

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Easter Sunday
April 9, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Christ is alive,

Many: moving among the living.

One: Christ is risen,

Many: inviting us to rise in fullness of life.

One: Christ is calling,

Many: proclaiming life and hope for all.

***OPENING SONG:** “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” #288

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Risen Christ, enter our worship and our hearts this day. As you live and move among us remind us to proclaim and live the life you offer. Inspire us to walk as children of your resurrection, each and every day. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

We come on this day, Dispeller of fears, walking through the shadows of our lives. Too often, we believe our foolishness is hidden from you; too often, we stand before the open door of hope, wondering if we dare enter. Uncertain of the good news offered to us, we would rather return to the comfort of our familiar ways rather than trusting in you.

Yet you come, as persistent as Mary at the tomb, Joy of our hearts, to open the gates of hope, so we might walk in the gardens of hope; you come, to open the gates of grace, so we might plant peace in the wilderness of the world; you come, to open the gates of resurrection, so we might know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: This is the day of resurrection and new life. This is the day God offers us steadfast hope and love which will never end.

Many: We will sing and dance on this day! We will rejoice and give thanks to the God who saves us. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 10:34-43

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

This Easter day, we rejoice that death is not the last word. God raised Jesus from death, turning sorrow into joy, despair into hope. We sing of Jesus raised from the dead. We sing hallelujah. The Risen Christ lives today, present to us and the source of our hope. We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ’s presence in the world. We are called together by Christ as a community of broken but hopeful believers, loving what he loved, living what he taught, striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place, even as we look in hope for a new heaven and a new earth. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#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

John 20:1-18

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE:

“Signs Of Hope”

Pastor Burtnett

EASTER SUNDAY SONG

“The Day of Resurrection”

#298

GATHERING AT CHRIST’S TABLE: Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, 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

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy. We

are now commissioned to: feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** #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

Giving God, receive this portion of the gifts you have given to us. May our time, treasure, and talent be magnified and multiplied for your glory. Amen.

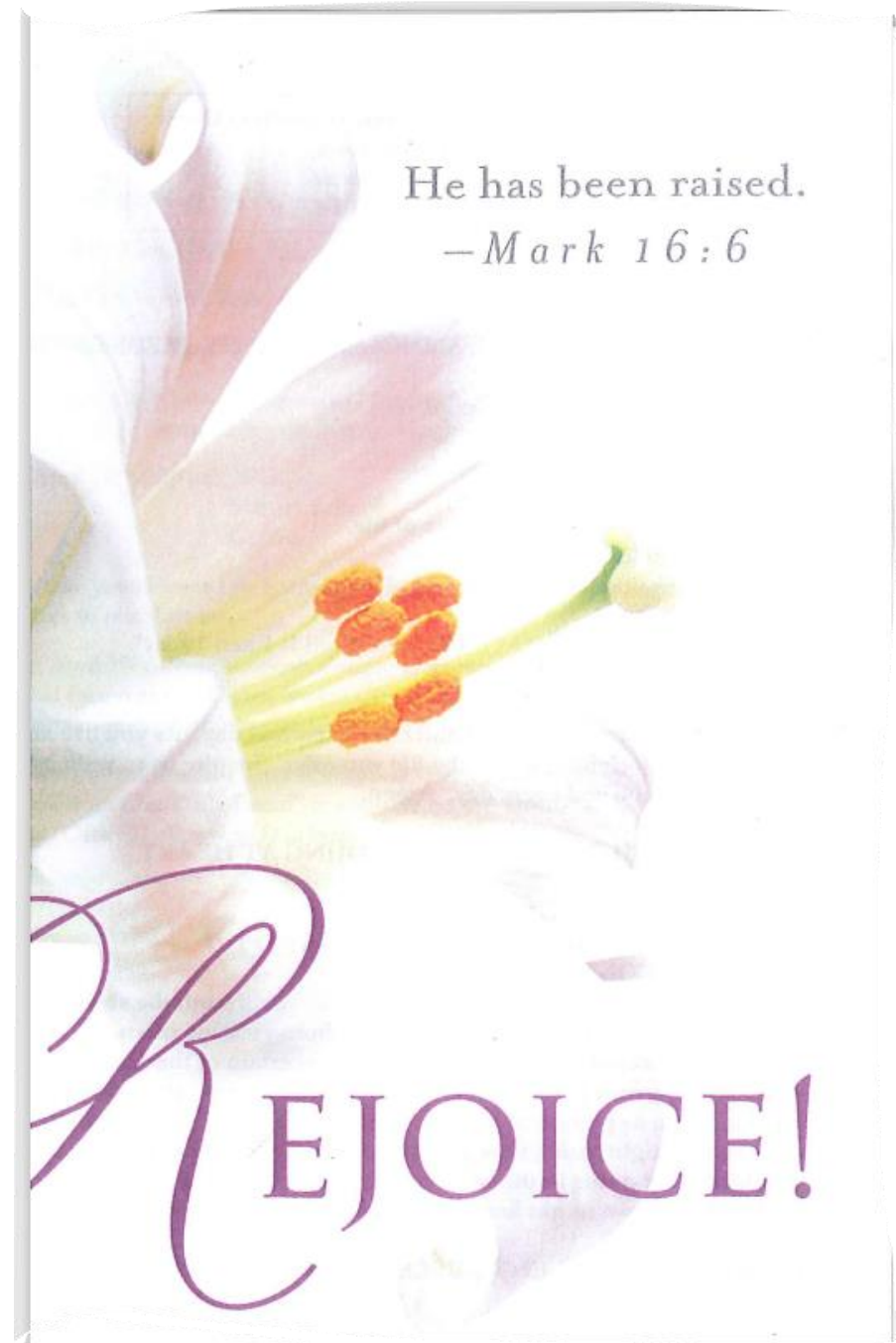
***CLOSING SONG:** "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven" #289

***GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE of CHRIST**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer are by Mary Scifres from the *Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is from the United Church of Canada. The Affirmation of Faith is from *A Song of Faith* the United Church of Canada.

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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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EASTER LILIES

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| Becky Bibler | in memory of Chuck and Mary Ellen West |
| David Burrow | in memory of George and Betty Burrow |
| David Burrow | in memory of Margaret Burrow Sullivan |
| Chris and Pam Burtnett | in memory of loved ones |
| Ginny Buchanan | in memory of Russ |
| Scott and Sandy Buchanan | in memory of Gregg and Julie Buchanan |
| Marilyn Deal | in memory of her parents, Bob and Elaine Deal |
| Phil Heath | in memory of Holly |
| Don and Becky Marine | in memory of our parents |
| Don and Becky Marine | in memory of our granddaughter Olivia Bachman |
| Katherine Myer | in memory of Don Myers |
| Larry and Sandy Person | in memory of those killed at Mexico-US border migrant center fire |
| Mick and Kris Schlievert | in memory of Charles and Helen Schlievert |
| Mick and Kris Schlievert | in memory of Betty Wilcox |
| John and Helen Scuffham | in memory of our parents Joe and Edna Skow and John and Mildred Scuffham |
| Todd and Shelly TerHark | in memory of Larry TerHark |
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Birthdays: April: 12-Nancy Walker; 13-John Scuffham;

Sunday, April 9: Easter Sunday Worship with Communion

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

Wednesday, April 12: 7pm.-Board Meeting

Thursday, April 13: 8:30am.- Ministerial Meeting in Fellowship Hall
6pm. Pastor on Pilgrim Heights Zoom Meeting

Sunday, April 16: 10:00 am. Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

You may take your Easter Lily home after worship today. Help is needed to deliver Easter Lilies to our shut-ins.

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.

The *Our Daily Bread* special Easter devotional “Easter The Promise of Forgiveness-10 Reflections from Our Daily Bread” is available on the cart in the entry way to the Education/Office/Fellowship Hall building.

