

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

515-295-2845

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Second Sunday of Easter
April 11, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(read responsively)

One: Come, walk in the light.

Many: We walk together as children of light and love.

One: Come, gather in the love of God.

Many: We gather as children of light and love.

One: Come, live in the unity of God's Holy Spirit.

Many: We live together as children of light and love.

All: Let's worship God.

***OPENING**

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

#289

***OPENING PRAYER**

(read together)

Life-giving God, maker of all that is good, we rejoice in your goodness. Shine the light of your presence upon us this day that we may walk in fellowship with one another. May the peace of your presence unite us in fellowship as we worship and praise your high and holy name. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

In the brain fog of these weary days, we not only have trouble finding words of hope and life, God of Grace, we have even more trouble turning words into actions. We continue to struggle to be one in heart and soul, as we choose sides, listen to conflicting voices, and turn our backs on those who are different. And with such great grace poured out on us, we tend to hoard it, rather than sharing it with those around us.

Forgive us, God of love. Forgive us, that we would rather stay behind the locked doors of our fears, rather than go out into the light of the future you offer to us. Fill us with

healing and grace as we offer our brokenness to you, that we might be made whole. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: This is the good news of old, as well as fresh as today: God comes into our lives, to lead us out of fear's shadows into the life God offers to us.

Many: This is the word we have heard; this is the voice we hear; this is the grace which is ours: God is faithful, forgiving us, and making us whole. Thanks be to God! Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-31

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Acts 4:32-35

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

"Heart and Soul"

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

Generous God, we offer you our gifts. Bless them with the power of your Holy Spirit. Bless us with a spirit of unity and love. Bless our ministries that we may bring your message of unity and love for all the world to know. In your Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

"The Day of Resurrection"

#299

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship(adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by Mary Scifres from the *Abingdon Worship Annual 2021* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Invocations and Benedictions for the Revised Common Lectionary* by John M. Drescher. 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 from The United Church of Canada website. <http://www.united-church.ca/beliefs/creed>

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

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April Radio Sponsor: Chris and Pam Burtnett

Birthdays: 4-12 Nancy Walker, 4-13 John Scuffham, 4-17 Cooper Heath

Tuesday, April 13: 9:30 – 11:30 am. - Pastor Chris at Feed Mill
7 pm. Future Ministry Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, April 14: 7:00 pm. - Board Meeting in person in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, April 15: 1-3 pm. - Pastor Chris in IMN Meeting

Sunday, April 18: 10:00 am. - Worship

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

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