

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
General Synod Sunday
July 2 11, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: With joy and celebration, God welcomes us to this place.

Many: How good it is to gather in God's house!

One: With joy and celebration, we welcome one another.

Many: We greet each other by name; we are equal in God's Kingdom.

One: We open our hearts, to welcome God's love; we open our arms, to welcome God's people.

Many: Here, every single one of God's children is welcome.

*Opening Song:

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

#59

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

You patiently wait for us on the threshold of your Realm, God, ready to welcome us as we step across the doorway of your Kingdom. As we see your inviting lights, we feel the warmth of your love. May we open doors to your Realm. May we be your encouraging embrace and your melodic voice of welcome in a world filled with harsh tones.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

In your house, there is room for all; at your Table, we find a place set for us. But we admit, Inviting God, that we find it difficult to be as accepting as you and we find it easy to shoulder others away from your feast. You fling wide the doors to your kingdom, Welcoming God, but we are quick to try to shut them to those who are different from us. Your heart is open so that all might experience your grace, and we reluctantly remember our ungracious words and deeds.

Forgive us, God of every person: heal our broken lives; mend our fragmented souls.

Open our hearts to your vision of the Kingdom where all are welcome, all are affirmed, all are beloved - even as we receive these gifts from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Can it be any clearer? God has created us to be a family - sisters, brothers, neighbors, friends. No longer strangers, we are all welcome in the kingdom of love, grace, and hope.

Many: In Christ, we are one. There are no barriers, no differences, no divisions. We are a new people, forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 6:12-23

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** inside the back cover of the hymnal (read together)

*GLORIA PATRI

#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

Genesis 22:1-14

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

"It's Going to Take Some Sacrificing"

Pastor Chris

Communion Song:

"One Bread, One Body"

#689

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors), Sharing the Bread and Cup

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, Divine Designer- With gentle compassion, you unite us as vine and branches, whether near or far. For your meal we share our gratitude. With thanksgiving we voice our joy for our siblings in faith who shared the table with the Christ and with us. Our souls are rejuvenated with your Holy Refreshment. Send us into the world today with joy in our hearts and excited to proclaim your radical love in this world.

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

#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 love and grace, bless these gifts. Through our ministries and our generosity, may others know your loving welcome and gracious mercy.

***Closing Song:** "Faith of Our Fathers" #530

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

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

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by Mary Scifres from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2023* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is a version of our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian from the Communion Liturgy for General Synod 34.

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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Vicki Merchlewitz
July Radio Sponsor:	Sandy & Mark Williams In honor of Pat & in memory of Ray

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Today, July 2: 10 am.- Worship with Communion
Coffee
Food Pantry

Tuesday, July 4: Happy 4th of July

Wednesday, July 5: 5:30-7pm. – Mobile Mission at Party in the Park (help needed)

Saturday, July 8: 11am-1pm Mobile Mission for Founder’s Day Kid’s Bash (help needed)

Sunday, July 9: 10:00 am. – Worship
Coffee

Monday, July 3: 12:30-5:30pm.- Algona Community Blood Drive at 1st Methodist Church

Our Daily Bread June/July/August and the Freedom For All-10 Devotions Celebrating Juneteenth special devotionals are available on the cart in the entry way to the Education/Office/Fellowship Hall building.



*First Congregational
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