

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: As we join in worship this day, we might feel like the disciples, overwhelmed by grief.

After all, the state of the world is so uncertain now.

Many: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, "Peace be with you."

One: We might feel like Thomas, looking for physical signs that the unbelievable could be true.

After all, nothing like this has ever happened before.

Many: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, "Here are the marks on my body."

One: Can we really believe that Jesus is here again?

Many: Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on us. Christ's peace is with us. We don't need to be afraid.

One: Our resurrected Christ calls us to worship, and we receive the peace of Christ.

Many: Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!

*Opening Song: "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven" #289

*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Resurrected Christ, you have taught us how the unbelievable can be possible. When there is so much to fear in the world, we can find peace in your presence. As we worship, breathe your Spirit on us, that we may carry it with us. Help us comfort our neighbors. Help us serve a world of need. We pray this with thanksgiving for your work among us. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We use a lot of words, Gracious God, but do little to turn them into deeds. Instead of being of one heart and soul, we choose sides and form groups of folks just like us. Blessed with great grace, we have trouble sharing it with those who need it the most.

Forgive us, God of love. Forgive us, as we step out of our shadows into your light. Restore us, as we reveal our brokenness. Hear us, as we proclaim Jesus as our Risen Sovereign Savior.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: This is the good news we have to declare: God leads us out of the shadows to walk in the light of Christ.

Many: This is the word we have heard: our faithful God forgives our sins and raises us to new life. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: 1 John 1:1-2:2

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: inside the back cover of hymnal (read together)

* 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: John 20:19-31 read from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE: "One Week Later" 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

God of the Resurrection, help us use these gifts to offer hope where there is sorrow, peace where there is chaos and love where there is fear. We can do incredible things because your Spirit lives within us. Amen.

* CLOSING SONG: "Christ Is Alive" #312

*Going Forth with the Peace of Christ

POSTLUDE

***Indicates all who are able please stand**

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication were written by Rev. Jacob Nault, Pastor of Union-Congregational Church in Waupun, WI from Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are by Thom M. Shuman from Lectionary Liturgies. The Affirmation of Faith is a version of our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith.

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Organist:	Antoina Rupert
Worship Leader:	David Burrow
Pastor:	Rev. Chris Burtnett
April Radio Sponsor:	Todd & Shelly TerHark

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Birthdays: April: 7-Becky Marine; 12-Nancy Walker

Sunday, April 7: 10:30am - Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
Food Pantry

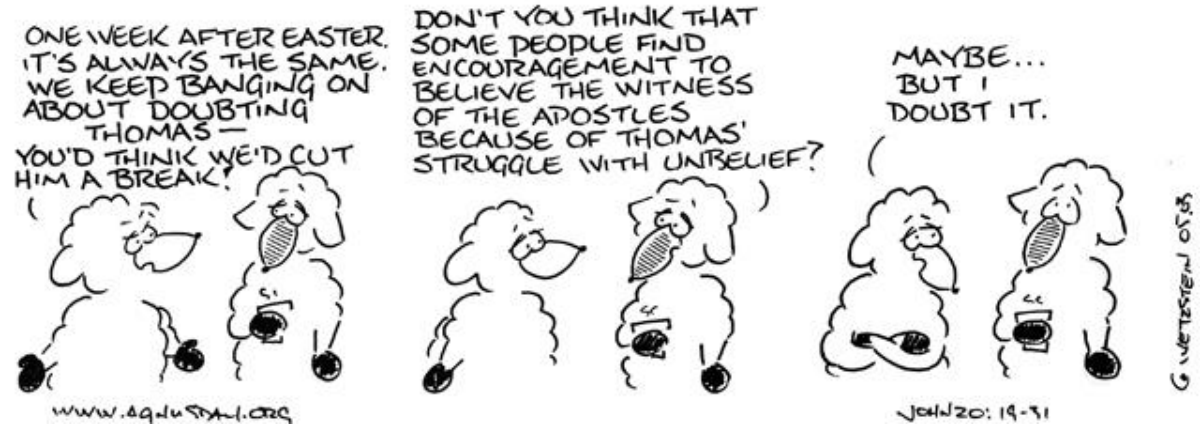
Tuesday, April 9: 9:30am- Pastor Feed Mill
3 pm.- International Delight Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, April 11: 8:30am.-Pastor at Ministerial Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 14: 10:30am – Worship-Local Mission Fund Offering
Sunday School
Coffee

The next International Delight Meal will be April 16 from 5-7pm. No Carry outs.

The Hope of Easter 10 Reflections from Our Daily Bread and the March, April, May issue of “Our Daily Bread” may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.



First Congregational United Church of Christ

165 Years

315 Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

515-295-2845