

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
315 S Moore St.  
Algona, Iowa  
515-295-2845  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
May 8, 2022

**PRELUDE**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

One: Frayed and frazzled, our lives jangling with tension and anxiety, we gather to find that place of peace which God offers to us.

Many: Awash in worries and doubts, drowning in a sea of fears, we gather beside the still waters where Jesus offers us a cup of grace.

One: Weakened by the burdens of life, wandering as if lost in a wilderness,

Many: we gather so the Spirit can restore our souls and show us the path to God's realm.

One: Let's worship God!

**\*OPENING SONG** "The Day of Resurrection" #298

**\*OPENING PRAYER** (read together)

God, our shepherd—Restorer of our souls—the one who calls us to nap in green pastures—we enter into this moment of worshipful gathering trusting that you will guide us along the paths of faithfulness. Wherever we may be in this world, let us know your comforting presence. We are expectant, God, that our fears will fade, that our cups will overflow, and that your goodness and mercy will accompany us in this hour and beyond. Now, let us worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

**TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (read together)

God who shepherds us, you must wonder how long we will continue to live the way we do. We snatch hope out of the grasp of those who need it most. Our acts of kindness are offered only to those we think to be deserving of our generosity. We gather around to watch endless reality shows, while those whose real lives are filled with struggle and

loss are ignored.

Yet you refuse to keep forgiveness a mystery, Gracious God, but offer it to us without any hesitation. You gather us in the green pastures of mercy, so we might find hope; you offer us a drink of the living waters so we might become still enough to listen to your heart; you send the Spirit to take us by the hand to lead us on the paths of justice; the goodness and mercy of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, follow us all the days as we seek to be faithful in our calling to serve him. Amen.

**SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (read responsively)

One: Hear the good news: God will lead us into places of hope; God will give us the waters of life to strengthen us; God will be with us in every moment, in every place of our lives.

Many: Anointed with grace, fed with joy and wonder, we offer blessing and thanksgiving to the One who forgives us now and forever. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE RADING** Psalm 23

**\*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together)

We believe that God is in the world-was and is and will be. God made it all, and continues to renew and remake and resurrect. We know God best in the life of Jesus, who was and is our maker of hope, the one who saves. We know the power and energy of God in the Holy Spirit. We are filled with God's joy and pledged to discipleship and love. We trust in God. We celebrate God. We work together for justice and peace though God. We are never alone. We are fee in the chosen bonds of the ways of Jesus. Thanks be to God! Amen.

**GLORIA PATRI** #734

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE** John 10:22-30 shared from the *Common English Bible*

**MESSAGE:** "Patience Challenged" Pastor Burtnett

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER**

**PRESENTING OUT GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY** Words #44

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (prayed together)

