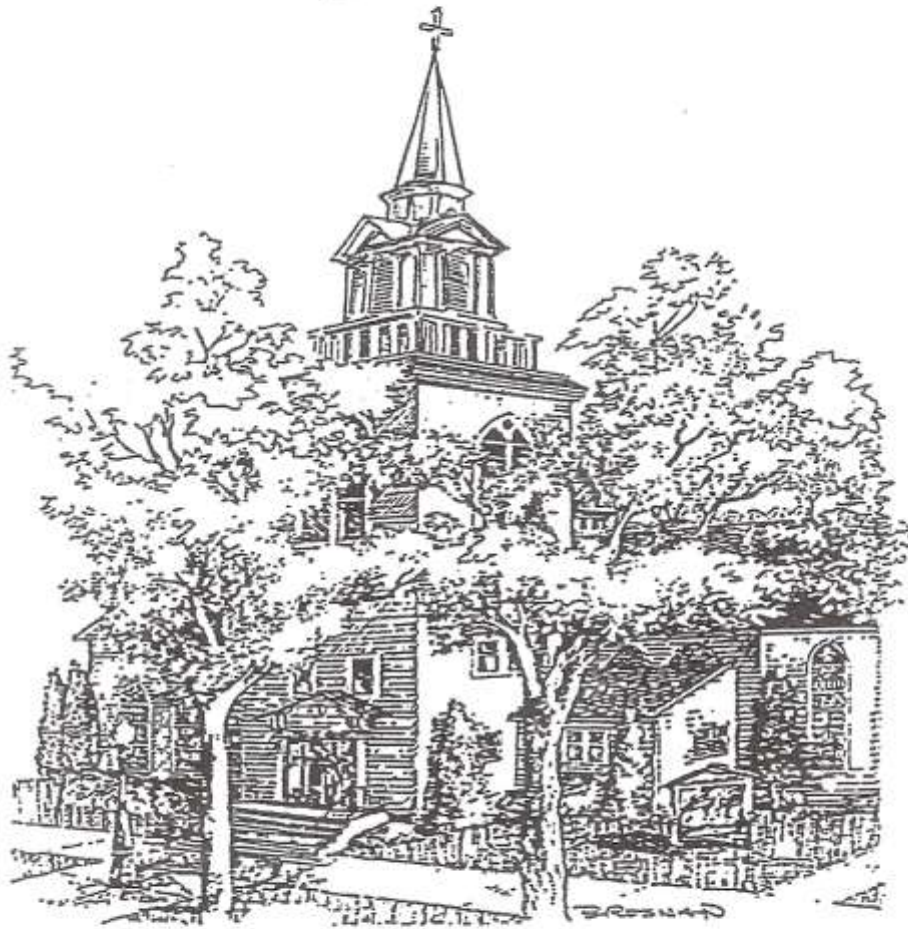


First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

515-295-2845

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(read responsively)

One: We gather in the presence of our God:

Many: where grieving people and children with skinned knees have their tears wiped away.

One: We gather as the little children of God:

Many: to worship the One who provides what we need, not what we want.

One: We gather to be fed by God:

Many: to taste the goodness of God, to drink deeply from God's mercy, and offer God our praise.

***OPENING SONG**

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

#96

***OPENING PRAYER**

(read together)

Shepherd of love, guide our thoughts and our actions that we too might become shepherds of love. Speak to our hearts as we listen this day, that our hearts may expand and embrace all of your sheep. Love us fully, that we might love all the flocks of your world as fully as we are loved by you. In your shepherding love, we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Comfort of your people: we confess the emptiness of our souls which sends us searching for all those things which cannot nourish us. Our restless longing for the goods of the world fill us with every lust and envy. Our belief that still waters are stagnant causes us to thirst for whitewater thrills and adventures. Our trust in the hollow promises of our culture turns us away from the shelter you offer to us.

Forgive us, Goodness Incarnate. Call us back from our wayward lives, so we may find rest in the stillness of your gentle heart; we may find healing from your scarred hands;

we may find that life for which we yearn, together in you and through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: This is the good news: God will walk with us in every moment, God will fill us with goodness and mercy, God will bring us home to live forever.

Many: Anointed with grace and forgiveness, our lives overflow with love for all people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:11-18

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in God, who is love, whose love is manifest in all Creation, in our lives, and in all people.

We follow Christ, who embodied God's love. In his life and ministry, his death and resurrection, and his granting to us of his Spirit, he filled us with that love as well.

We live by the Spirit, the presence of God's love in us. In that love we participate in the Church, Body of Christ, in loving God by loving our neighbors through our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service. Love is our faith, and it is a gift from God.

We thank God, and ask God's blessings, that we may love in the name of Christ and the power of the Spirit, to God's glory. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

1 John 3:16-24

read from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE:

"Multi-Tasking Disciples"

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

Loving God, bless these gifts and all the ways in which we give. May each of our gifts be a part of co-creating and tending to the love, safety, belonging, and dignity You envision for the world. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

"Guide My Feet"

insert

Guide My Feet

497

African-American traditional; alt.

Heb. 12:1-15

1 Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet
2 Hold my hand while I run this race, hold my hand
3 I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child
4 Stand by me while I run this race, stand by me

Yes, my God.

while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,
while I run this race, hold my hand while I run this race,
while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race,
while I run this race, stand by me while I run this race,

Yes, my God.

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

*This stanza may be added following stanza 1:
Wheel with me while I run this race . . .*

The words and music of some African-American spirituals have been widely adapted during the twentieth century, especially in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. The alternate words were suggested by a fifth-grade church school class to include those who must "run this race" in a wheelchair.

Tune: GUIDE MY FEET 8.8.8.10.
African-American traditional
Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

Words and music: African American traditional

Arr. by Joyce Finch Johnson ©1992

All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #735868-A

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

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

=====

Organist: Liz Reynolds

Lector: David Burrow

Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Burnett

=====

April Radio Sponsor: Chris and Pam Burnett

Birthdays: 4-26 Greyson Burnett

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

Tuesday, April 27: 9:30 – 11:30 am. - Pastor Chris at Feed Mill
7 pm. Future Ministry Zoom Meeting

Sunday, May 2: 10:00 am. – Worship with Communion

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.