

First congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Third Sunday of Easter
April 15, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 3:1-7 read from the *Common English Bible*

OPENING SONG: “The Strife is O’er” #290

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Come with your doubts and your fears.

Many: This is scary.

One: Call on God, who will answer you.

Many: God is hard to hear these days.

One: Come to the one who will give your souls peace. It is so hard to believe. Come, claim your identity as beloved children of God.

Many: We come, uncertain, but longing to hear God speak to us this morning.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Come to us, God, for we are waiting—waiting and hoping that your word of peace will soothe our fearful and doubting souls. Open our hearts to the message you would share with us today through song, prayer and meditation, that our souls might reach out and touch you and believe. Help us claim our identity as your beloved children. Help us live into this identity today and always, that we might radiate your love to others. Come, beloved One, we are here to listen and be transformed. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

God of our hearts and lives, too many times we have doubted and turned away, failing to recognize you or your voice; denying our true identity. We despair of the way things are in the world and can find no true peace. We search for answers in places where truth

cannot be found. Forgive us, God. We long to return to you, that we may hear your voice in the chaos and in the cacophony of voices that overwhelm our senses and cloud our minds. Strengthen our wandering unbelief, and fulfill our longing to truly know you. Open our minds to understand the scriptures, and transform our lives into a powerful witness of your radical love for all. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: What marvelous love, what wondrous grace, what abundant mercy God offers - to us! We really are God's people - that is exactly who we are!

Many: We are God's children - those whose lives have been changed by the One who loves us and forgives us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Acts 3:12-19

MIDDLE SONG: “Christ Is Alive!” #312

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We believe in the living God, the joy of the universe, who is the pulse and purpose of all things seen and unseen, who from the dust of earth calls up living beings to be children of eternity, who through countless ages has provided for us many liberators and tirelessly seeks to bring victory out of defeat and life out of decay.

We believe in Jesus the Christ, God’s true Son, who is bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, who took upon himself the healing of the human race, who bearing the burden of our sins went to Golgotha carrying his cross, who was betrayed, crucified, dead and buried in a borrowed tomb, who on the third day was found to be gloriously alive, meeting with those who trust him and serve him to the end of the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit of God, within and among all who cherish Christ and his way, who brings hope out of despair, love out of apathy, and joy out of sorrow, who unceasingly regenerates and reforms the church that it may always be the contemporary body of the risen Christ, loving the world through prayer, word and deed.

We believe that even we are caught up in the resurgent life of Christ Jesus, and that nothing in life or death can separate us from his love and joy. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Luke 24:36b-48 read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “We’re Witnesses!” Pastor Burnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG

“Thine Is the Glory”

#310

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2018* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by Bruce Prewer.

=====

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

=====

March Radio Sponsor: Don and Becky Marine

Birthdays: 4-17- Cooper Heath

Today - 9:00 am. Seekers
10:00 am. Worship
10:15 am. Children’s Sunday School

Monday- 11:00am Exceptional Opportunities

Tuesday – Pastor at Perky Parrott in the morning
2 pm. Good Sam Bible Study

Wednesday -5 pm. Fellowship
7 pm. Board Meeting

Thursday –8:30 am. Ministerial Meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church
2:30pm. Women’s Fellowship

Friday – 4-6 pm. Trash, Treasure and Bake Sale

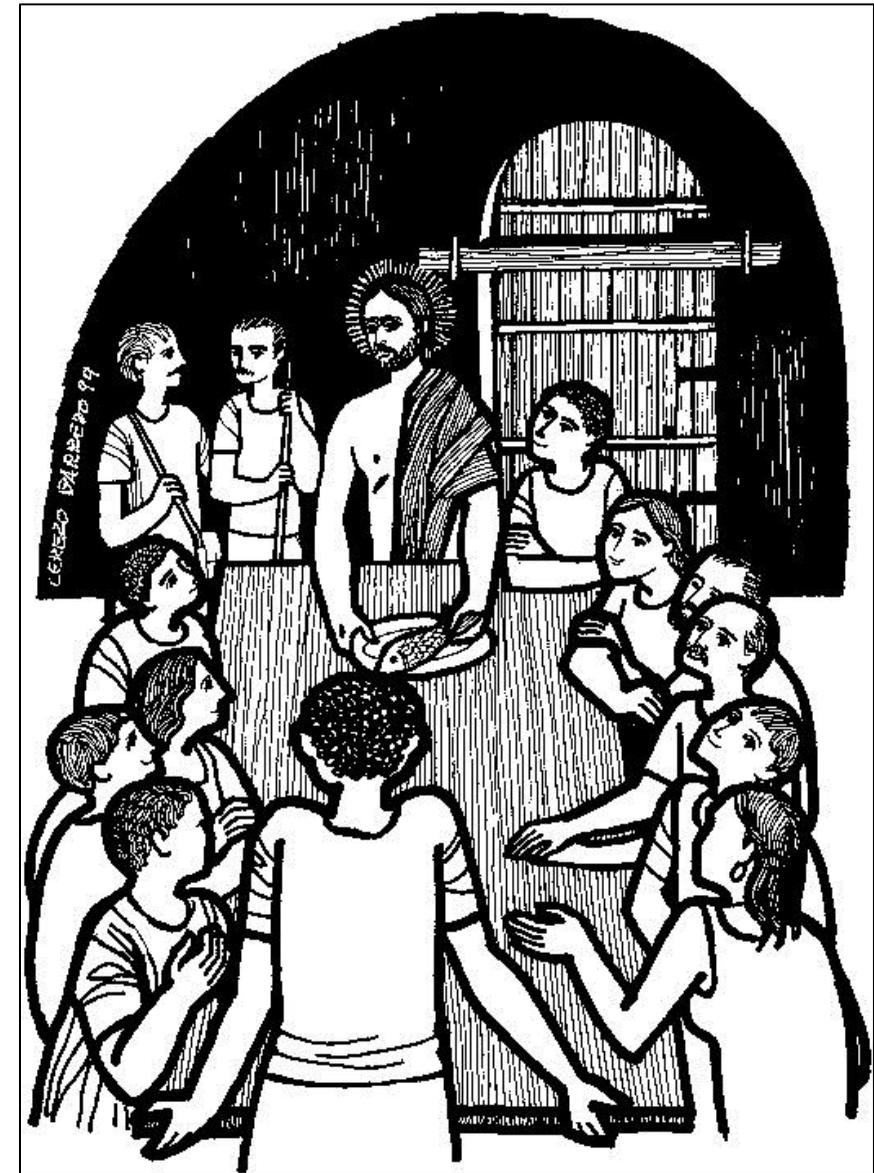
Saturday- 8-11am. Trash, Treasure and Bake Sale

Next Sunday- 9 am. Seekers
10 am. Worship
10:15 am. Children’s Sunday School

Pastor Chris will be at the Tri-Conference Meeting in Sioux Falls, SD on April 20th and 21st.

The sign up sheet for May Meals on Wheels is on the bulletin board in the parlor.

Tickets for the Mayor Prayer Breakfast on May 3 are available in the office. Cost is \$5 with proceeds given to Loving Hands Nursery.



“You are witnesses to these things”

Luke 24:48