



He has been raised.

—*Mark 16:6*

REJOICE!

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Easter Sunday
April 4, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Leader: This is the day God has made.

People: Let's rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: This is the day that sees Christ rise.

People: Let's rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: This is the day of new beginnings, for Christ has risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***OPENING SONG:** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

#288

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

God of hope, in the midst of death, you call forth life. When all hope seemed gone, you raised Jesus from the grave. We come before you today, longing for your life-giving presence. God of new life, raise us up with all your people. Lift us from the tombs of our despair and doubt, that we may rejoice in your power over death. God of joy, fill our hearts with alleluias as we sing your praises. Glory to you. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Whether we can gather as one today, or feel we need to stay apart; whether we continue to huddle in the shadows and take tentative steps into the light, on this day, we come to you, fear-removing God. We would like to think we have been so distanced from you, that you have not noticed our foolishness. During the last months, we have kept the door to hope shut so tight, afraid to open it. So eager to go back to before this pandemic year began, we are hesitant to trust in the future you hold out to us.

Yet, as persistent as Mary at the tomb, Joy of our hearts, you come, to open the gates of hope, so we might walk in the gardens of life; you come, to open the gates of grace, so

we might plant peace in the wilderness of the world; you come, to open the gates of resurrection, so we might know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

Leader: This is the day of resurrection and new life. This is the day God offers us steadfast hope and love which will never end.

People: We will sing and dance on this day! We are still, we will be again, we are always Easter people! We will rejoice and give thanks to the God who saves us. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 118:1-2,14 -24

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We belong to God, creator of all that is and all that is to come, abundant provider of the gifts in this life and the gifts in our own hearts. It is God alone who gives life, who is generous beyond measure with grace and blessing.

We follow Christ, whom God sent to teach and heal, to show us a new way of living, with love and trust and courage, with joy and generosity. In this faith Jesus gave of himself, even his very life. He was crucified and buried; yet God raised him from death, and he lives among us, and grants his spirit to us.

We live by that Holy Spirit, and entrust ourselves to its guidance and empowerment. As members of the church, the Body of Christ, we devote ourselves to lives of love, rejoicing in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE John 20:1-18 read from *The Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "Stones" Pastor Burnett

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE Invitation, Communion Prayer, Words of Institution, Prayer of Consecration, Lord's Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and received all of Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one

another and send us forth into the world with courage and in peace to be the church, your Easter people, disciples of our risen Savior. Amen.

AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Living God, you have given us the gift of new life. Grateful for this gift, we bring our offerings. Use them to share your word of hope, your promise of forgiveness, and your blessings with all creation. Grateful for your love, we offer ourselves, that we might walk with our neighbors into your garden of love. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG:** "Crown Him with Many Crowns" #317

***GOING FORTH WITH the PEACE of CHRIST**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer (adapted), and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by Mary Petrina Boyd from the *Abingdon Worship Annual 2021* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Gamaas-Holmes. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is adapted from the *Book of Worship-United Church of Christ*.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector:
Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett
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April Radio Sponsors: Chris and Pam Burtnett





David Burrow	in memory of George and Betty Burrow
David Burrow	in memory of Margaret Burrow Sullivan
Chris and Pam Burtnett	in memory of loved ones
Ginny Buchanan	in memory of Russ
Scott and Sandy Buchanan	In memory of Glenn and Edith Buchanan, early members of our church
Marilyn Deal	in memory of her parents, Bob and Elaine Deal
Don and Becky Marine	in memory of our parents
Don and Becky Marine	in memory of our granddaughter Olivia Bachman
Mick and Kris Schlievert	in memory of Charles and Helen Schlievert
Mick and Kris Schlievert	in memory of Betty Wilcox
John and Helen Scuffham	in memory of our parents Joe and Edna Skow and John and Mildred Scuffham
Chuck West family	in memory of Mary Ellen and Eric Lee West

Birthdays: 4-6 Carter Bachman; 4-7 Becky Marine

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sunday, April 4: Easter Sunday Worship with Communion
Recorded Worship Service available on Website later this afternoon.

Tuesday: 9:30-11:30 am. - Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

Thursday: 8:30 am. Ministerial Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 11: 10:00 am. Worship

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

Blood Drive: Monday, April 12:30 pm and Tuesday 9:00 am-2:00 pm at 1st United
Methodist Church. Call for appointments at 1-800-287-4903.

The Easter Daily Bread is in the front entry of the Fellowship hall.