

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Easter Sunday
April 20, 2025

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: This is the day

Many: when God shines the way out of panic's worry, and grace offers bouquets of good news.

One: This is the day the Lord

Many: sings songs of wonder to awaken us and life teaches us new dance steps.

One: This is the day the Lord has made!

Many: The day when hope pushes aside the stone of our months of fear, when love takes our hand so we can walk together into life.

*Opening Song:

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

#288

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Resurrecting God, we meet you in the empty tomb where our griefs and joys, despairs and hopes intermingle. Through our prayers and praise this Easter day, open our hearts to remember that the power of love and life will overcome every death-dealing force, no matter how pervasive or persuasive. In this troubling and joyful time, dazzle us with good news, Holy Rising Up One, in whose path we follow and name we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

In our foolishness, we think this old story has nothing to do with us, God of Imagination, and so we miss the incredible news that love has triumphed over hate, goodness has defeated evil, that life has broken the power of death and the grave. Yet, this is a day of joy, of wonder, of grace which never ends, God of every life, God of very life. So, may we push aside the stone of indifference we have rolled across our

hearts, so we may be reminded that this old story is new every moment, that those ancient promises still hold true, that we are the ones called by the Gardener of grace, Jesus our Brother, who calls us by name and anoints us with resurrection love. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: On that first day, and the next, and every day until now and beyond, God turns, calls us by name, planting mercy and life into our hearts.

Many: Alleluia! This is the good news! Christ is our peace, the peace we need, the peace which will heal the world. Alleluia! Christ is Risen. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 *The Message*

*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. 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.

*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 Message*

MESSAGE:

"Mary!"

Pastor Chris

Easter Communion Song:

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

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GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors), 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:

Holy, gracious, God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love; we have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence; we accept you into our bodies, into our lives. Together, at this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer. And we give you thanks.

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

As you offered Jesus to the world, God of the Resurrection, so we offer ourselves. May we, along with our gifts, testify to the good news of your forgiving love and empowering acceptance. Amen.

*Closing Song:

"The Day of Resurrection"

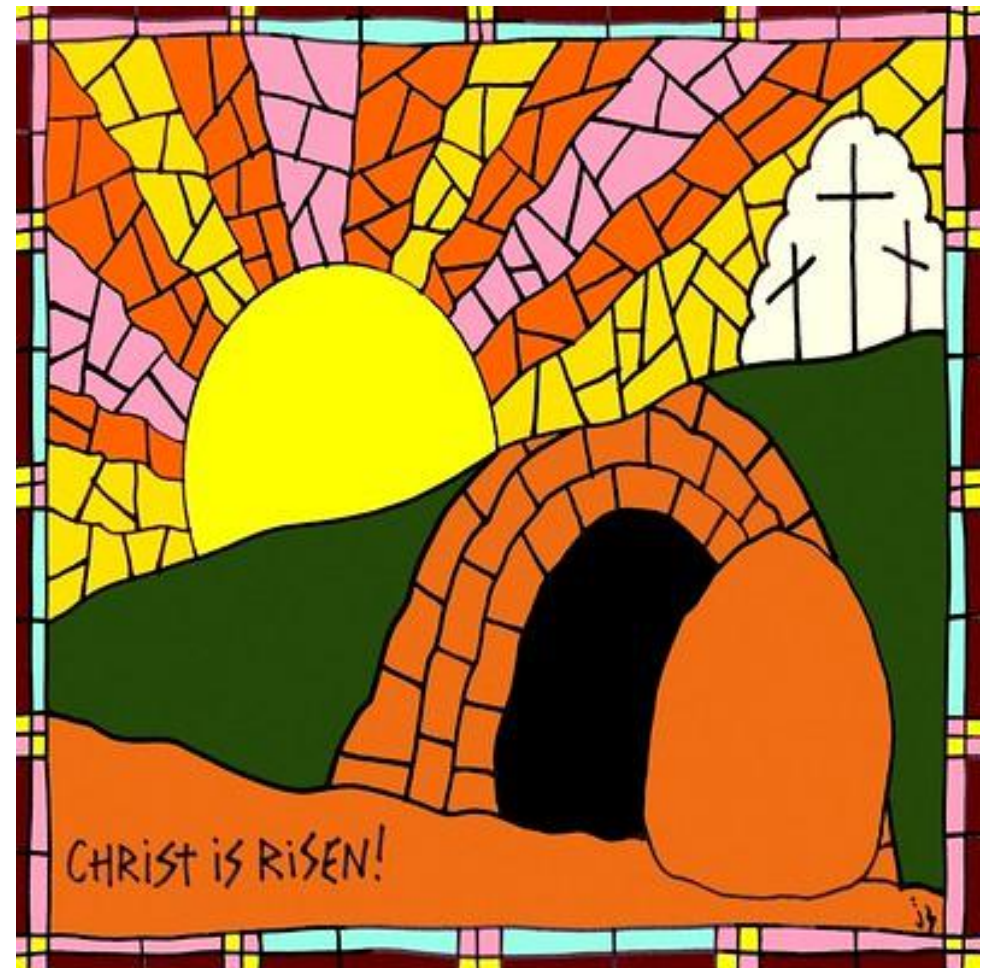
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*Going Forth with the Peace of Christ

POSTLUDE

*Indicates all who are able please stand

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, and Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, who serves as Join the Movement toward Racial Justice Curator with UCC National Ministries from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by Lavon Bayler from *Gathered by Love-Worship Resources for Year C*. The Affirmation of Faith is from A Song of Faith the United Church of Canada. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is by Katherine Hawker.



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
166 Years*

315 Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
515-295-2845



EASTER LILIES

Becky and Dave Bibler	in memory of the West Family: Chuck, Mary Ellen & Lee
David Burrow	in memory of George and Betty Burrow
David Burrow	in memory of Margaret Burrow Sullivan
David Burrow	in memory of Mary McCall
Ginny Buchanan	in memory of Russ
Scott and Sandy Buchanan	in memory of Gregg and Julie Buchanan
Chris and Pam Burtnett	in memory of loved ones
Jennifer and Mark Davis	in memory of Neal and Dana Davis
Jennifer and Mark Davis	in Memory of Rev. Max and K. June Goldman
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 Myers	in memory of Don Myers
Larry and Sandy Person	in honor of the past and present members of the church
Mick and Kris Schlievert	in memory of Charles and Helen Schlievert
Mick and Kris Schlievert	in memory of Betty Wilcox
Helen Scuffham	in memory of John L. Scuffham



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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Antonia Rupert
April Radio Sponsor:	Helen Scuffham = = =

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Birthdays: April 22: Sandy Harmes-Buchanan; 26: Greyson Burtnett

Sunday, April 20: 10:30am – Worship with Sacrament of Communion
 Sunday School
 Coffee

Tuesday, April 22: 9:30am.-Pastor at Feed Mill.
 6:00pm.-CCC English Class in Room E

Thursday, April 24: 10am. - Clergy Cluster at Humboldt
 6:00 pm.-CCC English Class in Room E

Saturday, April 26: 10am. Northwest Association Meeting in Whiting

Sunday, April 27: 10:30am – Worship
 Sunday School
 Coffee

You may take your Easter Lily home after worship today.

Our Daily Bread March/April/May 2025 issue and a special Easter booklet may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.