

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is a Stranger”
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 9, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: We gather to worship the One who crafted creation out of chaos,

Many: our cries of joy join the anthems of the universe.

One: We gather to lift our praise to the God who gives us voice,

Many: we bring the songs which have echoed in our hearts all week long.

One: We gather as the children of God, our joy unbroken in God's love.

Many: young and old, tone deaf and perfect-pitched lift the new, new songs of faith.

*OPENING SONG

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

#71

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Spirit of Love, abide in us and in our worship. Whisper your song of love in our hearts, that love may flow through every word we hear, every thought we think, every word we speak and every song we sing. Spirit of power and grace, abide in us, that we may abide in your love and proclaim your song of love for all. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Joy-giving God, we know who we are: people who hear the harmony of your grace and love in our souls, but sing off-key so often. We want to learn new songs, but those haunting tunes of our past mistakes run through our heads. We long to make a joyful noise to you, but the hurts inflicted on us, and the pain we have caused others, silence our voices.

Sing to us, Conductor of Grace: sing of your forgiveness, your hope, your love for us. Strike a chord of humility in our hearts so our eyes could see all you have done for us; and in seeing, we might believe how much you love us; and in believing, we would echo

that new song of hope and life composed through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Listen to the melody of the good news: Christ is risen, bringing joy into the world. The One who was dead now lives, and wraps us in the delight of life forever with our God.

Many: Now, our dirges have turned to joy; our requiem has been rearranged as a hymn of hope; our laments are lost in a cantata of praise. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:9-17

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in God, maker of all things, provider of all things, who loves all people.

We follow Jesus, in whom salvation has come to us: he sees us for who we are, heals the wounds of our hearts, and makes us new. In his death and resurrection we see the deepest truth of life.

We live by the power of the Holy Spirit, which empowers us for self-giving love.

We give thanks for the Church, the Body of Christ, and for the gift of forgiveness, the power of resurrection and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Psalms 98

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

“Sing a New Song”

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

Bless these gifts and all of us gathered here, Gracious God, that we may abide in your love and that your love may abide in these gifts. In your loving name, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

“New Songs of Celebration Render”

#8

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by Mary Scifres from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2021* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. 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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May Radio Sponsor: Dennis and Connie Schwab

Birthdays: 5-13: Jack Grindberg

Sunday, May 9: 10:00 am. – Worship
Rural Life Sunday
Mother’s Day

Tuesday, May 11: 9:00 am. - Pastor Chris at Committee on Ministry at Calumet

Thursday, May 13: 8:30 am. – Ministerial Association Meeting at Algona Faith

Friday, May 14: 9-11:15 am- Pastor Chris-Care Center Worship Services

Sunday, May 16: 10:00 am. – Worship

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

We will be continuing our donations to the Food Pantry on the first Sunday of every month. Donations of canned food, paper products and monetary donations are welcome. If you include your monetary donation with your offering be sure to mark the amount in the memo of your check.

Update on the COVID 19 vaccinations:

- Beginning May 5, drive through vaccine clinics will be held at the Kossuth County Fairgrounds (700 East Fair Street, Algona).
- Online registration will be available for the May 5 clinic
- Phone registration is available. Call 515-295-4450, then press 2 to leave a message. A public health employee will respond to your message to set up an appointment.
- Drive through vaccine clinics will be offered on Wednesdays throughout the month of May at the Kossuth County Fairgrounds.

