



*And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;
and there shall be no more death,
neither sorrow, nor crying,
neither shall there be any more pain:
for the former things are passed away.
Revelation 21:4*

*First Congregational
United Church of Christ*

315 Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
515-295-2845

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315 S Moore St.
Algona, Iowa
515-295-2845
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 15, 2022

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(read responsively)

One: Celebrate our God, from the plains to the mountains!

Many: Celebrate our God, from the waters and hills.

One: Sing to our God who designed creation.

Many: Fill the air with song to the One who painted the world with love.

One: Let us praise our God, the author of grace.

Many: Let us worship our God, the composer of joy.

***OPENING SONG**

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

#23

***OPENING PRAYER**

(read together)

Spirit of Joy-Basking in your presence, we dance in the knowledge that your presence dwells with us. We celebrate your name, your grace, your love in this space with our siblings. We proclaim our excitement that we, together, can glorify your name through sharing your love. May this minute be the start of a new chapter of our love for you and our love for our neighbors. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Who are we to get in your way, Holy God? We put people into neat, little boxes, but you rip them open, so folks can dance in your joy. We imprison others with our unmet expectations, and you set them free with a Word. We build walls around those we don't know, and you tear them down, so they can run wild in your realm.

Who are we to get in your way, Saving Power, especially in the way of your forgiveness

offered to all! Give us your vision that sees everyone as equal - forgiven, graced, loved - even as we seek to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: We know who God is by the love shown to us in Christ Jesus.

Many: We will show others who we are - and Whose we are - by the love poured out by our lives. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE RADING

John 13:31-35

*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

Revelation 21:1-6

Shared from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE:

"God's Peoples"

Pastor Burnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUT GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

Holy God, you have given us so much. From the bounty of your blessings, we offer these gifts back to you. Use them for your glory, as we work to bring your realm here on earth. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

#600

*** GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

POSTLUDE

*Indicates all who are able please stand

The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer 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 *Lectioary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by Mark Sorensen from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2022*, edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Best. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Gamaas-Holmes.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds

Lector: David Burrow

Worship Leader: Pastor Burnett

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May Radio Sponsor: Meredith Hines and Family in Memory of Julie Buchanan

Birthdays: 5-16: Mark Scuffham

Sunday, May 15: 10:00 am.- Worship
Last Day of Sunday School
Coffee

Tuesday, May 17: 9:30-11am. - Pastor Chris Coffee at Feed Mill

Wednesday, May 18: 8:30am. - Multi-disciplinary Team Meeting
7pm.- Board Meeting
7pm.- Baccalaureate at Wilcox Center

Sunday, May 15: 10 am - Worship
Coffee

Sunday, June 5, will receive the 5 for 5 special offering for Strengthen the Church.

The *Our Daily Bread* special Easter devotional "Peace to You-10 Easter Reflections" is available on the cart in the entry way to the Education/Office/Fellowship Hall building.

First United Methodist Church is having a Ladies Guest Day Salad Luncheon at noon on June 2. Please RSVP if you are going by May 23, phone: 515-295-2779 or dkcrail@gmail.com.



All Together!

In 2021, the Maine Conference utilized their **Strengthen the Church Offering** funds to create **Clergy Pandemic Renewal (CPR) Grants** as one way to combat the growing levels of burnout experienced by clergy. Between offering front-line spiritual care and leading their communities through massive adaptive change, our clergy were reporting deeply worrying levels of exhaustion and overwhelm.

Recent research by Drs. Emily and Amelia Nagoski found seven effective strategies for helping people process stress and move back into health: physical activity, breathwork, deep connection with friends and loved ones, belly laughter, crying, affectionate touch, and creative expression. Strengthen the Church funds enabled the Maine Conference to offer grants of up to \$800 per authorized minister to fund proposals for activities

corresponding to those seven strategies. Since the launch of our CPR grant program, 28 clergy have received funds for travel, retreats, therapeutic massage, exercise equipment, gym memberships, coaching, therapy, art supplies, and even an electric drum set.

Strengthen the Church funds made it possible for the Maine Conference to equip our clergy with the necessary tools to process the pandemic's pervasive emotional, spiritual, and physical fatigue. As one clergy member recently reflected, "The CPR Grant from the Maine Conference came along at the time when I needed it the most...this grant allowed me to take time just for me to tend to my mind, body, and soul. My renewal retreat funded by this grant gave me critical space for clarity and deep discernment."

The Strengthen the Church Offering supports the efforts of our conferences and the national ministries of the United Church of Christ to support leaders, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Together, we all grow stronger.

Rev. Alexis Fuller-Wright (she/her/hers)
Designated Term, Associate Conference Minister
Main Conference
United Church of Christ

**Gifts to the Strengthen the Church Offering
Renew the United Church of Christ.**

All Together!

