



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ*

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

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 13, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(read responsively)

One: Give thanks to God!

Many: We come with thanks on our lips.

One: Sings praises to God!

Many: We raise up God's song in our souls.

One: Tell of God's wonderful works.

Many: Our hearts find joy in seeking God.

One: Seek God and claim God's strength.

Many: We grow strong in God's power and might.

One: Remember all that God has done.

Many: God shapes our lives through every challenge. Praise God!

***Opening Song:**

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

#71

***OPENING PRAYER**

(prayed together)

Eternal God, in visions and dreams, you offer us hope for a new tomorrow. In the midst of life's storms and raging waters, be with us in our time of need. Reveal to us the great works we are capable of, that we might rise above our narrow purposes, and be of service to the world. Bless our journeys, that it may be said of us: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

It seems so easy to get into the boat and set sail on our journey, God of Promises. But when the winds of change begin to blow, we want to turn around and head back to the past's safe harbor. When sin's waves crash over the side, we try to wrap ourselves in the cloak of pride thinking we will not get wet. When Jesus calls to us to get out and follow in faith, we look around, hoping he is not speaking to us.

Swamped by our fears, and sinking in doubt, we long for someone to help us - so save us, Holy One, save us! Stretch out your hand, so we might be lifted from our despair to hope, from our worries to trust, from our foolishness to faithful living. Then, we will dare to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior, even if it means getting out of the sheltered lives we have built for ourselves.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: In confessing Jesus as Savior, we let go of the past, and turn to God's future. We step out of our fears and walk into the light and life offered by our God.

Many: In trusting Jesus' resurrection, we trust all of God's promises, letting the Spirit work in and through us, healing and making us whole. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 105:1-6,16-22, 45b

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

*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

Matthew 14:22-33

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE:

"Stepping Out of the Boat"

Pastor Chris

Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer

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**

You give us gifts not just for us but to give away, Gracious God. Accept and bless these gifts, our whole lives, and every step of our journeys, that we might shine with your glory in all our endeavors.

***Closing Song:** "How Firm a Foundation" #411

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

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

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by Silvia Purdie from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2023* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is by B.J. Beu from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2023* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2023* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu.. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectioary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is posted on **The United Church of Canada** website. <http://www.united-church.ca/beliefs/creed>.

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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Vicki Merchlewitz
August Radio Sponsor:	Becky Bibler

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Birthdays: August: 18-Andrew Schlievert; 19-Henry Reynolds

Today, August 13: 10 am.- Worship
Coffee

Tuesday, August 15: 9:30-11:30am: Pastor at Feed Mill

Thursday, August 17: 2pm.-International Committee Meeting in Fellowship Hall
6:30pm. – Pilgrim Heights Zoom Board Meeting

Sunday, August 20: 10:00 am. – Worship
Coffee

If anyone has some time, the rooms in the lower half of fellowship hall need to be put back in order from painting.

Sunday School begins 4 weeks from today. The Christian Ed Team could use some help putting the room back in order from the painting project. It should only take a few minutes. Talk to Sandy, Shelly or Pam after worship if you can help.