

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Seventh Sunday of Easter/Ascension Sunday
May 24, 2020

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 47 read from the *New International Version*

***OPENING SONG:** “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” #56

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Leader: Rejoice and sing to God!

People: We sing of the risen Christ!

Leader: Clap your hands and shout with joy!

People: We rejoice in the living God!

Leader: Celebrate this day!

People: We celebrate the Spirit who call us to worship!

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Holy God, we celebrate your presence with us today. For the gift of resurrection, we give you thanks and praise. We rejoice for the gift of your ongoing presence in our lives. Overwhelm us with your presence as we worship you, that we might be overwhelmed with joy. In joyous gratitude, we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: In this time of worship, we reflect on our record as an Easter people. Is there evidence that Jesus is alive within and among us? Is the work of the Spirit obvious to any who observe our words and deeds? Let’s admit how things are with us as we seek God’s forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Hear us, God, our hope, for we have too easily denied our heritage amid the competing claims all around us. We declare ownership of what is only lent to us for a time. We strive for knowledge and control beyond our capacity, wanting power on our own terms rather than through the unpredictable empowerment of your Spirit. Sometimes we stand on tiptoe to view what is out of sight, then arrogantly conclude that there is nothing to see. Open our eyes and our hearts, God, that we might be forgiven and find true life in you. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

Leader: Despite everything we do, God loves us. This is grace, pure and simple. This grace is why, when everything says we should not, we can dare to hope.

People: We will witness to this grace with every breath we take, with every gift we offer, with every word we share with others. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 1:15-23

***MIDDLE SONG:** “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” #106

***AN ASCENSION SUNDAY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together)

Jesus, you are not only risen and alive, you are Lord. This your ascension, your ascendancy over the whole universe. You stand over and above all that is best in life as its source. You stand above all that is worst as the ultimate victor. You stand above all powers and authorities as judge. You stand above all failure and weakness and sin as forgiveness and love. You alone are worthy of total allegiance, total commitment. You are Lord, ‘My Lord and my God.’ Amen.

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Luke 24:44-53 read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “Stay Home!” Pastor Burtnett

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY** Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING PRAYER**

With joy we bring our gifts, God. With joy we offer our lives. May the offering of our gifts and our very selves bring joy throughout the world. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG “Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

#323

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Confession (adapted) and Prayer of Confession (adapted) are from *Taught by Love-Worship Resources for Year A*. The Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2020* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is written by Rex Chapman, in [A Treasury of Prayer](#) (compiled by Tony Castle).

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

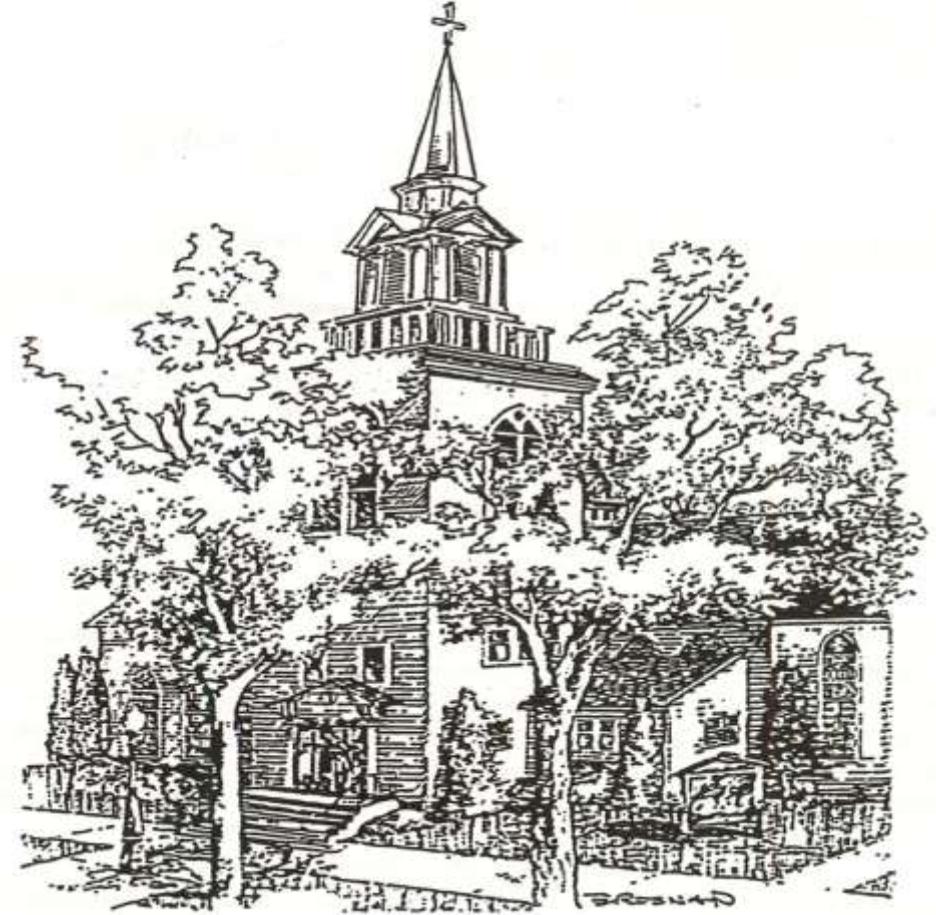
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May Radio Sponsor: Mark and Sandra Williams in honor of Pat Bilsborough for Mother’s Day

Birthdays: 5-25 Marge Person, 5-27 Greta Grindberg

Newsletter articles for June and July are due in the office by May 29.
We will be taking the offering for Strengthen the Church on May 31.
There are still two months open for the radio broadcasts, July and October.

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



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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