

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
November 17, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Come, let us give thanks to God!

Many: We gather together to praise the One who strengthens the weak, and hears the prayers of the forgotten.

One: Come, let us give thanks to Jesus!

Many: We gather together to sing of the One who calls us to serve those who are hungry and alone at this time of year.

One: Come, let us give thanks to the Spirit!

Many: We gather together to exalt the One who provokes us to love not only our family and friends, but the guest among us.

*Opening Song:

“O Worship the King”

#2

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Great and mighty God, open our hearts to the power of your Holy Spirit. Open our minds to the wisdom of your Word. Help us run the race of life with faithful perseverance and with steadfast love. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have to admit, Holy Listener, that we are more likely to be irritated by the lives of others, rather than being provoked to love them. When we are called to encourage those around us, too often our actions and words discourage them. Offered lives of peace and hope, we wander around filled with anxiety and despair.

Forgive us, Rock of Redemption. Cleanse our hearts, so we might be more loving; keep

us on the path of faithfulness, so we might find those whom we are called to serve; give us your words, so we might confess your hope offered to all who are broken, who are lost, who cry out to you. This we pray in the name of Jesus our Savior.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: This is the good news: God gives us hope, God gives us peace, God gives us joy so we may share these gifts with everyone we meet.

Many: Thanks be to God, who has forgiven us and provoked us to love others and to serve all who are around us.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:

Mark 13:1-8

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

(read together)

We believe in God, the Creator Spirit, who moved upon the face of the deep at the beginning of creation, who created all that is, and who spoke through the prophets of old.

We believe in Jesus, into whom God’s Spirit was poured in fullness and in power, that the whole creation might be restored and unified, and who promised that the Spirit would come and fill the faithful with power to witness to the mighty love of God.

We wait on that Spirit today with longing hearts, seeking to be empowered to witness to God’s love in Jesus, with fresh words and courageous actions of love and hope. Glory be to God—the Creator, Jesus the Christ and the Holy Spirit—now and always. 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:

1 Samuel 1:4-20

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

“Hearing Other’s Prayers”

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**

Faithful and loving God, bless these gifts we return to you, that they may be blessings of hope and signs of your faithfulness for all the world to know. Amen.

*** CLOSING SONG:** "Kum Ba Yah" #487

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

POSTLUDE

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Hebrews 10:11-14, 1 Kings 17:8-16 and Psalm 146

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted), are by Mary Scifres from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2024* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. 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 Ruth C. Duck from *Bread for the Journey-Resources for Worship*.

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Organist: Antonia Rupert
Worship Leader: David Burrow
Pastor: Rev. Chris Burnett
November Radio Sponsor: Scott and Sandy Buchanan
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Birthdays: November: 19-Christian Grindberg; 20-Pat Bilsborough, Phil Heath

Sunday, November 17: 10:30am – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

Tuesday, November 19: 9:30am- Pastor at Feed Mill
2pm.-Good Sam Bible Study

Wednesday, November 20:8:30am.-Multi-Disciplanry Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, November 21: 10am.-Clergy Cluster in Humboldt

Friday, November 22: 9:15am. – Care Center Worship

Sunday, November 24: 10:30am – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

Thanksgiving Potluck: Turkey, ham, potatoes and gravy will be furnished

Pat Bilsborough will be 90 on November 20. If you would like to send her a card her Address is 2221 E McGregor, Algona.

Thursday, November 21: 5-7pm- Kossuth County Dementia Care Spaghetti Supper with quilt Raffle at Methodist Church

Tuesday, November 26: December 2024/January 2025 is the Newsletter deadline

Poinsettias will be \$13. Thank you to everyone for getting their orders into the Church Office.

Monday, Dec. 2: Tri-Conference Meeting to vote on candidate for our Conference Minister



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
166 Years
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