

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
“Where No One Is A Stranger”  
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 30, 2023

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Come once more, with eager longing, to receive the promises of God.

**Many: Out of the desert places of our lives, we gather with joy and gladness.**

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

**Many: Our God has promised that lonely places and deserts will be glad and blossom as the rose.**

One: The Lord has promised that the blind will be able to see, the deaf will hear, the lame will leap and dance, and those who cannot speak will shout for joy.

**Many: Our God, who made heaven and earth and all that is in them, keeps faith forever. He sets the prisoners free and brings healing to all who seek Him.**

One: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down and watches over strangers. He upholds the orphan and the widow.

**Many: Our God executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.**

One: Come once more, with eager longing, and bless the holy name of our God.

### \*Opening Song

“Be Thou My Vision”

#502

### \*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

**Eternal God, God over all creation and history, in you alone is freedom and healing. Connect our temporal praise to Your timeless rhythms, Your ageless melodies, Your everlasting joyful noise. Breathe life into our singing, our praying, our speaking, and our listening. In our worship we reach out to You, O God, knowing that You have already enfolded us in Your arms. Amen.**

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

**Patient Lord, forgive our lack of faith in your loving power. We look around us and often see only what we don’t have. We fail to notice the daily blessings you lavish upon us. Clear our blindness to the needs of others. Strengthen us and move us from lame excuses for not serving you. Help us to truly listen to one another with loving and generous hearts. Heal us and make us ready to truly be your disciples.**

## A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Behold and believe in the wondrous power and love of God! It is poured out for you and for God’s beloved world.

**Many: We rejoice in this good news. God has forgiven our sins and is making all things new!**

## SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:3-7

## AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

**We believe in God the Father, who reveals his love to us in Christ.  
We believe in God the Son, who pours out God’s Holy Spirit on us.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, who teaches us God’s truth.  
We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 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

Mark 8:27-35

## MESSAGE:

“Seeing with Clarity”

Pamela Rohde

## Prayers of the People/Lord’s Prayer (debts)

## 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**

God, whose giving knows no ending, we offer up the treasure you have entrusted us;  
we offer up the skills and time that you have given to us;  
we offer up ourselves in obedience, love, and praise.  
Receive these gifts by your grace. Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish Christ’s work of love in the world. Amen.

**\*Closing Song:** “Take My Life and Let it Be” #466

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

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

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Worship Leader:	Pamela Rohde
Lector:	Micah Rohde
Organist:	Vicki Merchlewitz
July Radio Sponsor:	Sandy & Mark Williams In honor of Pat & in memory of Ray

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Birthdays: August: 1- Marilyn Deal

Today, July 30: 10 am.- Worship  
Coffee

Tuesday, August 1: 9:30-:30- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

Sunday, August 6: 10:00 am. – Worship with Communion  
Food Pantry  
Coffee

Thank you to Pamela Rohde and Micah for filling in for Pastor Chris and David today while he is on vacation. Your ministry is much appreciated.

If you or a family member are in need of pastoral care while Pastor Chris is on vacation, please contact Helen Scuffham at 515-341-4879 and Helen will call Pastor Karen Dearchs.

Our Daily Bread June/July/August and special issue Unshakable- 10 Reflections on Resilience, devotionals are available on the cart in the entry way to the Education/Office/Fellowship Hall building.

Algona Blood Drive: Monday, August 7 from 12:30 – 5:30pm and Tuesday, August 8 from 9am to 2pm. at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, 101 N Main St., Algona. Notice the change of place.



*First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
165 Years*

315 Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511  
515-295-2845