



He has been raised.

—*Mark 16:6*

REJOICE!

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Easter Sunday
April 16, 2017

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL
GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

John 20:1-18
read from the *Common English Bible*

OPENING SONG: “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” #288

SHARING JESUS’ RESURRECTION JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Leader: We come to this place, seeking Jesus in the familiar story of our faith.

People: Do not meet us only here, Living Christ, but surprise us with Resurrection power in all the places of our lives!

Leader: We gather to sing and pray the story we know by heart, a story of loving triumph and powerful grace.

People: This story of “Alleluia!” means great joy for the One who lives and the ones who witness to this new life in all the places of our lives!

Leader: We gather to rejoice and give thanks God for the life of Jesus, resurrected by the power of God’s loving, vibrant Spirit.

People: Let this same Spirit fill all the places of our lives, that we may know the truth of resurrection for the rest of our lives!

Leader: We join our hearts in song and sing “Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!” for Christ is living and so are we!

People: Alleluia indeed!

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Good News God, your angels appeared to the faithful women of Jesus’ company, bringing them news more wonderful and awe-inspiring than they could imagine – Christ is Risen! Surely your angels can interrupt our lives, too, breaking into our losses and sorrows and offering a message of tremendous joy to change our lives! Come this Easter morning, we pray, and fill us with the joy of the women disciples, the first witnesses to

your resurrection, that our lives may also be renewed in hope and glory. Let us roll back the stone of the grave and pick up the stones of Alleluia once again! In Christ we pray, Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

God, we confess to you that while we know well the story of your victory over the grave, it is not a story we always live. We are dragged down by all manner of death – Fear may suffocate us: the loss of dreams and hopes for ourselves, our families, our communities and our nation. Sorrow may wall us off like a grave, isolating us with anger, frustration, and grief.

Yet the smooth stones of our faith are inscribed not with the marks of death, but with the word, “Alleluia!” So on this Easter morning, we pray that you will fill us with “fear and great joy” so that, like those women who came to the tomb expecting death, we may instead find the radiant new life that is ever before us in your Resurrection! Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: This is the day of resurrection and new life. This is the day God offers us steadfast hope and love which will never end.

Many: We will sing and dance on this day! We will rejoice and give thanks to the God who saves us. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 10:34-43

MIDDLE SONG: “The Day of Resurrection” #298

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in God, Creator of all things, heavenly father and mother, Soul of infinite love, wisdom, and power, ruler of all that is and all that is to come, who is mystery, yet revealed.

We follow Christ, God’s chosen one, who loved and served humbly, who healed the broken and included the outcast, who chose to suffer rather than harm for the sake of the healing of all Creation, who gave his life for our redemption, and who was raised by God to new life. In his teaching, in his death and resurrection, and in his presence with us in all circumstances, he reveals God to us. He calls us to serve him for the sake of

proclaiming God's grace. We trust that he accompanies us and will help, guide, heal, and defend us through all difficulty and suffering.

We believe the Holy Spirit sustains us, and guides us and empowers us as servants of God's grace.

We live as the body of Christ, in the power of forgiveness and the reality of resurrection, and the light of eternal life. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:1-4
read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "The New You"

Pastor Burtnett

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S EASTER TABLE Invitation, Communion Prayer, Words of Institution, Prayer of Consecration, Lord's Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of our risen Savior. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us out into the world in courage, joy, and peace, to be the church, your Easter people, disciples of the resurrected Jesus. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

#317

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, and Prayer of Confession are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnass-Holmes. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is adapted from *Book of Worship-United Church of Christ*

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett

April Radio Sponsors: Don and Becky Marine

Birthdays: 4-17 Cooper Heath, 4-22 Sandy Harmes-Buchanan

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There will be no week ahead e-mail sent today.

While Pastor Burtnett and Pam are gone starting this Tuesday until the following Wednesday, Reverend Holmer will be on call. To reach him contact his home phone first. (515-295-9537). If need be call his cell phone. (515-341-1514)

The Easter Our Daily Bread is at the entry to the fellowship hall.

EASTER LILIES

Chris and Pam Burtnett	in honor of their families
Gregg and Julie Buchanan	in memory of their parents
Ginny Buchanan	in memory of Russ
Don and Becky Marine	in memory of their parents
John and Helen Scuffham	in memory of their parents John and Mildred Scuffham and Joe and Edna Skow
Chuck West family	in memory of Mary Ellen and Eric Lee West
Mick and Kris Schlievert	in memory of Charles and Helen Schlievert
David Burrow	in memory of George and Betty Burrow