

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
“Where No One Is A Stranger”  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 25, 2025

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS+

\*Call to Worship (read responsively)

One: Sing and shout for joy!

Many: God’s light shines on us.

One: Sing Praises to God! Sing Praises!

Many: Let’s worship God!

\*Opening Song: “Holy God, We Praise Your Name” #138

\*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Guiding Spirit, you come to us in visions and dreams, showing us possibilities beyond our waking reality. Open our hearts this day, that we might understand Jesus’ teaching and share his presence with others. Guide our footsteps on our journeys, that we might go where you send us and share your message of love and peace with the world. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You invite us to get up, Holy God, but too often we stay where we have always been. We seem to want clearer signs but then ignore them, stronger voices but then do not listen, for someone (anyone) to act, but then turn away. Grace is offered to us without reservation, but we cannot bring ourselves to believe it is meant for us.

Forgive us, Gracious Heart. Keep calling to us until we listen and in listening, get to our feet to walk into your promised community, and to speak of love and grace and justice, just as Jesus gives us the words to offer to others. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Friends, the One who gathered Moses to grace, the One who invited others to be whole, the One who opened hearts in unexpected places is the One who pours mercy out upon us this day.

Many: God’s grace stirs still waters, God’s hope swaddles the suffering, God’s love calls us to walk into the world. Thanks be to God! We are made whole! Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: John 14:23-29

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (read together)

Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kindom. We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good. We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever. One day all tears will be wiped away; the lamb will lie down with the lion, and justice will roll down like a mighty stream. True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired, they are assured and guaranteed in Christ. This is our faith. This is our hope.

\* GLORIA PATRI: “Glory Be to the Father” #734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men, A-men.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: Revelation 21:1-11a read from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE: “New and Improved” Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER (with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

\* DOXOLOGY: “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Receive our praise, God, for the bounty of your love. Bless the gifts we bring before you this day, that they may touch the world with your love. Amen.

CLOSING SONG: “For the Healing of the Nations” #621

\*Going Forth with the Peace of Christ

POSTLUDE

\*Indicates all who are able please stand

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by B.J. Beu from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2025* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is the 20<sup>th</sup> century South African creed. Posted on the Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren website.

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Organist:	Antonia Rupert
Worship Leader:	David Burrow
Pastor:	Rev. Chris Burtnett
May Radio Sponsor:	Larry & Sandy Person

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**Birthdays:** May 26-Sandra Williams; 27-Greta Grindberg

**Sunday**, May 25: 10:30am – Worship  
Coffee

**Monday**, May 26: 9am.- Sefrit Service at Riverview Cemetery

**Tuesday**, May 27: 9:30am.-Pastor at Feed Mill

**Wednesday**, May 28: Deadline for June/July Newsletter

**Thursday**, May 29: 10am Clergy Cluster at Humboldt UCC

**Sunday**, June 1: 10:30am – Worship with Sacrament of Communion  
Coffee  
Food Pantry

2pm.- Celebration of Gladys Mahana Scholars from 1993 -2025 in Fellowship Hall

**Sunday**, June 8:10:30am: Worship-Pentecost Sunday- Wear Red  
Coffee  
Strengthen the Church Offering

Our Daily Bread June/July/August devotion book may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.

There will be a Celebration of Gladys Mahana Scholars from 1993 -2025 on Sunday, June 1 at 2pm in Fellowship Hall. Please let past scholarship recipients know. If they can’t attend, a note on how this generous gift has impacted their life would be appreciated. Donations of some bars or cookies will be needed. Thank you.

Thursday, May 29: 5pm-Hospice of the Heartland’s 2025 Butterly Release and Memorial Program at KRHC. You can send the names of those you would like to honor, along with your name, address, and a check of \$15 per butterfly to Hospice of Heartland, 1515 South Phillips, Algona. Checks are made payable to Hospice of the Heartland

Friday, May 30: 9am-2pm.-Algona Community Blood Drive at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church



*First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
167 Years*

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