

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 A.M. – August 24, 2025

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise be to God,
 **who rescues us from the power of darkness;
 who redeems us, and sets us free!**
Praise be to Jesus Christ, the first born of all creation,
 **through whom all things were made,
 in heaven and on the earth.**
Praise be to the Spirit of God,
 **whose presence sustains us,
 and whose breath renews all creation.**
Praise be to the One who makes all things new!
 Come, O God, and make your home among us.

* OPENING HYMN: “To God Be the Glory” #66

* OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, giver of all good things, we thank you for the gift of this day and for the opportunity to gather in your presence. Help us to receive thankfully the fruits of your redeeming work and to follow daily in the blessed steps of your Son. Grant us wisdom to discern your will and courage to follow it, even when it is difficult. May your peace reign in our hearts and in the world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BRIEF REFLECTION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and gracious God, at times we feel so frail and fragile, getting blown about by the latest crisis, by bad news, by our own short tempers and failings. You call us to hold fast to what is good, but so often we flounder, unable to find that solid thing that will

center us again. Help us, we pray. Help us to see you as our center, and to cling to the good that you create in the world. Help us to set aside all our jealousies and prejudices, all of our betrayals and lies, all that adds to the world’s hurt. Help us to grow even more into Christ’s likeness, that we will bear his love and truth to the world. We pray in his name. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God’s mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God’s grace is wider than the whole of the earth. Rejoice in the good news!
 We are forgiven! We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God! Alleluia! Amen.

FIRST READING: Psalm 71: 1 – 8

HYMN: When Peace Like a River” #428

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true Church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:
 We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.
 We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.
 We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. 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.

SECOND READING: Luke 12: 22 – 32

MESSAGE: “Our Hope, Our Trust, Our Refuge” 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**
Lord, you are the giver of every good gift. Accept these offerings we pray, that
through them we may do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our
Sovereign and our God.

* **CLOSING HYMN:** “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” #496

* **GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

POSTLUDE

- *Indicates all who are able please stand
- Call to Worship from the Anglican Church of Canada
 - Opening Prayer from MinistryMatters.com
 - Prayer of Confession by Beth Merrill Neel, *Hold Fast to What Is Good* blog.
 - Affirmation of Faith, “A Modern Affirmation” from *The United Methodist Hymnal*.
 - Prayer of dedication from Presbyterian Church—USA

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Organist/Pianist:	Alicia Miller
Worship Leader:	David Burrow
August Radio Sponsor	Becky Bibler

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Birthdays: 30-Laurie Zook
Sunday, August 24: 10:30am – Worship / Coffee
Sunday, August 31: 10:30am – Worship / Coffee
Sunday, September 21: 4pm. Service of Peace
Our Daily Bread Sept./Oct./Nov. 2025 issue may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.
Thank you, David Burrow for leading worship for us today and the 31st!
Friday, August 22: 9am-2pm.- Algona Blood Drive at 1st Lutheran Church
Hospice of the Heartland will be starting a Grief Support Group that will run every Wednesday
from September 3-October 8. Anyone who is struggling with grief is welcome to attend.
Pastor Chris will be on vacation August 9-16. If you need pastoral assistance, please call Dave
Skilling at 319-290-2302.



*First Congregational
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166 Years
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