

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
"Where No One Is A Stranger"  
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost  
All Saints Sunday  
November 5, 2023

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Give thanks for the enduring love of the Holy One!

**Many: We've gathered from all directions and in all spaces to declare the greatness of God.**

One: Give thanks for the enduring love of the Holy One!

**Many: We have been redeemed by the abiding love of our Creator.**

One: Give thanks for the enduring love of the Holy One!

**Many: Let the redeemed proclaim God's wondrous works. Great is the Holy One and greatly to be praised!**

### \*Opening Song:

"You Servants of God"

#112

### \*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

God of mercy and grace, shower us with your loving kindness. Fashion us into the saints you call us to be. Love us abundantly, that others may see your kindness and joy reflected in our lives. Bless us with your abiding presence, that we may shine as saints of your holy love.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

We could live humbly with others, Sheltering God, but then they would not know how awesome we really are. We could speak humbly to others, but we prefer to put them in their place. We could act humbly in dealing with others, but then they would take advantage of us. We could humbly serve the most vulnerable, but we would rather coddle the wealthy and the powerful.

Have mercy on us, God of compassion. Instead of putting letters after our names, may we spell out hope for those recovering from disasters. Rather than jockeying for a seat at

the head table, may we sit in the kitchen with the cooks and dishwashers. Tempted to overlook injustice, may we abhor it as deeply and intently as did your Child, Jesus.

## A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God loves us. God forgives us. This is not fake news, but the reality offered to us by the One who shelters us. So life changing, this good news always causes us to respond with praise. **Many: Thanks be to God! We are heard, we are accepted, we are filled with mercy and hope.**

### Remembering the Saints

insert

### SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:1-12

### \*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

Revelation 7: 9-17

read from *The Message*

### MESSAGE:

"We Know"

Pastor Chris

### Communion Song:

"Let us Break Bread Together"

#699

### GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer (debtors/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

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known Jesus' presence and received all of his gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

### 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, thank you for the gifts you give and the privilege and honor of bringing  
our gifts of time, talent, and treasure into your kindom. Receive our humble offerings  
and magnify them to meet the needs of the community.

**\*Closing Song:**

“For All the Saints”

#529

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

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

The Call to Worship and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is by B.J. Beu and Mary J. Scifres from *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 *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is a version of our Untired Church of Christ Statement of Faith. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is from the *Book of Worship-United Church of Christ*

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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Antonia Rupert
November Radio Sponsor	Connie Schwab

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**Birthdays:** November 10: Laura (TerHark) Odlund

**Today,** November 5: 10:00 am. – Worship with Communion

Sunday School

Coffee

Food Pantry

**Tuesday,** November 7: 9:30-11:30am: Pastor at Feed Mill

4:30-7pm.-International Delight Venezuelan night

**Thursday,** November 9: 8:30am Ministerial Meeting at Algona Faith

**Sunday,** November 12: 10:00 am. – Worship

Sunday School

Coffee

**Sunday,** November 19: 10:00am- Worship

Sunday School

Coffee

Thanksgiving Potluck

**A Congregational Meeting to adopt the 2024 Budget** will be on November 19th following worship.

**We** are celebrating the sacrament of communion this morning. Everyone is welcome at the table. The inner ring is wine and the outer ring is grape juice.



*First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
165 Years*

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

## All Saints Litany

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for all the saints of our lives and the witness they have shared with us even as we continue to walk the journey of faith and make our way to the glory that God is preparing for all of us. Let us pray.

Eternal God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, we praise you for the saints of all times and places who have walked the road of faith before us and beside us. For their witness to your love and their commitment to your justice, for their trust in your mercy regardless of the circumstance, we give you thanks and praise.

**People:** God of all creation, we praise you for all your servants who have witnessed to your truth, who have shown us your love, who have inspired us to have hope. By their example of faith, hope, and love, remind us of your calling to join in making your new creation real in this world and the next.

Leader: God of grace and peace, we praise you for women and men and children who reflect your love into our world. Guide us to continue their faithful work as we too walk in the light of your love.

**People:** God of all saints, today we especially remember the saints from among this community who have departed our company over the past year.

*Everyone: We thank you for the faithful witness of Chuck West, and for his courage amidst strife and his hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence.)*

*We thank you for the faithful witness of John Scuffham, and for his courage amidst strife and his hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence.)*

*We thank you for the faithful witness of Timothy Boyd, and for his courage amidst strife and his hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence.)*

*We thank you for the faithful witness of James Bradford, and for his courage amidst strife and his hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence.)*

*We thank you for the faithful witness of Judy Thoreson, and for her courage amidst strife and her hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence.)*

Leader: We remember so many other saints who have walked this road with us, whom we name before you in silence: *(a moment of silent prayer is kept)*

Continue to inspire us by their faithful witness, that we too might join in bringing your justice, mercy, and peace to our world.

**Everyone: Eternal God, as we walk this pilgrim way, make our faith firm, our hope clear, and our love pure, that we might join the saints of all the ages in praise eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

~ adapted from a post on LiturgyLink, October 30, 2014. <https://www.liturgylink.net/2014/10/30/litany-for-all-saints/>



Thursday, November 9: 11am-1pm.-Kossuth Country Dementia Care will be having a Potato Bar Fundraiser with bread and bars at United Methodist Church 201 E Nebraska ST., Algona, IA. Free will donation.

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12, Joshua 3:7-17, Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:1-12