

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Twentieth-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 22, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Worship the LORD with gladness;

We shout with joy to God and offer songs of praise.

Enter with thanksgiving and exultation;

We give thanks to God and bless the name of the Lord.

For the LORD is good, with steadfast love that endures forever;

From the past to the future, we praise our God.

*Opening Song:

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

#30

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Lord of Love and Light, shine through our darkness, bringing us hope. Open our hearts for the journey, our eyes for the light, our spirits for the peace which you bring. Fill our mouths with laughter and speech with shouts of joy that we shall reveal the love with which you surround us. We offer this prayer in the name of the One who brings us hope, love, peace, and joy, Jesus Christ. Amen.

BRIEF REFLECTION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Eternal God, we long to be saintlike – holy, good, patient, loving, sure in our faith and ever praising you. But no matter how hard we try, we end up being sinners – selfish, mean, full of moral failings, and always unsure of our faith. Help us to know we are simply human – beloved, but flawed, yet trying our best to succeed. Forgive the wrong we have done, God, and bless the good that we have accomplished. Keep on loving us, and mold us to be more and more in the image of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and we are included in that love.

In the grace of Christ, we are forgiven and freed to serve. Alleluia! Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18: 1 – 5 & 19:13 – 14

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, the Divine Creator of all living things. God is the Shepherd, and we are the sheep. God is beside us, helping whenever we are in need, looking into our hearts, and encouraging us to do be nice to each other and do the right things, so we might live as the blessed children we are.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who died on the cross, was put in a tomb and then rose for us. He is our Healer and Protector, always with and there for us.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is always there to guide us. We see the spirit in surprising ways every day, like our friends at church and in our community.

In all these ways God is there for us. May we in turn be there for God and put our faith into action. Amen.

*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.

HYMN:

“How Great Thou Art”

#51

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Psalm 96: 1 – 4, 6 – 7, 9 – 13a

MESSAGE:

“Live Each Day ...”

David Burrow

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Respond: **Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (with debts/debtors)

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**

Eternal God, we cannot begin to list the many ways you bless us. We thank you for providing for us, and we pray that our gifts may further the work of this church and help do your work in the world. Amen.

***Closing Song:**

“Let All Things Now Living”

#22

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

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

Call to worship based on Psalm 100; Opening prayer by Nancy Townley, MinistryMatters.com; Prayer of Confession by Beth Merrill – holdfastonwhatisgood.com; Affirmation of Faith from Asbury United Methodist Church – Little Rock, AR; Prayer of Dedication from the Church of Scotland

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Worship Leader:	David Burrow
Pastor:	Chris Burtnett
Organist:	Antonia Rupert
October Radio Sponsor:	Larry & Sandy Person

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Sunday, October 22: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

Tuesday, October 24: 9:30-11am. – Pastor at Feed Mill
6:30pm. – Budget Team Meeting

Wednesday, October 25: 7pm – Board Meeting

Thursday, October 26: 10am. Clergy Meeting at Humboldt
5pm.- Pastor Chris at Humboldt

Friday, October 27: 9:15am.- Pastor Chris leads Care Center Worship

Saturday, October 28: 8:30- Pastor Chris - Pilgrim Heights Zoom Meeting
2pm. Judy Thoreson Memorial Service

Sunday, October 29: 10:00 am. – Worship - Sunday School - Coffee

Pastor Chris will be on vacation from October 16-23. Dave Skilling will be on call. If you need pastoral assistance, please call Dave at 319-290-2302.

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.

Thank you to David Burrow for leading worship today.

Thank you to Antonia Rupert for your ministry of music this morning.



First Congregational United Church of Christ

165 Years

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