

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
"Where No One Is a Stranger"  
Second Sunday of Easter  
April 16, 2023

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: The whole creation rejoices; the birds sing from every tree.

One: Alleluia! Christ is in our midst!

Many: Babies babble with sounds of joy; words cannot express our overflowing hearts.

One: Alleluia! Christ is our light forever!

Many: Breathing peace on us in these moments; surrounding us with grace and hope.

One: Let's worship God!

### \*OPENING SONG "Thine Be the Glory" #310

### \*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

God of the risen Jesus, we praise you for the great love that you have shown to redeem us by sending your Son Jesus. Help us today to embrace the New Life that the resurrected Christ is giving us. A Life beyond our doubts, faith over fear, courage over confusion, belief over disbelief, and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today, help us to feel the presence of resurrected Jesus in our midst, reminding us of your love and our purpose. Amen.

## TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (prayed together)

God of mercy and grace, you understand us completely. Yet there are times when we don't understand this life of faith. We don't understand how Jesus rose from the dead. We don't understand how the resurrected Christ comes to us today. Moments of doubt and disbelief sap our strength. Forgive us and restore us. Help us trust you and your love for us. Help us trust the way of Jesus. Amen.

## A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: It is God's great mercy through the resurrection of Jesus which gives us that hope which lives within us.

Many: Thanks be to God for this precious gift by which we are able to believe and rejoice in our inheritance. Amen.

## SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING John 20:19-31

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

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. 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 1 Peter 1:3-9 read from the *Good News Bible*

### MESSAGE "We have Too!" Pastor Chris

### EASTER SEASON SONG "Christ Is Alive" #312

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

## OFFERTORY

### \*DOXOLOGY Words #44

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 (prayed together)

We thank you for these gifts, Holy One. As we offer them into your hands, may they bring hope and new life to the whole world. In the name of the resurrected Jesus, we pray. Amen.

### \*CLOSING SONG "Lift High the Cross" #287

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, Words of Assurance, are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by Karin Ellis from the *Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is from 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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Birthdays: April 17 Cooper Heath; 22-Sandy Harmes-Buchanan;

Today, April 16: 10 am.- Worship  
Sunday School

Tuesday, April 17-24 Pastor Chris will be on vacation

Sunday, April 23: 10:00 am. – Worship - David Burrow, Worship Leader  
Sunday School  
Coffee

Tuesday, April 25: 9:30-11:30am. – Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

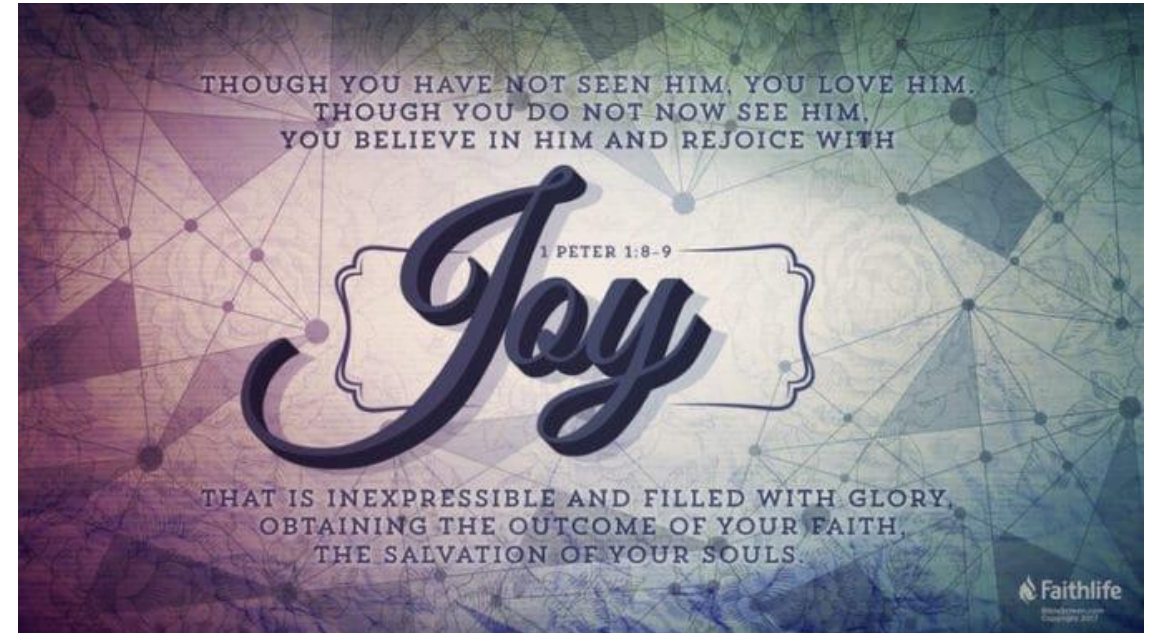
Thursday, April 27: 10am.- Pastor at Clergy Cluster in Humboldt

Saturday, April 29:9:30 am Northwest Association Meeting in Humboldt

Pastor Chris will be on vacation April 17 - April 24. Karen Dearchs will be on call. If you need pastoral assistance, please call Helen Scuffham at 515-341-4879 and she will contact Karen.

The radio sponsorship on KLGA has increased the price to \$32.50/Sunday. It would be \$130 for 4 Sundays a month and \$162.50 for 5 Sundays. We have July and October open.

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.



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