

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 10, 2020

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 1 Peter 2:2-10

read from *The Message*

### \*OPENING SONG: "The Church's One Foundation"

#544

### SHARING JESUS' PEACE: The Peace of Christ Be with You

### CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: God is present with us today. Prepare to worship, that God may uplift us.

People: God is our refuge, in whom we trust.

Leader: Don't be troubled or afraid; celebrate the good news: Christ is risen.

People: We won't fear loss or suffering; We are raised with Christ to new life.

Leader: Christ is the living stone, chosen by God, and precious to us.

People: We rejoice in God's steadfast love and in God's faithfulness that redeems us.

### OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Ever-gracious, Way-Making God, we celebrate the gifts of your Spirit. You have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking, but with the milk of your truth, you have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ. You call us to take up the mantle of justice and to follow wherever faith leads us. You fill us with strength and hope, and you invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship. You promise us splendor and beauty in this life and in the world to come. Meet us wherever we are, we pray, that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing and that your Spirit will fill us with courage. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: God calls us to account, for we have disobeyed God's word and rejected the One who revealed God's love to us. Let's seek God's mercy and forgiveness as we pray together our prayer of confession.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Ever-gracious God, from generation to generation you call forth faithful women and men to be willing servants of truth. You fill us with strength and hope, yet we find it is often not enough. We pray both for great faith and for easy lives, but we know these things seldom exist together. We pray only to avoid the time of trial when we need also to pray for strength and confidence to face the challenges that come with faithfulness. Forgive us, God, for our limited vision and our feeble trust. Make us strong so that we may rejoice in your unending grace even in the times of deepest suffering. In Christ we pray. Amen.

### A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: Do not let your hearts be troubled, for we are forgiven of all that separates us from the Holy One.

People: Blessed be God, the giver of life, and blessed be God's people, who rejoice in Christ, the way, the truth, and the life.

### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 14:1-14

### \*MIDDLE SONG: "Thine Is the Glory"

#310

### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in God, creator of all that is and all that is to come. In God's house are many rooms, and God prepares a place for us, so that where God is, we may be also. We believe in God; we believe also in Christ, who is our way, our truth and our life. Through him we have seen God, who lived and worked in him. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who lives and works in us; so that we may do the works that Jesus does, and even greater works; so that God may be glorified. Alleluia! Amen.

### GLORIA PATRI

#734

### FOCUS SCRIPTURE Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

read from the *Common English Bible*

### MESSAGE: "Living in Refuge"

Pastor Burtnett

### OFFERING

### \*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING PRAYER**

May our offerings be acceptable to you, God. Use them and our very lives, to make this world a home where all are sheltered, nourished, and cherished. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG** "I Need Thee Every Hour"

#476

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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

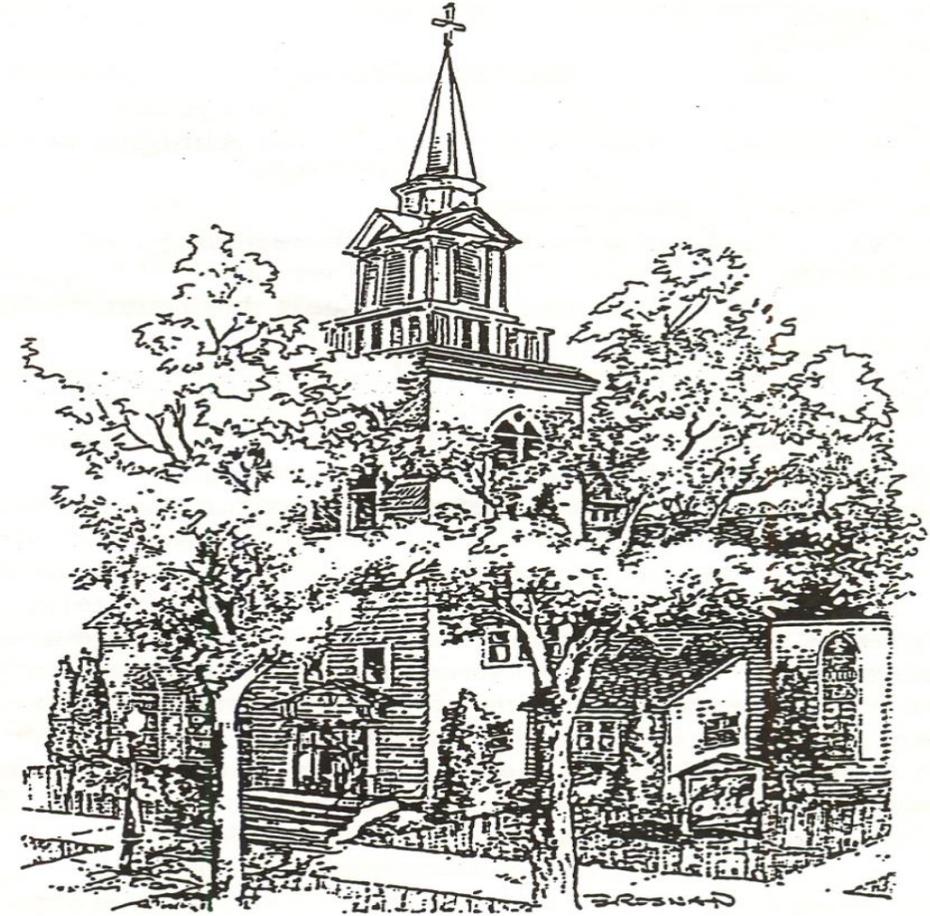
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Organist: Liz Reynolds  
Lector: David Burrow  
Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett

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May Radio Sponsor: Mark and Sandra Williams in honor of Pat Bilsborough for Mother's Day Birthdays: 5-10 Ayden Rochleau, 5-13 Jack Grindberg

**First Congregational Church  
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Algona, Iowa**



**"Where No One Is A Stranger"**

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