

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Third Sunday of Easter
April 18, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Christ is risen, and greets us with peace.

Many: The peace of Christ is among us, indeed.

One: We are witnesses of God's glory and steadfast love.

Many: The transforming love of Christ is among us, indeed!

One: Come, let's worship.

*OPENING SONG

"Thine Is the Glory"

#310

*OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

God of love and light, we come as witnesses of your glory and faithfulness, amazed to discover your transformative love. We desire for you to abide within us, and for your grace to be revealed anew daily. Be with us and awaken within us the call to love one another, in the way it was made real through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

God of empty tombs: Peter speaks with power and clarity of his faith, while we remain silent. The psalmist speaks of trusting in you, while our doubts overwhelm us. Jesus is ready to come and grace us with peace, but our fears keep our hearts shuttered and locked.

God of full hearts: your love can change us from scared people to children of grace. You can weed doubts from our hearts and plant seeds of joy in their place. You can silence the panic of our souls with the peace Jesus offers to each of us. Transform us into Easter people, through the power of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: What marvelous love, what wondrous grace, what abundant mercy God offers to us! We really are God's people - that is exactly who we are!

Many: We are God's children - those whose lives have been changed by the One who loves us and forgives us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:36b-48

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We are God's. We belong to The One who creates all things, in whose image all people are made.

We are Christ's. He has loved us, healed us, called us, and anointed us with his Spirit.

We belong to his death and resurrection and ministry.

We are the Spirit's. We belong to the church, the Body of Christ. God gives us the gifts of forgiveness, resurrection, and eternal life, and the gift of participating in the healing of the world by God's grace. As God's beloved, we devote ourselves to God and to God's will, wholly, joyfully and with the help of Christ. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

1 John 3:1-7

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

"Who Knows?"

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

God of abundant love, we offer a portion of our time, spiritual gifts, and resources as a sign of our love for you and the world. We give you our thanks for all that we have and ask a special blessing on these offerings. May our collective offering be an expression of healing, that brings hope to a hurting world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

"The Strife Is O'er"

#290

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship(adapted), Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Worship Ways- Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. 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 Steve Garnaas-Holmes

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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: 4-22 Sandy Harmes-Buchan

Tuesday, April 20: 9:30 – 11:30 am. - Pastor Chris at Feed Mill
7 pm. Future Ministry Zoom Meeting

Thursday, April 22: 10 am. – Clergy Cluster in Humboldt

Saturday, April 24: 9am Pilgrim Heights Zoom Board Meeting

Sunday, April 25: 10:00 am. – Worship
Mission and Memorial Committee will meet after Worship

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

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

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