

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
“Where No One Is A Stranger”  
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
June 30, 2024

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: With friends and strangers, with family and neighbors, we gather:

Many: **Come among us, Healing God, with that love which never ends.**

One: With faith reaching out to touch, with hearts straining to trust, we hope:

Many: **Come among us, Friend of the broken, with your compassion which makes us whole.**

One: With word and wonder, with silence and song, we wait:

Many: **Come among us, Dryer of our tears, to lift us to our feet to follow you.**

### \*Opening Song:

“Morning Has Broken”

#35

### \*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Bless and heal us, this morning, God, for we are stricken in body and spirit. As we stretch out our hands to you in this time of worship, touch us and make us well. Course through our minds and bodies with your healing power, as we place our faith in your mighty Spirit, through Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All too often, God of Excellence, it is the hem of sin we cling to, letting it drag us through the mud of fear and failures. You offer us that love which will always be with us, but we find it difficult to share with those who need it most. You fill us with an abundance of gifts, but we think we need them all for ourselves.

Forgive us, God of Gentle Hope. You do not keep a list of all that we have done wrong, but erase our failings and foolishness, writing a new ending for our lives. You touch us with your grace, you lift us to our feet, you strengthen us so we may follow our Savior, Jesus, in service to all your children. Amen.

## A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: This is the good news, dear friends: God's love has no ending; God's hope rests upon us each day; God's forgiveness restores us to new life.

Many: **Our God listens to us - to our cries, and to our joys; to our hopes and to our hearts. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

### SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 30

### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

(read together)

I believe in God. The God of all creeds, with all their truths. But, above all, in the God that rises from the dead to become part of life. I believe in the God that accompanies me along every step of my path on this earth, many times walking behind me, watching me and suffering with my mistakes, other times walking beside me, talking to me and teaching me, and other times walking ahead of me, guiding and marking my pace. I believe in, Jesus Christ, who lived in my skin and tried on my shoes, who walked in my ways, and knows of lights and shadows, who ate and starved, who had a home and suffered loneliness, who was praised and condemned, kissed and spat on, loved and hated, who went to parties and funerals, who laughed and cried.

I believe in the God who is attentive today, who looks at the world and sees the hatred that segregates, divides, sets people aside, hurts and kills, who sees the bullets piercing the flesh, and the blood of innocent people flowing on the earth, who sees the hand that dips into another's pocket, stealing what somebody else needs, who sees the judge that favors the highest bidder, the truth and justice of hypocrites, who sees the ways we are destroying the earth and piercing the sky, who sees the future mortgaged and humankind's debt growing. I believe in God who sees all this ... and keeps on crying. But I also believe in God who sees a mother giving birth – a life born from pain, who sees two children playing - a seed growing, who sees a flower blooming out of the debris - a new beginning, who sees three crazy women clamoring for justice – an illusion that doesn't die who sees the sun rising every morning - a time of opportunities. I believe in God who sees all this ... and laughs, because, in spite of it all, there is hope.

### \* GLORIA PATRI:

“Glory Be to the Father”

#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:

Lamentations 3:22-33

read from the *Good News Bible*

### MESSAGE:

“Good Grief. Good God!”

Pastor Chris

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER** (with debts/debtors)

**PRESENTING OUR GIFTS**

**\* DOXOLOGY:** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" #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**  
Holy One, with gratefulness we offer and dedicate these gifts for the continuation of our work in Christ's name. Amen.

**\* CLOSING SONG:** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" #72

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

**POSTLUDE**

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from Lectionary Liturgies by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is by Michael Beuj from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024 edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by Rev. Roberto Ochoa, Minister for Ethnic Inclusion, & Congregational Support for Rural and Small Churches for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ from Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by Gerardo Oberman, Argentina, from [Prayers for the Week of Prayer for Christian unity 2004](#), posted on the [World Council of Churches](#) website.

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Organist: Antoina Rupert  
Worship Leader: David Burrow  
Pastor: Rev. Chris Burnett  
June Radio Sponsor: Helen Scuffham  
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Sunday, June 30: 10:30am – Worship  
Coffee

Tuesday, July 2: 9:30am- Pastor at Feed Mill

Thursday, July 4: Office Closed

Sunday, July 7: 10:30am – Worship - Communion  
Coffee  
Food Pantry

The June, July, and August issue of Our Daily Bread may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.



*First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
165 Years  
315 Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511  
515-295-2845*