

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Third Sunday of Easter
May 5, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 30 from *The Message*

***OPENING SONG:** “Holy God, We Praise Your Name” #138

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Now is the time to sing the good news of God,

Many: Who us with dawn’s embrace, who surrounds us with joy and life.

One: Now is the time to offer praise to God in every place, with every voice!

Many: Who leads us through each moment with a gentle hand and a word of hope.

One: Now is the time to join all creation in extolling God from the depths of the sea to the farthest galaxies:

Many: We are here to worship, singing the good news of Easter! Rejoicing in the God who loves us.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

God of life, we gather this day with the victory bells of Easter still ringing in our ears.

We come joyfully this day to celebrate your power and glory, your wisdom and might.

May we remain faithful to your call to follow Jesus, secure in your promise: that life will triumph over death, that hope will triumph over despair, and that love will triumph over fear. We lift our grateful hearts to you. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Now that Easter is done and gone, **Holy One**, we no longer hear the special music, but listen to temptation’s familiar refrains. We no longer walk those straight paths of joy and wonder, but wander the crooked streets to our old haunts. Rather than living in the newness you bring, we do things the way they have always been done.

Fortunately, God of seaside breakfasts, you know the way out of our messy lives, and so take us by the hand to lead us. You wipe our busy schedules off our calendars so we may spend more time with those who need our love and attention. You challenge us to fish from the other side of our worries, so we may pull in all the grace, wonder, and mercy offered to us by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Why should we weep? Joy comes to us this morning, and every moment of our lives. Jesus has come, to share mercy and hope with us, so we can praise our God with joyous hearts.

Many: We will lift glad songs of joy, for all the blessings God has given to us. We will offer our hearts and hands in love and serve to others. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 21:1-19

***MIDDLE SONG:** “Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore” #347

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together) Back of the Hymnal

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Acts 9:1-20 read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “High Horses” Pastor Burtnett

GATHERING AT JESUS’ 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 received all of his gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and move us to show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG:** “Amazing Grace”

#422

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Prayer of Thanksgiving is from *worshipofferings.blogspot.com*.

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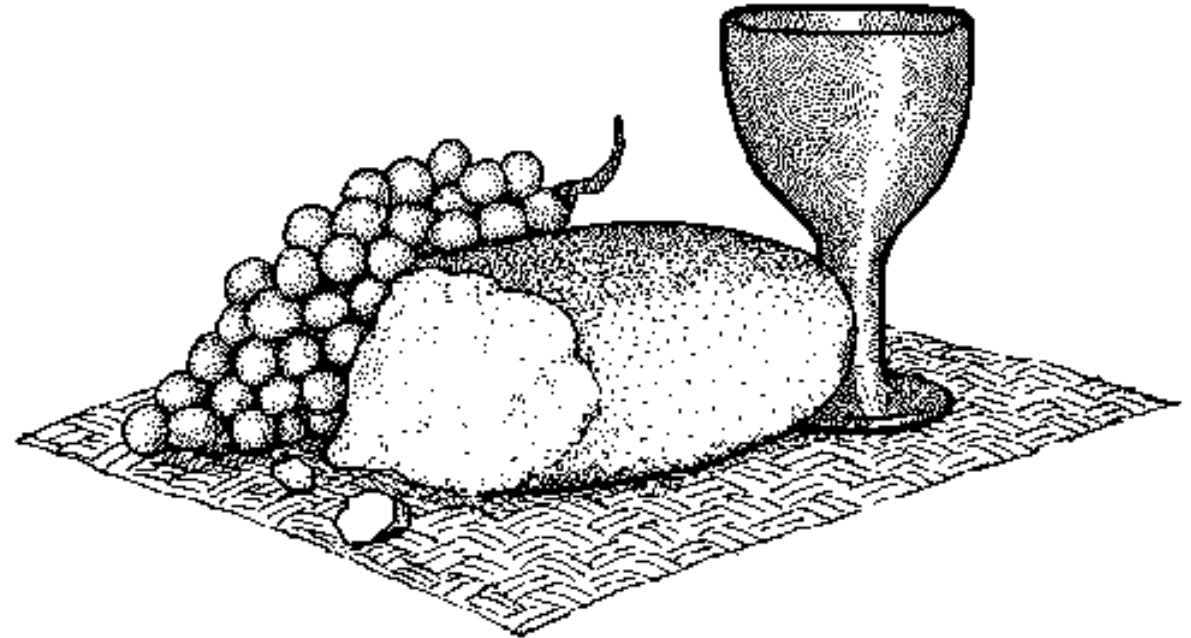
Organist:	Liz Reynolds
Lector:	David Burrow
Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris

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April Radio Sponsor: Ginny Buchanan

Birthdays: 5/7 Marion Merryman

Tuesday- Missions and Memorial meeting at 4 pm.



**THEIR EYES WERE OPENED,
AND THEY RECOGNIZED
THE RISEN CHRIST
IN THE BREAKING
OF THE BREAD.**