

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 11, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

A love that never ceases,

A creativity that designed the universe,

A hope that cannot be quenched,

A pursuit of reconciliation, no matter the cost:

These are the things that are of God,

Then let us come to worship.

*Opening Song:

“The Church’s One Foundation”

#544

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Lord, we come to you this day with so many things going on in our lives. Some of these things are wonderful and cause us to rejoice. However, there are far too many things that cause us fear and anxiety. Humbly we wait for your presence with us. We need your healing touch. Feed us with the bread of life, that we may hunger no more. Strengthen us to do your will, for it is in Jesus’ Name, we pray. AMEN.

BRIEF REFLECTION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of compassion, if you kept a record of our sins, who could stand?

We come before you with our brokenness and our wounds for all to see. We bring our anger, our bitterness, our unwholesome talk, and our deceitfulness. We try to do good, but sometimes fail. We choose to do evil, and sometimes succeed. Keep your promise to forgive us when we confess to you completely.

Without you, we have no hope.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and will forgive us.

God provides freely, in the bread of heaven, all the mercy we need for life everlasting. The good news is forgiveness in the name of Christ Jesus.

FIRST READING:

2 Corinthians 1:6 – 10

HYMN:

“Take My Life, and Let It Be”

#466

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 18:1 – 5, 10, 12 - 14

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

We believe in God the Creator, who created and is creating everything: the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us; each of us, unique, individual and beloved of God.

We believe in God the Christ, who saved and is saving everything: the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us: each of us; unique, individual and beloved of the Christ.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who guided and is guiding everything: the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us; each of us, unique, individual and beloved of the Spirit.

We believe that this one God in three persons is present among us, working directly in our lives and the lives of all who are born into this world, striving to bring us back into harmony with all creation and with God: forgiving, healing, touching everyone, never rejecting any who willingly receive this freely offered gift of love and grace and eternal life.

* 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:

Ephesians 4:2 – 5:2

MESSAGE:

“Be Imitators of God”

David Burrow

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Respond: **Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS – OFFERTORY

*** 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**

God, as we bring our offerings before you, we ask for your guidance in fine-tuning our faith. Help us to trust you more deeply, to step out in faith, and to follow where you lead. May our giving today be an expression of our growing faith in you. Amen.

*** HYMN:** "Here I Am, Lord" #559

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

POSTLUDE

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

Call to Worship from the blog "Hold Fast to What Is Good".
Opening prayer and prayer of confession from "Ministry Matters"
Affirmation of faith from Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church – Portland, OR
Prayer of Dedication from Presbyterian Church—USA

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Organist:	Antonia Rupert
Worship Leader:	David Burrow
Pastor:	Rev. Chris Burtnett
August Radio Sponsor:	Becky Bibler

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Sunday, August 11:10:30am – Worship
Coffee

Sunday, August 18: 10:30am – Worship
Coffee

Thank you to David Burrow for leading worship this morning.
Monday, August 12-Algona Community Blood Drive 12:30-5:30pm at 1st United Methodist Church

Pastor Chris is on vacation and will be back in the Office on August 20. If you need pastoral assistance, please call Dave Skilling at 319-290-2302.



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
166 Years
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