

First Congregational United Church of Christ
315 S Moore St.
Algona, Iowa
515-295-2845
Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 29, 2022

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We have been invited to know God.

Many: Let us enter the knowledge of God.

One: We have been invited to bear God's justice.

Many: Let us enter the justice of God.

One: We have been invited to enter God's truth.

Many: Let us enter the truth of God.

One: We have been invited to enter God's unity.

Many: Let us enter the unity of God.

One: Let's worship God.

*OPENING SONG

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

#106

*OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Holy Healing One, Righteous Restorer—We come as standard-bearers of your love, offering our disconnected lives in return for your unity. May we know you in this place, not as lone individuals but as faithful fragments seeking to be made whole again. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Creating God, in selfishness and insecurity, we have traded your healing for our hatred, your calling for our comfort, your truth for our traditions, your covenant for our conventions, your faithfulness for our fragmentation, your care for our convenience, your solidarity for our self-righteousness, your promise for our praise.

Forgive us, we pray. Speak to us again of your love, that we may know you, and by knowing you, we may once again be made whole. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Beloved of God, hear the good news. God's love never fails us. Even in our division and despair, God desires to be made known.

Many: We are forgiven. We are welcome. We are one. Thanks be to God! Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE RADING

Acts 1:1-11 read from the *Common English Bible*

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We are a community of faith. We share a vision of God: a God whose spirit is love, accessible to all yet beyond our knowing, the source of all being, the way leading to wholeness, the spirit which pervades everything. We search for the meaning of God and our own experience revealed in those sacred stories which have been passed down to us. We tell them again and again: Of God the Creator, the Almighty, who made everything that is, and saw that it was good. Of Jesus of Nazareth, who in history lived among us, healed the afflicted, taught, suffered and died. He forgave those who crucified him. In the mystery of the resurrection he continues to live more profoundly through the ages, the Incarnation of Love, the Christ, to whom his disciples have responded "My Lord and my God!" He shows us the Way which leads to the reconciliation of all things, saying "Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me." It is the Way of love, Compassion, justice, forgiveness and peace. Of the Spirit, the Breath, the Wind of God, the Giver of Life, the Holy Wisdom, who inspires the people of God to cry out for justice for the powerless and oppressed, to see the presence of God in every created thing, and to respond with love. Of the Communion of saints: all the people of God, living, dead and yet to be born, who are empowered to recognize that they are, and always have been, brothers and sisters, one family in God.

We are reborn in the Spirit, followers of that Way shown by Jesus: to love God with our whole being; to love our neighbors as ourselves; to treat others as we would have them treat us; to strive for justice and peace; to have respect and compassion for every person and for the whole of creation; to forgive those who do us harm; to love one another as Christ has loved us.

We journey together on this Way towards reconciliation with the whole creation. We break bread together and pray together. We reach out to one another for strength beyond our own.

This is our community. This is our faith. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:44-53

shared from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE:

"Jesus Has Left the Building.....Sort Of"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(prayed together)

In appreciation for the blessing in our lives, we offer you these gifts from our hearts, Generous God. Receive them, we pray, in the name of Jesus, who ascended to heaven, that our lives here on earth might be filled with your Spirit. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

#358

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

POSTLUDE

*Indicates all who are able please stand

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession is from *Gathered By Love-Worship Resources for Year C* by Lavon Bayler. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by B.J. Beu from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2022*, edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by *St. John's-Grace Episcopal Church*.

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Organist:	Liz Reynolds
Lector:	David Burrow
Worship Leader:	Pastor Burtnett
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May Radio Sponsor: Meredith Hines and Family in Memory of Julie Buchanan

Birthdays: June 3: Karen West

Sunday, May 29: 10:00 am.- Worship
Coffee

Monday, May 30: Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 31: 9:30-11am. - Coffee at Feed Mill
June/July Newsletter Articles are due

Friday, June 3: 10 am-4pm - Trash and Treasure Sale

Sunday, June 5: 10 am – Worship- special offering for Strengthen the Church
reception for the Mahana Scholarship recipients and families.

Sunday, June 12: Worship with Sacrament of Communion, Food Pantry
Coffee

The *Our Daily Bread* June/July/August devotional is available on the cart in the entry way to the Education/Office/Fellowship Hall building.

Algona Community Blood Drive: Monday June 6 12:30-5:30pm, Tuesday, June 7 from 9 am -2pm at First United Methodist Church

