

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
May 3, 2020

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** John 10:1-10 read from *The Message*

**\*OPENING SONG:** “We Come, O Christ, to You” #110

**SHARING JESUS’ PEACE:** The Peace of Christ Be with You

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

Leader: How awesome it is to come before God. Let’s celebrate with wide-eyed wonder!

**People: The God of all worlds is with us. Praise God for this season of Easter!**

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

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

Leader: Jesus came to offer us the gift of abundant life. Reclaim that gift today.

**People: We will worship in the name of Jesus and follow in his footsteps.**

**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. 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

Leader: Scripture compares us to sheep who have gone astray. As sheep seem not to see beyond the next tuft of grass, we seem to be attracted to the immediate temptation. Let’s confess how we have not been good stewards of the abundance God provides, as we pray together our prayer of confession.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (read together)

**It’s so easy to stray from the best we know, God. Before we realize it, we are lost in our fears, dominated by life’s shadows, preoccupied with our own suffering. We complain of our lot, even though our cups overflow with your goodness and mercy. We are reluctant givers and ineffective followers. Turn us around, God, for we want to be disciples. Amen.**

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (read responsively)

Leader: God loves us. God comforts us. God forgives us, leading us from brokenness to wholeness.

**People: We will live as whole people, forgiven and forgiving. Thanks be to God!**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 23

**\*MIDDLE SONG:** “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” #440

**\*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together)

**We believe in you, God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself. You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. You call us into the church, to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. You promise to all who trust you, forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.**

**GLORIA PATRI** #734

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE** Acts 2:42-47 read from the *Common English Bible*

**MESSAGE:** “Awesome!” Pastor Burnett

**GATHERING AT THE TABLE**

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord’s Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

**SANCTUS**

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

We thank you God for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all of Christ’s gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING PRAYER**

Leader: Holy One, touch us with awe as we consider everything you have entrusted to us. May the gifts we offer be a reminder of our commitment to share all things in common. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG “They’ll Know We are Christians”**

#595

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship(adapted), and Call to Confession (adapted) are from *Taught by Love-Worship Resources for Year A*. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2* by Lavon Bayler. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2020* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith (in the form of a doxology). The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is from our *Book of Worship-United Church of Christ*.

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

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May Radio Sponsor:

Birthdays: 5-4 Bryant Eakins, 5-5 Don Myers, 5-7 Marion Merryman

The months of May, June and October do not have radio sponsors.

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



**“Where No One Is A Stranger”**

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