



# *First Congregational United Church of Christ*

608 West Fourth Street, Waterloo, Iowa 50702

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[@FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa/](https://www.instagram.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa/)

## *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost* *August 7, 2022*



*The Altar Flowers are provided by Paul and Gina Greene  
in celebration of their 47th wedding anniversary August 9th.*

**Children's Lesson**

Paul Greene

**Director of Music**

Luke Overton

**Organist**

Hudson Lourenço

**Guest Preacher**

Dusty Johnson

**Worship Leader**

Craig Driver

**Director of Youth**

Abbie Chronister

**Office Manager**

Michelle Wolfe

**Custodian**

Kyle Lindaman

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here*

<b>Prelude</b>	Improvisation on Laudate Dominum - Taizé	Hudson Lourenço
<b>Welcome &amp; Announcements</b>		Craig Driver
<b>Prayer of Invocation</b>		Craig Driver
God of Redemption, You call us to wash ourselves clean, so that our transgressions fall away. May we cease doing evil, learn to do good, and seek justice. You call us to rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow. May we not forget these responsibilities you've set before us. We are grateful for the reminder from the prophet Isaiah that, though our sins are like scarlet, you'll make us like snow! Even though they are red like crimson, you make them like wool! May we be obedient and willing followers, pleasing unto you. Amen.		
<b>Call to Worship</b>		Craig Driver
Leader: God calls us here today. <b>People: We bring our full selves to God: our strengths and our weaknesses.</b> Leader: God calls YOU here today. <b>People: We offer all we are to God: our talents and our inadequacies.</b> Leader: God calls every part of us to bring divine love and light into the world! <b>People: We respond to that call, trusting that God is at work within us.</b> <b>AMEN.</b>		
<b>*Hymn of Praise</b>	<i>Great is Thy Faithfulness</i>	#423 (NCH - Black)
<b>Children's Lesson</b>		Paul Greene
<b>Joys &amp; Concerns</b>		Craig Driver
<b>Prayers of the People &amp; Lord's Prayer</b>		Craig Driver
<b>Invitation to Offertory</b>		Craig Driver
<b>Offertory</b>	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	Dusty Johnson
<b>*Doxology</b>		

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Craig Driver

God of love and grace, we bring our offerings this day and ask that they might be dedicated to strengthening your church for the making of disciples for Jesus Christ. Your prophet Isaiah reminds us that offering money or possessions is not enough. Isaiah proclaims to the Israelites that unless their offerings are accompanied by a willingness to “learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow,” the offerings are futile. Open our ears to hear what pleases you and open our eyes to see the opportunities all around us. We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.

**\*Hymn**

*Thy Word*

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**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Dusty Johnson

**Message**

Actions vs. Rituals

Dusty Johnson

**\*Hymn**

*Every time I Feel the Spirit*

#282 (NCH)

**Benediction**

Dusty Johnson

Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield.  
Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.  
Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

**Postlude**

Prelude in F Major, No 5  
from the Eight Short Preludes and Fugues - J S Bach

Hudson Lourenço

\* You are invited to Stand

(Hearing assistance devices are available in the cabinet in the back of the sanctuary.)

*Childcare for students up to 5th grade is provided after the Children’s Message through the end of service. We welcome your child(ren) to follow youth staff to the childcare room (located at the bottom of the steps closest to the sanctuary) at the conclusion of the Children’s Message.*

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY**

Please stay in the Sanctuary for a short congregational meeting immediately following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to obtain approval for the allocation of funds to hire the Shepherd’s Staff, a pastoral search firm. This search will conclude upon the hiring of our next settled pastor.

# Thy Word

Song by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

When I feel afraid  
Think I've lost my way  
Still you're there right beside me  
And nothing will I fear  
As long as you are near  
Please be near me to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

I will not forget  
Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide  
And hold me to your side  
I will love you to the end

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near  
Please be near me to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
And a light unto my path  
You're the light unto my path