

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2017

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL
GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23
read from *The Good News Bible*

OPENING SONG: “Come Let Us Praise the Lord”

#9

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: How awesome it is to gather before God!

People: The God of all worlds is with us. Praise God for the season of Easter.

Leader: Praise God for the signs of new life and for all we can do together.

People: Praise God for the life and ministry of Jesus and for all that share that ministry today.

Leader: Jesus came to offer abundant life. Reclaim that gift here this morning.

People: We gather here today in his name. We are here to worship with wide-eyed wonder.

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Incarnate God, you are the one who comes to us in Jesus Christ. Holy One, you are the one who comes to us in the Holy Spirit. Sovereign of Earth and Heaven, you are the one who calls us to recognize you today and every day as the “splendid mystery who causes human beings to tremble.” Gather our hearts and minds this day. Kindle our God-consciousness. Let us worship you in awe and wonder. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Compassionate and Loving God, we ask forgiveness because our consciousness of you is dimmed by everyday desires and needs. We forget that we are a reflection of your image. We act as though you are a Sunday-only event. Help us to a greater common awareness of your deep mystery and infinite presence. Open our eyes from surface focus to depth perception. Turn our heads from shallow concerns to eternal truths. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: Our Comforter leads us to that place where God's Table is spread with forgiveness and overflowing with grace. Here, we are called to life and love.

People: We will live as God's people: forgiven to serve, blessed to share, loved so we might care. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:1-10

MIDDLE SONG: “Christ Be My Leader”

#453

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(front of hymnal) back of hymnal

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:42-47

read from the *Common English Bible*

GLORIA PATRI

#734

MESSAGE: “On Our Best Behavior”

Pastor Burnett

GATHERING AT JESUS’ TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord’s Prayer, sharing the bread and cup

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we, too, may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen.

Closing Song: “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

#698

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG: “Let All Things Now Living”#698

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) is from *Taught by Love-Worship Resources for Year A*. The Opening Prayer (adapted), and Prayer of Confession (adapted) 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 Prayer of Dedication is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is Our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith. The Prayer of Thanksgiving is from *Flames of the Spirit-Resources for Worship Like Bread for the Journey* edited by Ruth C. Duck.

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

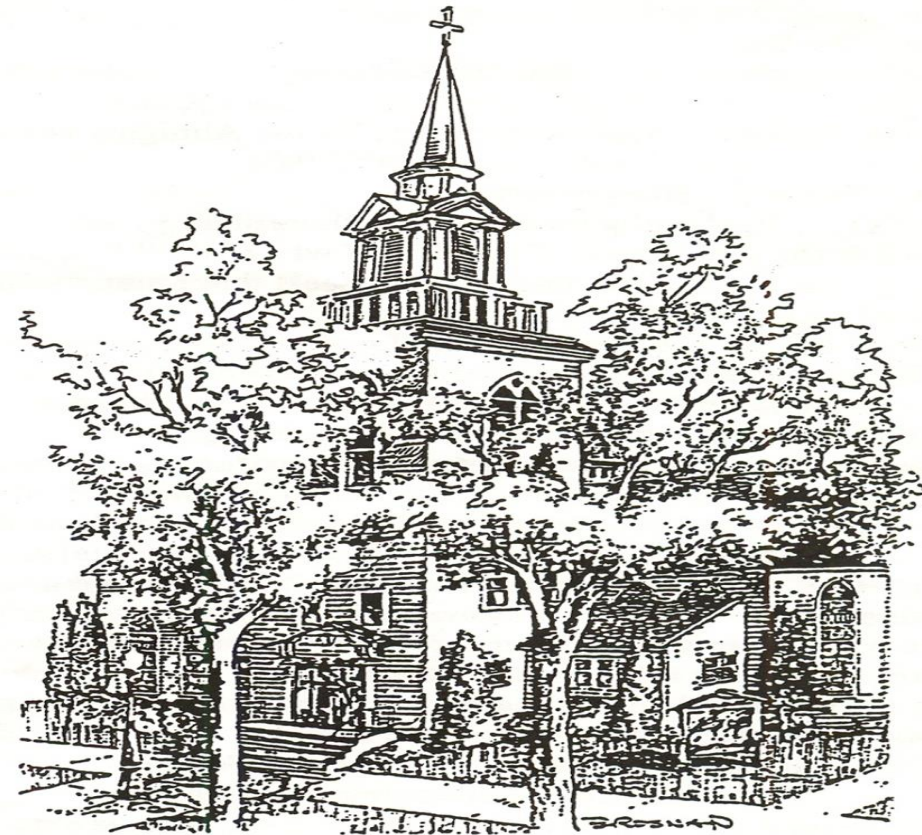
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May Radio Sponsors: Ginny Buchanan

Birthdays: 5-7 Marion Merryman, 5-10 Ayden Rochleau

The Easter season movie will be at 4:30 pm today
Tuesday Pastor Burtnett will be in Calumet in the morning and in Webster City at 6:30 pm for a retired Clergy meeting.
Wednesday the Fellowship group meets at 5:30pm.

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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