

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST—ALGONA, IOWA
First Sunday after Easter
10:00 A.M. – April 24, 2022

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETING, GOOD NEWS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the good news which we proclaim.

Jesus Christ is raised from the dead!

Let us walk in the light of his love.

Live in the light of his teachings and healing mercies.

Come, let us worship the One who overcame death.

Let us celebrate the triumph of our Lord. Amen.

* **OPENING HYMN:** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” #358

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, one in grace, one in glory, one in love – you call us to love and serve you as one people, united in heart, mind, spirit, and strength. Help us to love one another, living in unity and peace, working together in your Spirit for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our reconciler and redeemer.

BRIEF REFLECTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

As hard as we try, we often fall short of the standard God has set for us.
Let us confess our sins before God.

Lord God, you made the hearts of the disciples glad with the knowledge of the resurrection of Jesus, your Son. Forgive us because, like them, we find the truth of Easter so hard to believe; forgive us that we are so easily downcast, and given to despair; forgive us that, although we claim to live by the resurrection faith, we

so often appear to believe that suffering is simply a tragedy and that death is the end; forgive us that we take so much convincing of the hope that you give to the world.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God knows us better than we know ourselves, and forgives all of our sins.

Come to us, Lord God, in the power of the risen Christ. Take away our crippling doubts and fears, and through your Holy Spirit bring us to life in your service; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 21: 13 – 24, 28 - 31

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: “Our Statement of Faith”

The purpose of the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Algona, Iowa is to be an alive and growing family of faith in God, the God whom we know through Jesus Christ and who has given us in Jesus the image of what human life is meant to be.

We strive to mature in faith by encouraging the free exploration of our Christian beliefs so that our faith will be more relevant to our individual lives and to the society in which we live.

With friendship and understanding, we find strength in the diversity of the interests and backgrounds of our members. We welcome all persons who would seek with us answers to life’s ultimate questions.

We take love to be the heart of the Gospel of Jesus and the unifying force in our church. Therefore, we celebrate God’s love and blessings in worship. We nurture one another through acceptance, caring, and sharing. We reach out beyond ourselves to the needs of others, to promote justice and to witness to God’s love.

In all that we do, we seek to continue our heritage of being a pioneering people in a changing world.

* **GLORIA PATRI:** “Glory Be to the Father ...”

#734

SCRIPTURE: John 20: 19 – 21, 24 – 29

MESSAGE: "Recognizing Jesus" David Burrow

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Respond: Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS – OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" #34

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of Light and Hope, we bring our offering this morning, still riding the joy of our Easter celebration of your triumph over the grave! In the knowledge of your priceless gift, we bring our gifts and we offer ourselves to make this good news known throughout the world. With praise and thanksgiving, we dedicate these gifts. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

* HYMN: "Sent Forth By God's Blessing" #712

* GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

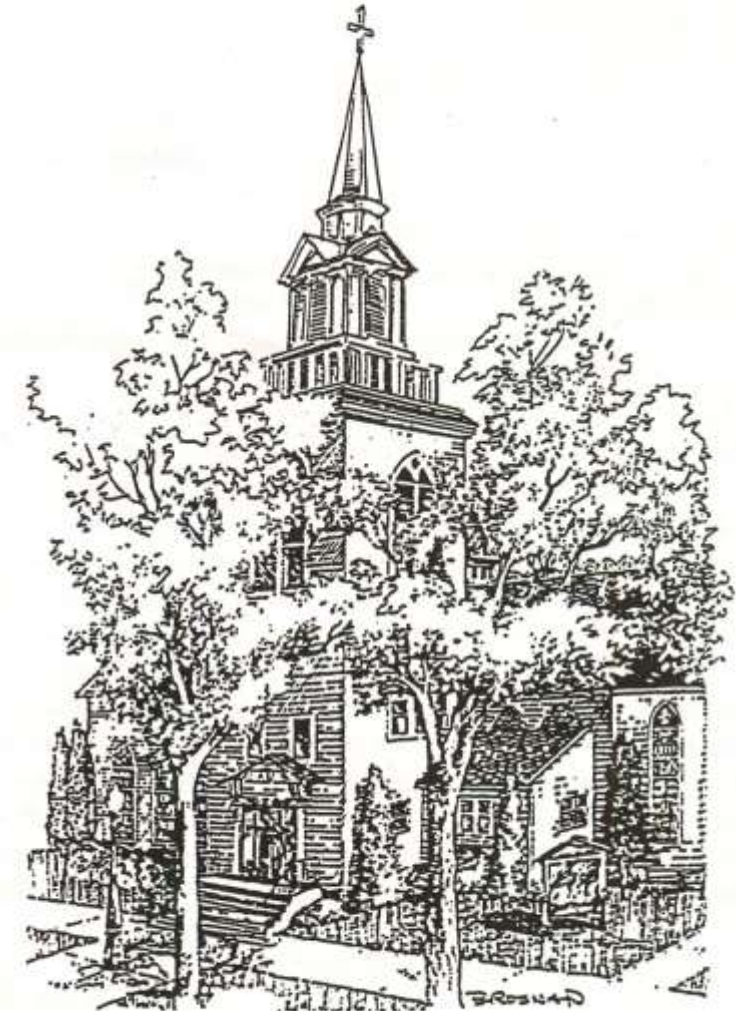
POSTLUDE

=====
Organist: Elizabeth Reynolds
Worship Leader: David Burrow
Pastor: Rev. Chris Burnett
=====

- Call to worship and opening prayer by Nancy Townley; prayer of confession and assurance of pardon by Neil Dixon, from reworship.blogspot.com.
- Offertory prayer from United Methodist Discipleship Ministries.

=====

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa



"Where No One Is A Stranger"