

First congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 22, 2018

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**      1 John 3:16-24      read from the *Good News Bible*

**OPENING SONG:**      “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”      #87

## SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

**CALL TO WORSHIP**      (read responsively)

One: We are welcomed into the family of God on this Fourth Sunday of Easter.

**Many: Let us worship God together in faith, hope and love.**

One: Come, lift your eyes, thoughts and hearts to God. God’s pastoral care of all of us brings us together.

**Many: We offer our praise and thanks to God for shepherding us.**

**All: We are here to pray for blessings, instructions and peace through our Welcoming Shepherd, Jesus. Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER**      (read together)

Divine Shepherd, restore our souls. You, who welcomed us into your pastures of peacefulness and plenty, restore our souls. You who travel through the dark valleys of Lent ahead of us and beside us, and fill our spirits with the joy of Easter, restore our souls. You, who know the workings of our minds and emotions better than we do ourselves, restore our souls. Restore us through your Holy Spirit, the love of Jesus, and the comfort of your presence. Amen.

## TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**      (read together)

**Prayer of Confession** (read together)

Comfort of your people: we confess the emptiness of our souls which sends us searching for all those things which cannot nourish us. Our restless longing for the goods of the

world fill us with every lust and envy. Our belief that still waters are stagnant causes us to thirst for whitewater thrills and adventures. Our trust in the hollow promises of our culture turns us away from the shelter you offer to us.

Forgive us, Goodness Incarnate. Call us back from our wayward lives, so we may find rest in the stillness of your gentle heart; we may find healing from your scarred hands; we may find that life for which we yearn, together in you and through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen

## A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**      (read responsively)

One: This is the good news: God will walk with us in every moment, God will fill us with goodness and mercy, God will bring us home to live forever.

**Many: Anointed with grace and forgiveness, our lives overflow with love for all people. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**      John 10:11-18

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

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

**I believe I need a shepherd. Because I am sometimes timid and other times overconfident, because I often don't know the best path yet pretend I do, because I rush into dead ends or lead others into hazardous places, because my brightest ideas are seamed with darkness, because the things I crave may not be what is good for me, I need a shepherd.**

**I believe in Jesus, the best possible shepherd; his wisdom leads me to the best opportunities, his word comforts me when I'm anxious or afraid, his arm steadies me when I feel weary and heavy-laden, his wounded body displays the cost of my rescue. I believe in Jesus, the best possible shepherd. I believe that I do not find him but he finds me, that I, under his care by virtue of sheer grace, the love he gives me is to be shared with others, that he treasures my name and prepares a place for me, that his fold transfixes earth and heaven.**

**I trust Jesus, the good shepherd. Amen.**

**GLORIA PATRI**      #734

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE**      Psalm 23      read from the *Common English Bible*

**MESSAGE:**      “Dirty Jobs”      Pastor Burtnett

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

**OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

**CLOSING SONG**

“He Leadeth Me”

#499

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship (adapted) is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Invocations and Benedictions for the Revised Common Lectionary* by John M. Drescher. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies by Thom M. Shuman*. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2018* edited by Mary J, Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by Bruce Prewer.

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

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April Radio Sponsor: Don and Becky Marine

Birthdays: 4-22-.Sandy Harmes-Buchanan, 4-24 – Mark Rowley, 4-28 Brent Clegg

- Today - 9:00 am. Seekers
- 10:00 am. Worship
- 10:15 am. Children’s Sunday School
- Monday- 11:00 am Exceptional Opportunities
- Tuesday – Pastor at Perky Parrott in the morning
- 2 pm. Good Sam Bible Study
- Wednesday-7 pm. Board Meeting
- Friday – 1 pm. Advisory Council at Ft Dodge
- Next Sunday- 9 am. Seekers
- 10 am. Worship
- 10:15 am. Children’s Sunday School
- Potluck following Worship

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.

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD  
I SHALL NOT BE IN WANT.  
HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES  
HE LEADS ME BESIDE QUIET WATERS  
HE RESTORES MY SOUL.  
HE GUIDES ME IN PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS  
FOR HIS NAME’S SAKE.  
EVEN THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE  
VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH  
I WILL FEAR NO EVIL, FOR YOU ARE WITH ME  
YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME.  
YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME  
IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES.  
YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL; MY CUP OVERFLOWS.  
SURELY GOODNESS AND LOVE WILL FOLLOW ME  
ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, AND I WILL DWELL  
IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.**

**PSALM 23**