

First Congregational United Church of Christ
315 S Moore ST
Algona, Iowa
515-295-2845
Palm Sunday
March 28, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: Blessed are those who delight in worship. Blessed are the ones who come in God's name.

People: Give thanks to God, all who assemble here. God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Let all who follow Christ sing God's praise. Because of God's help we are not disgraced.

People: Open the gates of righteousness that we might enter. The works of God are marvelous in our eyes.

Leader: This is the day that God has made; let's rejoice and be glad in it.

People: Hosanna! Let every knee bend before Jesus! Let every voice welcome his reign! Hosanna!

*OPENING SONG

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

#265

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Holy Brother, you have come in God's name and for our sake. You have entered our souls in moments of shouted Hosannas and waving cloaks. You have come just the same to our late nights and our confused hearts. Come to us again and let us follow you. Let your name be on our tongues and in our hearts. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

We have been so busy this last year, focused on ourselves, Enduring Love, that we have forgotten to imagine what was on Jesus' mind in those days. We long to shout for joy on a day like this, smiling as we remember waving our palms, even as we look at our empty

hands. We harden our faces, not in discipleship, but to turn away those who are still struggling in these days.

Yet, because he was fully human like us, God whose compassion never fades, we can be more like Jesus, if we dare. So, as we begin our journey through another Holy Week, help us to always choose humility over hubris, weakness over strength, tenderness over bullying, and to seek to stay as faithful as we can in these days. We pray this in the name of our Teacher, Jesus. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: God dares us to think like Jesus, because God knows that if we do, we will find the strength to live through these days, to walk with others, to offer our lives in love and service to all.

People: God hears our prayers, listens to our hearts, fills us with forgiveness, and walks with us in these moments and in all the ones to come. Thanks be to God for such incredible mercy! Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

FIRST SCRIPTURE RADING

Psalm 18:1-2, 19-29

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in the God who is the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud. We trust in our Holy Parent who judges and shows mercy. We hope in our Creator who is faithful to all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in the Jesus who rode in triumph into Jerusalem. We trust in the Messiah who was crucified, died, and was buried. We hope in the living Christ who walked out of the tomb.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, giver of faith and formation. We trust in the Breath of Life who stirs, sustains, and sanctifies. We hope in our Advocate who brings to us, and through us, the gift of God's peace.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Mark 11:1-11

read from the *New International Version*

MESSAGE:

"After the Parade"

Pastor Burtnett

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” #261

*** GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACAE OF CHRIST**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) is from *Led By Love-Worship Resources for Yea B* by Lavon Bayler. The Opening Prayer (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted are by Kirsten Liford, from the *Abingdon Worship Annual 2021* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is by *Rev. Julia Seymour, Lutheran Church of Hope, Anchorage AK.*

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

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March Radio Sponsor: Ginny Buchanan

Birthdays: 4-1 Jan Woodyard; 4-2 Harold Reynolds

Wednesday March 30: Newsletter article deadline for the April/May newsletter

Friday, April 2: 7pm. Good Friday Worship

Sunday, April 4: 10 AM - Easter service with Communion

We need radio sponsors for the months of October, November and December. Please call the church office to reserve a month. Thank you.

The *Our Daily Bread* special Easter devotional “Love-10 Easter Reflections” is available on the cart in the entry way to the Education/Office/Fellowship Hall building. Stop by and pick one up or we will drop one off for you or mail it to you.



Holy Week