

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Easter Sunday
April 21, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

from the *Common English Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

#288

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: This is the day

Many: angels bring light into our shadows, and gardeners harvest good news.

One: This is the day the Lord

Many: awakens us with unexpected grace, and the sun breaks out in song.

One: This is the day the Lord has made!

Many: The day when life triumphs over death, when love pushes aside fear, when hope walks with us in every moment.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Risen Christ, rise in our hearts with faith. Raise our voices in praise, and lift our eyes to the hills of hope. Reveal to us your presence. Raise us up to new life, even as you were risen, that we may proclaim to the world: “Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!” Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

We think this story is so old, Imaginative God, that we cannot hear the astonishing news of triumph over death. We are so afraid of our own shadows, that we cannot see the Light of life which is streaming all around us. Convinced that there is nothing

beyond these days we call life, we cannot sense your resurrection hope which is calling to us by our names.

On this day of new wonders and everlasting grace, God of our lives, may we be glad that you have not forgotten us. May we rejoice in the ancient promises which are proclaimed afresh this morning. May we turn with our questions, our doubts, our hearts towards Jesus, the Gardener of grace, who call us by name and pours resurrection love into us. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: On this Easter, as on the first; on this day, as on every day; God turns to us, calls us by name, and plants forgiveness and hope in our lives.

Many: Alleluia! This is the good news! Christ is our peace, the peace we need, the peace which will heal the world. Alleluia! Christ is Risen. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 10:34-43

***MIDDLE SONG:** “Christ Is Alive!”

#312

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in an amazing God, who surprises us on Easter morn, who has the last laugh on evil, who never gives up loving and working for our good, who weeps at our Good Fridays and transforms our tears into alleluias. We believe in the risen Christ, not stuck in a tomb of despair, nailed to a dead end future, or buried in the past, but alive, available and willing to walk with us on the ups and downs, ins and outs of our journey. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the invisible presence, the divine wind of joy, of hope, of possibility. We believe the Spirit creates a community of compassion, welcome, and such aliveness that the whole world is tinged with wonder and hope. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Luke 24:1-12

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “A Likely Story”

Pastor Burtnett

GATHERING AT CHRIST’S EASTER TABLE Invitation, Communion Prayer, Words of Institution, Prayer of Consecration, Lord’s Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG: “The Day of Resurrection” #298

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is from the Stidham United Methodist Church, Lafayette, Indiana. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is from the *Book of Worship-United Church of Christ*.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector:
Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett
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April Radio Sponsors: Don and Becky Marine

Birthdays: 4-22 Sandy Harmes-Buchanan

EASTER LILIES

David Burrow	in memory of George and Betty Burrow
David Burrow	in memory of Margaret Sullivan
Chris and Pam Burtnett	in memory of loved ones
Ginny Buchanan	in memory of Russ
Gregg and Julie Buchanan	in memory of their parents
Scott and Sandy Buchanan	In memory of our Parents; Russ Buchanan and Burt & Lois Harmes
Marilyn Deal	In memory of her parents, Bob and Elaine Deal
Don and Becky Marine	in memory of their parents and granddaughter
Mick and Kris Schlievert	in memory of Charles and Helen Schlievert
John and Helen Scuffham	in memory of our parents Joe and Edna Skow, John and Mildred Scuffham
Chuck West family	in memory of Mary Ellen and Eric Lee West

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Wednesday the Adult Discussion group will meet at 7 pm at Chuck West's.

Pastor Burtnett will be in Sioux Falls Friday and Saturday.

The Trash, Treasure and Bake sale will be held Friday from 4 to 6 pm and Saturday from 9 to noon. Baked goods are always needed. Help is needed for both days. Please give of your time for this once a year event.

The Easter Daily Bread is in the front entry of the Fellowship hall.