

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 28, 2017

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL
GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 47
read from the *Common English Bible*

OPENING SONG: “Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

#323

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: Called to be one,

People: we are here.

Leader: Called to be strong,

People: we are here.

Leader: Called in devotion to God,

People: we gather to worship and pray.

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

God Most High, we gather to honor and glorify you. Receive our invitation to dwell with us. Enfold us in your presence and fill us again with holy awe and mystery. We are yours and we claim you as our God. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

God of glory: we are so busy watching the skies for signs of your presence that we forget to look around to see those we can serve in your name. We are so intent on finding just the right way to tell off someone, that we forget the words of reconciliation you have taught to us. We are so convinced we can figure out your schedule that we forget to open ourselves to the presence of your Spirit within us.

Mighty source of our lives, forgive us for all that we have done to others. Fill us with the wisdom to resist evil in our lives and strengthen us in that faith which is given to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: Beloved, do not be surprised. Our God is gracious to all, restoring us to new life.

People: This is the good news which is for us, and for everyone we will meet in the days to come. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:44-53

MIDDLE SONG: “Thine Is the Glory”

#310

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We belong to God, creator of all that is and all that is to come, abundant provider of the gifts in this life and the gifts in our own hearts. It is God alone who gives life, who is generous beyond measure with grace and blessing. We follow Christ, whom God sent to teach and heal, to show us a new way of living, with love and trust and courage, with joy and generosity. In this faith Jesus gave of himself, even his very life. He was crucified and buried; yet God raised him from death, and he lives among us, and grants his spirit to us. We live by that Holy Spirit, and entrust ourselves to its guidance and empowerment. As members of the church, the Body of Christ, we devote ourselves to lives of love, rejoicing in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:1-14
read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “To the Ends of the World”

Pastor Burnett

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG: "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

#317

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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

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

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May Radio Sponsors: Ginny Buchanan

Birthdays: 6-1 Jim Kolp, 6-5 Becky Bibler, 6-8 Anita Secrease, 6-10 Timothy Boyd

Seekers will meet at 9 am today in the chapel.

Today is the last day to contribute to the gift for Karen Dearchs.

There will be no potluck today.

The new Our Daily Bread is in the Fellowship entryway.

A reminder that we will worship at 9:30 at the Methodist church, followed by a meal in honor of Karen Dearchs. Please wear red for Pentecost that day.

Liz's piano recital will be at 5:30 pm next Sunday.

June 11 we will be honoring the Mahan Scholars.

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



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

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