

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Second Sunday of Easter  
April 19, 2020

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 16 read from the *Good News Bible*

**\*OPENING SONG:** “O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” #96

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

Leader: We come again to this time of worship to celebrate resurrection.

**People: God has given us new birth into a living hope.**

Leader: Jesus goes before us in the new life God offers.

**People: Blessed be the God of our Savior Jesus Christ.**

Leader: Our faith, tested by fire, is renewed.

**People: Our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice. God shows us the path of life.**

**OPENING PRAYER** (read together)

You are always present with us, God, even in the midst of calamitous trials. We are tested in the fires of loss and grief. We are swayed by our doubts and fears. Assure us once more that we are not alone, that you do not abandon us. Open us to your direction. Inspire us to respond to the message and example that the risen Jesus lived among people like us. Remind us that we dwell secure in your caring presence, always. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: How quickly we forget that we are an Easter people, raised up out of the ways of death into the fullness of life. The power of death leaves us shaken and afraid, but God, in Christ calls us out of our fear to experience a presence that embraces us with eternal hope. Let’s turn to God once more to admit the ways we have turned away from all that God offers us as we pray together our prayer of confession

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (read together)

Merciful God, you come offering us peace, but we hold on to our fears; you come offering us faith, but we cling to our doubts; you come offering us a future filled with promise, but we retreat to pleasant memories of the past.

We want to believe in all that you promise us. We want to see ourselves as you see us. We want to live as you would have us live. We want to believe that life is stronger than the death we see all around us.

Forgive us. Help our unbelief, that we may truly know and live your gift of resurrection. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (read responsively)

Words of Assurance (read responsively)

Leader: Even when we are consumed by doubt, even when we lose our way, God’s steadfast love, compassion and grace is there for us, offering us forgiveness and peace.

**People: God is always faithful. God is able to find us and bring us home. God is able to bring us forgiveness and peace. Thanks be to God!**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** 1 Peter 1:3-9

**\*MIDDLE SONG:** “To God Be the Glory” #66

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

We believe in God, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all God’s works, and whose will is ever directed to God’s children’s good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of humankind, the gift of God’s unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of Jesus, to the end that the realm of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

**GLORIA PATRI** #734

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE** John 20:19-31 read from the *Good News Bible*

**MESSAGE:** “Peace Be With You?” Pastor Burtnett

**OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING PRAYER**

We express our gratitude and joy by sharing what we have with you and others, Generous God. Bless the gifts we offer. May they bring hope and new life to your world. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG** ““Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

#289

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession (adapted), are from *Taught By Love-Worship- Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted), Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2020* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2* by Lavon Bayler. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is from the Modern Liturgist Website

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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: 4-22 Sandy Harmes-Buchanan, 4-25 Brent Clegg

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



**“Where No One Is A Stranger”**

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