

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 9, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Jesus calls those who are weary and heavy laden.

Many: **In Jesus, we find rest.**

One: Jesus calls us to bear his yoke and learn from him.

Many: **In Jesus, we see God’s ways.**

One: Jesus is gentle and humble in heart.

Many: **In Jesus, we know God’s love.**

One: Come, for Jesus calls us here.

*Opening Song

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

#68

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

You have walked many miles with us, God. You have comforted and strengthened us along the way. Keep us on your path, for we easily lose our way. As we learn to live in your ways, help us to choose the cause of justice and righteousness.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

We are so skilled at being in control, at taking charge, Sabbath-Taking God, that we are not very good at resting. We think we have to be constantly busy, so we have no time for you. We are trained to be extremely productive, and so create our harried, stress-filled lives.

Forgive us, Shalom Giving God. Help us to let go of our distractions, so you can act in us; calm our creaturely activity, so you can re-create us; help us to follow Jesus, not only into discipleship, but into our rest with you.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: It sounds so simple, we think it is too simple. But which is the burden you would choose: hate or love; anger or forgiveness; pain or peace? God invites us to receive the gifts which make it possible to have lives of faithful obedience.

Many: **This is the good news: God forgives us and takes our burdens from us. We would let go of them and welcome hope, joy, grace into our lives. Thanks be to God.**

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

In our waking and arising, be the first thought that enters our head. In our eating and drinking, be the first thought that enters our head. In our walking and journeying, be the first thought that enters our head. In our working and serving, be the first thought that enters our head. In our sowing and harvesting, be the first thought that enters our head. In our rejoicing and sorrowing, be the first thought that enters our head. In our resting and sleeping, be the first thought that enters our head

*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

Romans 7:15-25a

read from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE:

“Bad Guy Joes”

Pastor Chris

Prayers of the People/Lord’s Prayer (debts)

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

Generous God, may the gifts we offer and the lives we live celebrate your name. Receive these offerings as signs of our praise, both now and forever more.

*Closing Song:

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” #358

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

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

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by Michael Beu from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2023* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is by John Birch, and posted on **Faith and Worship**. <http://www.faithandworship.com/>

=====

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

=====

Birthdays: July: 9-Fatu Tennih; 11- Ken Beaver; 15 Pam Burtnett

Today, July 9: 10 am.- Worship
Coffee

Tuesday, July 11: 9am.-Committee on Ministry Zoom Meeting
10am.-Pastor at Feed Mill

Wednesday, July 12: 11:30am. – Mobile Mission at Trinity Lutheran Church Lunch

Sunday, July 16: 10:00 am. – Worship
Coffee

Our Daily Bread June/July/August devotionals are available on the cart in the entry way to the Education/Office/Fellowship Hall building.



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ*

315 Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
515-295-2845