

For Beauty of Meadows

For Beauty of meadows, for grandeur of trees,
for flowers of woodlands, for creatures of seas,
for all you created and gave us to share,
we praise you, Creator, extolling your care.

As stewards of beauty received at your hand,
as creatures who hear your most urgent command,
we turn from our wasteful destruction of life,
confessing our failures, confessing our strife.

Teach us once again to be gardeners in peace;
all nature around us is our but on lease;
your name we would hallow in all that we do,
fulfilling our calling, creating with you.

In Christ There Is No East or West

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west
in him meet south and north;
all loving hearts are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, all heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?
Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

Ministering Today

Presiding Elder	Steve West
Elders	Beth Cox
	Kevin Wolfe
Deacons	
Chancel Head	Geraldine Runkle
	Alice Jury
	Cheryl Davis
	Tom Davis
	Chris Carrico
Lay Reader	Becky Sisk
Acolyte	Natalie Woods
Greeters	Jerry & Val
	Hornbacker
Counters	Steve West
	Ralph Tegg
Adult SS	Kevin Wolfe
Youth SS	Be Gibson
Preschool	Linda Rex



September 28, 2025
10:30am

First Christian Church



fccpeoria.org
socials: @FCCPeoriaIL

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
† indicates standing, if able

Today’s Meditation

Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better

- Albert Einstein

†Fellowship of the Church
(Please sign in online or on the red pad in your pew)

Music for Meditation
Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior, Thee - Uppercue
Please use the music and the moment of silence to prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

A Moment of Silence

†Call to Worship
One: Let us open our hearts to the sunshine of God's love.
Many: Let us open our souls to the gentle wind of God's Spirit.
One: We have gathered outdoors to hear a Word of the Lord.
Many: A Word that renews us again and again.
All: Glory be to God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, who loves and reconciles us. Amen.

†Opening Hymn #696
For Beauty of Meadows

†Opening Prayer
Leader: Let us pray together...
All: Holy Creator, you breathed into being the heavens and earth; you imagined the stars in the sky, the movement of the ocean from the moon, and it is so. Inspire in us a Holy imagination to see all that has been spun into existence by your hand. Give us eyes to see the awe and wonder of your world, O God. We pray that we might faithfully engage your creation, noticing you along the way. This we ask in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray saying...Our Father...

Scripture Reading Romans 8:18-21
This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon Rev. Adam Bradley
Creation Waits with Eager Longing

Special Music Rev. Adam Bradley
The Wood Song Indigo Girls

A Time of Prayer
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Communion Hymn #687
In Christ There Is No East or West

The Lord’s Supper with Tithes & Offerings
All: Here we celebrate that all people are welcome at this table of God’s grace.
Penitent Prayer - Uppercue

†Doxology #46

†Benediction

†Congregational Response #701
Shall We Gather at the River vs 1

Postlude
Processional in C minor - Canales

The Wood Song - by the Indigo Girls

The thin horizon of a plan is almost clear
My friends and I have had a tough time
Bruising our brains hard up against change
All the old dogs and the magician
Now I see we're in the boat in two by twos
Only the heart that we have for a tool we could use
And the very close quarters are hard to get used to
Love weighs the hull down with its weight
chorus:
But the wood is tired and the wood is old
And we'll make it fine if the weather holds
But if the weather holds we'll have missed the point
That's where I need to go

No way construction of this tricky plan
Was built by other than a greater hand
With a love that passes all out understanding
Watching closely over the journey
Yeah but what it takes to cross the great divide
Seems more than all the courage I can muster up inside
Although we get to have some answers when we reach
the other side
The prize is always worth the rocky ride
chorus

Sometimes I ask to sneak a closer look
Skip to the final chapter of the book
And then maybe steer us clear from some of the pain it
took
To get us where we are this far yeah
But the question drowns in it's futility
And even I have got to laugh at me
No one gets to miss the storm of what will be
Just holding on for the ride
chorus