

UNITE IN LOVE

Welcome

Prelude

***Call to Worship:**

People will come from east and west,
from north and south,
and will eat together in the kingdom of God
Thanks be to God for welcoming us to the table.

***Gathering Hymn: # 388**

“Come All You People” 2x

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and loving God,
you call us to open our hearts and our doors to our neighbors, to love the stranger as ourselves,
and to see the face of Christ in the vulnerable,

Yet, we confess that we fall short.

We confess that we prefer the comfort of the familiar and the safety of the known
We build walls instead of bridges, driven by our fears of difference, our reluctance to share, and
our desire to stay in control.

We walk past the outcast, judge those who are unlike us, and turn a blind eye to the displaced,
the refugee, and the traveler seeking refuge. We take our own security and blessings for granted,
forgetting that we too were once strangers, and that you have welcomed us with a grace we did
not earn.

Forgive our indifference, O God. Heal our hardened hearts
Free us from the illusion that Love has limits.

By your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to recognize your presence in the stranger, and grant us the
courage to offer a genuine, generous, and unreserved welcome; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Quiet Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

One: Through Christ’s perfect grace, you are forgiven, you are freed, and you are welcomed home.
ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen

Song Response to Grace: #447

We Are Forgiven

GROW IN FAITH

Prayer for Illumination

October 4, 2026 —10:00am
Rev. Leah Elrod

Service of Worship w Communion
Genesis 16:1-15 | Luke 13:18-30

First Presbyterian Church
Cedar Falls, IA

Scripture Reading: Genesis 16: 1-15 The Birth of Ishmael
One: The word of God for the people of God. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading Luke 13:18-21, 29-30 |The Parable of the Mustard Seed
One: The word of God for the people of God. **ALL: Thanks be to God**

Time for Wonder *children are invited forward* Carolyn Stephenson

Sermon **“Welcoming the Stranger”**

***Hymn #321** “The Church’s One Foundation”

Scholarship Recipients Recognition Neal Leeper

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord’s Prayer: Page 35 in hymnal

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Invitation to the Table

Sharing the Meal

Prayer

REACH OUT TO OTHERS

Offering Invitation & Dedication

***Doxology #607**

Minute for Mission Glen Keith from Love Inc.

Our Life Together

***Sending Hymn # 340** “This is My Song”

Blessing & Charge

Passing the Peace

One: May the peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Share signs of God’s peace with one another.

Postlude