

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
“Where No One Is A Stranger”  
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 8, 2023

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: We come from the East, the West, the South, and the North into this sacred space to worship the living God who walks with us.

**Many: We come to worship God for who God is, for loving and granting us God’s grace.**

One: Lift your hands in praise to God. Open your hearts to worship God in the fullness of who we are.

**All: Let’s worship our God with joyful and thankful hearts!**

### \*Opening Song: “O Worship the King” #2

### \*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Holy God, we ask that You bless our time together, that we may hear Your words and apply them to our lives so that You will be honored and glorified. Allow your Holy Spirit to move through us so our faith grows and bears fruit. Amen!

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (prayed together)

If we were to name all the gods we have before you, Rock of Redemption, we would be here a very long time. We elevate politicians into saviors, though they are as broken as we are. We misuse your name so much during the day, we have trouble speaking to you in prayer at night. We are so busy, we do not notice how creation witnesses to your goodness and grace.

Forgive us, God our Hope. Help us to let go of what we value most, so we may open our emptiness, our hearts, our lives to the healing and loving presence of Jesus our Savior.

## A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Persistently, patiently, lovingly, God pours out grace and joy into our lives, healing our brokenness, forgiving our sin.

**Many: Loved, we are sent to love; forgiven, we are freed to forgive; graced, we can offer our gifts to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God.**

## SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that awaits to enslave us all and whose love, defeating deathless, holds a promise of freedom. Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust; and in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the Earth and to share the commonwealth of God’s goodness, to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the spirit of love, and in the company of the faithful, wherever found.

### \*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 21:33-46 read from *The Message*

### MESSAGE: “We Know Who We Are” 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

We thank you, God, for each gift given. Bless them and multiply them so that others will be blessed, and your love will be shared worldwide.

**\*Closing Song:** "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" #405

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

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

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Opening Prayer (adapted), and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted) and Words of Assurance, are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is from the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, p.75 / adapted.

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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Vicki Merchlewitz
October Radio Sponsor:	Larry & Sandy Person

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Birthdays: October 9-Andrew Burtnett; 11—David Burrow; 12- Misty Bachman

Sunday, October 8: 10:00 am. – Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee

Tuesday, October 10: 9:30am.-Pastor at Feed Mill

Thursday, October 12: 8:30am.-Pastor Chris at Ministerial Meeting at First Lutheran

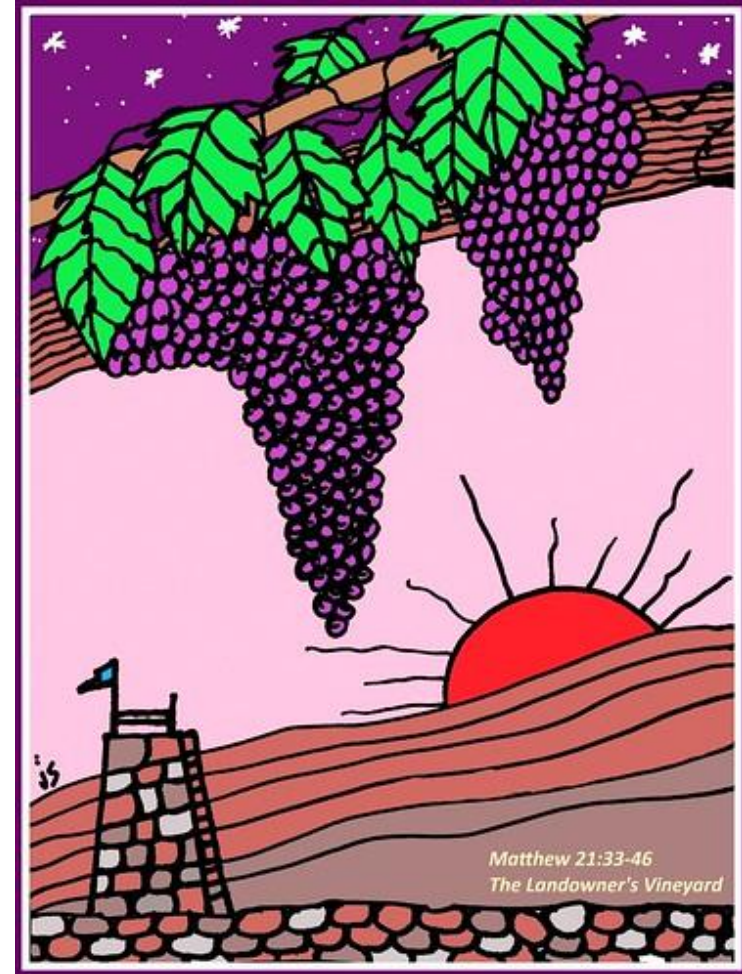
Friday, October 13: 1:30pm-Tim Boyd Visitation  
2pm. Celebration of Life for Tim Boyd

Saturday, October 14 9:30am-2pm. – Pastor at State Conference Meeting at Urbandale UCC

Sunday, October 1: 10:00 am. – Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee

October 2-6, 9-13, 16: Our church will be responsible for Meals on Wheels. There is a sign-up sheet on the back bulletin board.

Bags of candy are being accepted for the Trunk or Treat. We will also be participating in the Trunk or Treat and need ideas for the trunk.



*First Congregational  
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165 Years*

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