

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Stewardship Sunday
November 10, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: From generation to generation, the Holy One has loved justice and righteousness, lifted the broken and bowed, and opened possibilities for the dejected.

Many: Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever. Trust the Holy One!

One: When the power brokers, corrupt systems, and tools of violence have failed us, the Holy One has remained faithful to abiding love and abundant liberation.

Many: Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever. Follow the Holy One!

One: Praise the Holy One with song and dance, in spirit and in truth, for God's glory and for life abundantly!

Many: Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever. Praise the Holy One!

One: Let's worship the Holy One!

*Opening Song: "Love Divine, All loves Excelling" #358

*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Living God, we offer you praise in your presence. We give you thanks for life in this community. Some come seeking. Others come assured. Some have questions. Others simply want company. Whatever our reasons for gathering, may they all lead us to an encounter with you, your grace, and your way. Infuse us with your power, forged in love, so that we might be encouraged and respond as agents of your kingdom on earth. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Bountiful Love: our self-focus causes us to imagine how poor we are. We are convinced we don't have enough: enough honor, enough respect, enough recognition, enough to live on. And so, in our poverty, we cannot trust you, we cannot see the emptiness of others, we cannot help but cling to more than we need.

Forgive us, Bestower of Blessings. Tell us we can be more loving; whisper to us of how we can be more compassionate; sing to us of how we can serve others - all in the name of Jesus, our Savior.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The good news is that we are made whole; not by our efforts, not by any work we have done, not by any word of ours.

Many: Out of the riches of grace, God pours forgiveness into our lives, giving us all we need in Jesus, so we might live in hope and joy. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 12:38-44

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (read together)

We believe in God, who is love, whose love is manifest in all Creation, in our lives, and in all people.

We follow Jesus, who embodied God's love. In his life and ministry, his death and resurrection, and his granting to us of his Spirit, he filled us with that love as well.

We live by the Spirit, the presence of God's love in us. In that love we participate in the Church, Body of Christ, in loving God by loving our neighbors through our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service.

Love is our faith, and it is a gift from God. We thank God, and ask God's blessings, that we may love in the name of Jesus and the power of the Spirit, to God's glory. Amen.

* **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: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "Family Stories" 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**
God of generosity and giver of gifts, receive our offerings as a reflection of our gratitude and trust in your sovereignty. May we witness the miracle of your provision through our generosity and for your glory. Amen.

*** CLOSING SONG:** "Come, All Christians, Be Committed" #459

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

POSTLUDE

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Hebrews 9:24-28, 1 Kings 17:8-16 and Psalm 146

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted), are by Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ. From *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The **Call to Confession**, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

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Organist: Antonia Rupert
Worship Leader: David Burrow
Pastor: Rev. Chris Burtnett
November Radio Sponsor: Scott and Sandy Buchanan
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Birthdays: November 15-Charlotte Reynolds; Pat Bilsborough will be 90 on November 20. If you would like to send her a card her Address is 2221 E McGregor, Algona.

Sunday, November 10: 10:30am – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee\ Congregational Budget Meeting, following Worship

Tuesday, November 12: 9am- COM Zoom Meeting
10:00am.- Pastor at Feed Mill
2pm.-Good Sam Bible Study
6:30pm. – Food Pantry Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 13:12:30-3pm.-Boundry Training

Thursday, November 14: 8:30am.-Ministerial Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Friday, November 15: 10:30am. - Evangelical and Outreach Team Meeting
6pm. Pilgrim Heights overnight Board Meeting

Sunday, November 3: 10:30am – Worship/Sunday School/Coffee



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
166 Years
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