

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
315 S Moore ST., Algona, Iowa  
515-295-2845  
Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

**PRELUDE**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

One: Open the gates, for on one side of Jerusalem, a grand parade of Rome brings the pomp and circumstance of power and prestige to the streets for the Passover Feast.

**Many: Open the gates, for on the other side of Jerusalem, a humble procession enters the city among the lives of the Jewish poor and marginalized.**

One: Entering through the gates, soldiers ride in on horses with the powerful armor of Rome, bind the festal procession with power. Let the feast begin!

**Many: Entering through the gates, Jesus comes riding on a donkey and the crowd binds the festal procession by laying down palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna!"**

*All: (waving branches) Open to us the gates of God and together we will proclaim, "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!"*

**\*OPENING SONG** "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" #265

**OPENING PRAYER** (read together)

**God of humble entries, we lay down our branches on the path ahead and give thanks for this day you have created. For this is the day you have made, and we rejoice in it together. As we walk with Jesus and his followers into Jerusalem today, open the gates of our hearts that we might enter your realm with joy and thanksgiving. In the name of the One who came humbly, we pray. Amen.**

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

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (read together)

With eager hearts and open hands, Holy One, we welcome Jesus, until he refuses the power we offer him, choosing to become our servant. We pick up the faith we had laid on the ground before him, and put it back on the shelf where it belongs. Our pride keeps us from being able to follow him all the way to Calvary.

Hosanna, Steadfast God, save us! Help us to let our fears, our doubts, our faithlessness

slip from our lives to fall at your feet, so we may stand with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who comes in your name, in your glory, in your grace to save us. Amen.

**SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (read responsively)

One: Tell the daughters of despair, proclaim it to the sons of sadness: Christ has come to save us!

**Many: Hosanna! We will give our thanks to God, who comes to bring us grace, hope, life. Hosanna in the highest. Amen!**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE RADING** Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

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

**We believe in the God who is the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud. We trust in our Holy Parent who judges and shows mercy. We hope in our Creator who is faithful to all that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe in the Jesus who rode in triumph into Jerusalem. We trust in the Messiah who was crucified, died, and was buried. We hope in the living Christ who walked out of the tomb.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, giver of faith and formation. We trust in the Breath of Life who stirs, sustains, and sanctifies. We hope in our Advocate who brings to us, and through us, the gift of God's peace. Amen.**

**GLORIA PATRI** #734

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE** Matthew 21:1-11 read from *The Message*

**MESSAGE:** "Shaken and Stirred" Pastor Burtnett

**PALM SUNDAY SONG** "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" #267

**GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE**

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

**SANCTUS**

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**God of steadfast love, we thank you that at this table, you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us out in the power of your Spirit, that our lives may**

bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**PRESENTING OUR GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(prayed together)

Work through these gifts, God, that the world might know the breadth of your love and grace. Bless our very lives, that we might be faithful disciples and stewards of your love. In gratitude and joy we, pray. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG**

“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”

#268

**\* GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACAE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship (adapted), and Opening Prayer are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ.* The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by B.J. Beu from the *Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by Rev. Julia Seymour, *Lutheran Church of Hope, Anchorage AK.* The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is from St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dickinson, ND

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Worship Leader:

Pastor Chris Burtnett

Lector:

David Burrow

Organist:

Vicki Merchlewitz

April Radio Sponsor:

Scott & Sandy Buchanan

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Birthdays: 4-6: Carter Bachman, 4-7: Becky Marine

Sunday, April 2: 10:00 am.- Palm Sunday Worship with Communion

Sunday School

Palm Sunday Potluck Brunch

Tuesday, April 4: 9:30-11am. – Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

5pm. – AAUW Meets in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, April 6: 7pm. -Maundy Thursday Service with Communion

Sunday, April 17: 10 am - Easter Worship with Communion

No Sunday School



Easter, The Promise of Forgiveness, 10 Reflections from Our Daily Bread is here and may be picked up in the Fellowship entry.

**Alguna** Community Blood Drive: Mon., 4-3: 12:30-5:30pm. & Tues., 4-4: 9am-2pm. at 1<sup>st</sup> UMC.

**Monday**, April 10: 6-8pm: Kossuth County Dementia Care Group will be presenting an educational forum at the Algona Senior Center. There will be a free meal at 5:15pm. For more information contact Kris Schlievert at 515-341-0640.