

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Second Sunday of Easter
April 27, 2025

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS+

*Call to Worship (read responsively)

One: Praise God with clapping hands; praise God with hands comforting a child.

Many: Praise God with silent hearts; praise God with hearts broken for the world.

One: Praise God with electric guitars; praise God with soft piano chords.

Many: Praise God with be-bop and hip-hop; praise God with rhythms that don't stop.

One: Praise God with a hallelujah chorus; praise God with a Gregorian chant.

Many: Praise God with dancing steps; praise God with feet walking for justice.

*Opening Song: “Praise To the Lord, the Almighty” #71

*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

God of mystery and miracles, breathe your peace upon us. Reveal your presence, as we look for you each day. Strengthen our faith and our trust, as we pray for miracles for one another and for all your creation. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of empty tombs and emptier people: when we hesitate to speak of your hope, forgive us, and give us a voice. When we find it difficult to love one another, forgive us, and give us fresh compassion. When we want to stand with the high and mighty, forgive us, and seat us next to the poor and oppressed. When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts, forgive us, and send us out to share your grace. When we cannot believe your Word of new life, forgive us, and fill us with your joy.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Jesus comes into every shadowed corner of our lives with the light of Easter. Jesus comes into the locked rooms of our faults and gifts us with grace and hope.

Many: Jesus comes to fill us with peace, so we may proclaim the good news of mercy and forgiveness for all. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 150

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (read together)

We believe in one God, creator of all life, maker of past, present and future. Lord of all people and of all memories and hopes.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's Word of grace, and love made flesh, who came to declare good news to those in despair, to liberate both the oppressed and the oppressor, to proclaim God's mercy as our hope.

We believe in God's Holy Spirit, who takes our shattered dreams and makes us whole again, who lifts our dying spirits and gives us courage, who resurrects us to new life.

We believe that the Church is of God and will endure to the end of time, and calls us into a life of love and service.

* 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 *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “Poor Retention” 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

Mighty God, bless these gifts with your miraculous power, that they may become gifts of love, justice and peace-gifts with the power to heal our world. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

CLOSING SONG:

“Thine Is the Glory”

#310

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

POSTLUDE

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

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by Mary Scifres from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2025* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is from Eat, Pray, Love Liturgy from WordPress.

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

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

Tuesday, April 29: 9:30am.-Pastor at Feed Mill
6:00 - 7:30 pm.-CCC English Class in Room E

Thursday, May 1: 6:30am.- National Day of Prayer Breakfast at Trinity Life Center
6-7:30pm. Last class of CCC English Class

Sunday, May 4: 10:30am – Worship with Sacrament of Communion
Sunday School
Coffee
Food Pantry
Ministerial Assistance Fund Offering

Monday, April 28: 5:15pm.- Kossuth County Dementia Care Board will be sponsoring a free meal with an Educational Forum following at 6pm.

Monday, May 5: 12:30-5:30pm.-Algona Community Blood Drive at 1st United Methodist Church

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



First Congregational
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315 Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511515-295-2845