, Glen Waverley Uniting Church, Victoria, 27 March 2015

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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 20-Pat Billsborough, Phil Heath

Today, November 20: 10:00 am.- Worship

Sunday School

Coffee

Congregational Budget Meeting

Thanksgiving Potluck

Tuesday, November 22: 9:30-11am. - Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

Thursday, November 24: Thanksgiving Day - Office will be closed

Sunday, November 27: 10 am.- Worship

Sunday School

Coffee

Decorate after worship

Tuesday, November 29: News articles are due

The December, January, February issue of “Our Daily Bread” and the Character-Driven Leadership: 10 Reflections are here. They may be picked up in the Fellowship entry.

Poinsettias this year will be \$10.70. If you would like to order one, please let the church office know in whose honor or memory it will be.



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