

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Third Sunday of Easter  
April 26, 2020

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 read from the *Good News Bible*

**\*OPENING SONG:** “We Praise You, O God” #726

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

Leader: Travelers on the Way, what shall we do?

**People: We shall praise God who hears our prayers, who draws near to us, and brings new life out of death.**

Leader: Dear Ones, how shall we live?

**People: With the confidence of God’s beloved children, with security and joy of God’s saving grace.**

Leader: Friends old and new, what is the promise?

**People: New life, forgiveness of sin, the Spirit as gift!**

Leader: Beloved Siblings, how shall we praise?

**People: We lift our voices and our hearts in love, thanks, and praise! We will praise the Lord as long as we live!**

**OPENING PRAYER** (read together)

We call on your name, God, for you have offered us the cup of salvation and welcomed us into your family. How can we thank you for the love you have shown us in Jesus?

Meet us again as we worship you, that we may grow in faith and be responsive to your truth. Fill us with hope, renewing our confidence to face life in faithful trust and obedience. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: We yearn for God’s love and grace. We attempt to live by God’s wisdom and guidance. Yet we often lose our way and put our own interests before those of God and the wholeness God offers. We have much to confess before we can claim that wholeness. Please join me as we pray together our prayer of confession.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (read together)

**We confess, God, that we rush through our days without recognizing your presence with us. We follow our busy diversions without reference to your will for us. We strive for financial success and personal recognition, while you call for obedience to truth and genuine mutual love. Purify our souls, we pray, and redirect our priorities. May we be born anew through your living and enduring word. Amen**

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (read responsively)

Leader: In the name of the risen Christ we are forgiven and free.

**People: In the power of God’s enduring word, we are given new birth and offered a community of resurrection and hope. Thanks be to God!**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 24:13-35

**\*MIDDLE SONG:** “Christ Is Alive” #312

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

We believe in God, who is love, whose love is manifest in all Creation, in our lives, and in all people.

We follow Christ, who embodied God’s love. In his life and ministry, his death and resurrection, and his granting to us of his Spirit, he filled us with that love as well.

We live by the Spirit, the presence of God’s love in us. In that love we participate in the Church, Body of Christ, in loving God by loving our neighbors through our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service.

Love is our faith, and it is a gift from God. We thank God, and ask God’s blessings, that we may love in the name of Christ and the power of the Spirit, to God’s glory. Amen.

**GLORIA PATRI** #734

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE** Acts 2:14a, 36-41 read from the *Common English Bible*

**MESSAGE:** “We’re Invited” Pastor Burnett

## OFFERING

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING PRAYER**

Leader: Living Christ, bless the gifts we offer with the power of resurrection and hope. Amen.

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

#289

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. Call to Confession (adapted) and Prayer of Confession are from *Taught by Love-Worship Resources for Year A*. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (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 is By 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:

Next Sunday will be a Communion Sunday. It will be like the Easter Communion.  
There are 3 masks left in the Fellowship hall entrance.  
Thank you to everyone who continues to support our ministry with monetary gifts.  
Also, thank you to John and Helen and Don Marine for doing Meals on Wheels this month.

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



**“Where No One Is A Stranger”**

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

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