

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Easter Sunday
April 12, 2020

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 read from the *Common English Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” #288

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Shout for joy!

People: The tomb is empty!

Leader: Clap your hands!

People: Death is defeated!

Leader: Dance and sing! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Good News God, your angels appeared to the faithful women of Jesus’ company, bringing them news more wonderful and awe-inspiring than they could imagine – Christ is Risen! Surely your angels can interrupt our lives, too, breaking into our losses and sorrows and offering a message of tremendous joy to change our lives! Come this Easter morning, we pray, and fill us with the joy of the women disciples, the first witnesses to your resurrection, that our lives may also be renewed in hope and glory. Let us roll back the stone of the grave and sing Alleluia once again! In Christ we pray, Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: God, who raised Jesus from the dead, offers us life and forgiveness of sin. So, let us come before God admitting the ways we have separated ourselves from God as we pray together our prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

God, we confess to you that while we know well the story of your victory over the grave, it is not a story we always live. We are dragged down by all manner of death – Fear may suffocate us: the loss of dreams and hopes for ourselves, our families, our communities, our nation. Sorrow may wall us off like a grave, isolating us with anger, frustration, and grief. Yet the stories of our faith are inscribed not with the marks of death, but with the word, “Alleluia!” So, on this Easter day, we pray that you will fill us with “fear and great joy” so that, like those women who came to the tomb expecting death, we may instead find the radiant new life that is ever before us in your Resurrection! Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: Just as Christ did not come to condemn, but to liberate, so too is Christ raised from death not to judge but to celebrate.

People: We will cast off the yoke of sorrow and instead raise up the scepter of joy – Christ lives! We live! All is made new on this Resurrection morning! Alleluia and amen!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Acts 10:34-43

***MIDDLE SONG:** “Lord of the Dance”

#118

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in God, Creator of all things, heavenly father and mother, Soul of infinite love, wisdom, and power, ruler of all that is and all that is to come, who is mystery, yet revealed.

We follow Christ, God’s chosen one, who loved and served humbly, who healed the broken and included the outcast, who chose to suffer rather than harm for the sake of the healing of all Creation, who gave his life for our redemption, and who was raised by God to new life. In his teaching, in his death and resurrection, and in his presence with us in all circumstances, he reveals God to us. He calls us to serve him for the sake of proclaiming God’s grace. We trust that he accompanies us and will help, guide, heal, and defend us through all difficulty and suffering.

We believe the Holy Spirit sustains us, and guides us and empowers us as servants of God’s grace.

We live as the body of Christ, in the power of forgiveness and the reality of resurrection, and the light of eternal life. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Matthew 28:1-10

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “You Will See Him There”

Pastor Burtnett

COMMUNION

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you, God, for gathering us for this Easter meal 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

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING PRAYER**

God of grace and glory, pour your power on your people this day, that our lives may reflect the gift we have received through the resurrection of your Son. With deepest gratitude for your many gifts, particularly the gift of Jesus, we offer you our tithes, offerings, and our very selves this day. In the name of Jesus, the resurrected one, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG** “Thine Is the Glory”

#310

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession (adapted), and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) and Benediction (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2020* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession, is from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

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

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April Radio Sponsor: Chris and Pam Burtnett
Birthdays: 4-12 Nancy Walker, 4-13 John Scuffham, 4-17 Cooper Heath

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



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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