

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Let's turn to Jesus, who calls us here.

Many: We place our trust in God, who protects our lives.

One: Lean into the Spirit.

Many: We will worship in Spirit and truth.

*Opening Song:

"That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

#299

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

God of miracles and truth, bless us, as we gather for worship, with the power of your Holy Spirit. Reveal your presence in our midst and open our hearts and minds to receive your miraculous love. Strengthen our faith this day, that we may go forth as witnesses of your miraculous love. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of empty tombs: Peter speaks with power and clarity of his faith, while we remain silent. The psalmist speaks of trusting in you, while our doubts overwhelm us. Jesus is read to come and grace us with peace, but our fears keep our hearts shuttered and locked.

God of full hearts: your love can change us from scared people to children of grace. You can weed doubts from our hearts and plant seeds of joy in their place. You can silence the panic of our souls with the peace Jesus offers to each of us. Transform us into Easter people, through the power of Jesus, our risen Savior.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: What marvelous love, what wondrous grace, what abundant mercy God offers - to us! We really are God's people - that is exactly who we are!

Many: We are God's children - those whose lives have been changed by the One who loves us and forgives us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:

Luke 24:36b-48

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

(read together)

God is Love, the cosmic creativity present everywhere and in everything, gently urging all toward the good. To transcending Love, we raise our awestruck praise! Jesus embodied the Love that is God. He loved the poor, the sick, the outcast, He loved the unpopular, and even his own enemies. He loved so completely, he loved so dangerously, that it cost him his life. As Christians we aim to serve humbly as he did, resurrecting his life of Love through communion with others.

The texts and traditions of Christianity give voice to our souls, so that we may support each other in our quests of Love. Love is the measure of what is worth following, and what is not, in all religions.

So we pray for a Holy Spirit of discernment to express our faith afresh in new times and places.

* 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:

Acts 3:12-19

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

"Repudiating Jesus"

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

Generous God of love and grace, bless these gifts with your abundant love and your life-giving grace. Bless us as we bear witness to your love and grace in all that we say, all that we give, and all that we do. Amen.

*** CLOSING SONG:**

“Thine Is the Glory”

#310

***Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

POSTLUDE

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication were written by Mary Scifres from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024, edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. 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 by Jim Burklo, Associate Dean of Religious Life at the University of Southern California.

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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: 17-Cooper Heath

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

Tuesday, April 16: 9:30am- Pastor Feed Mill
5-7pm.- Iowa Meal - International Delight Meal in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 17: 7pm.- Board Meeting

Sunday, April 21: 10:30am – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

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

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