

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
“Where No One Is A Stranger”  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
May 11, 2025

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS+

**\*Call to Worship** (read responsively)

One: Frayed and frazzled, our lives jangling with tension and anxiety,

**Many: we gather to find that place of peace which God offers to us.**

One: Awash in worries and doubts, drowning in a sea of fears,

**Many: we gather beside the still waters where Jesus offers us a cup of grace.**

One: Weakened by the burdens of life, wandering as if lost in a wilderness,

**Many: we gather so the Spirit can restore our souls and show us the path to God’s kindom.**

**\*Opening Song:** “Holy God, We Praise Your Name” #138

**\*OPENING PRAYER** (prayed together)

Shepherding God, guide us in this time of worship. Help us receive your wisdom and respond with lives of faithful discipleship. Walk closely with us and help us feel your constant presence, both now and forever more. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God who shepherds us, you must wonder how long we will continue to live the way we do. We snatch hope out of the grasp of those who need it most. Our acts of kindness are offered only to those we think to be deserving of our generosity. We gather around to watch endless reality shows, while those whose real lives are filled with struggle and loss are ignored.

Yet you refuse to keep forgiveness a mystery, Gracious God, but offer it to us without any hesitation. You gather us in the green pastures of mercy, so we might find hope; you offer us a drink of the living waters so we might become still enough to listen to your

heart; you send the Spirit to take us by the hand to lead us on the paths of justice; the goodness and mercy of Jesus, our Savior, follow us all the days as we seek to be faithful in our calling to serve him. Amen.

## A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Hear the good news: God will lead us into places of hope; God will give us the waters of life to strengthen us; God will be with us in every moment, in every place of our lives.

**Many: Anointed with grace, fed with joy and wonder, we offer blessing and thanksgiving to the One who forgives us now and forever. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:** Psalm 23

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** (read together)

We believe in God, the maker of all things, source of all life and Mother of all children.

**Our life is in God, and in God we are one with all beings.**

We follow Jesus, the Revealer of God, who taught us to love, who gave us courage to trust God’s grace, and who bid us to take up our cross and follow him. In his life and ministry and his death and resurrection, he has shown us that in losing our lives we find them. He who was crucified is the Lord of the Universe.

We rely upon the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, the communion of saints, the unity of the church, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the reality of eternal life.

Therefore, we devote ourselves to disciplined practice of the Way of Jesus in our daily lives, so that we may grow in faithfulness, and serve God in humble, confident love for the sake of the healing of the world. Amen.

**\* 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 10:22-30 read from the *Common English Bible*

**MESSAGE:** “Losing Patience” 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, we dedicate these gifts and offerings into your service. May our  
generosity flow abundantly into a world in need of your transforming love and grace. In  
your loving name, we pray. Amen.

**CLOSING SONG:** "Happy the Home When God Is There" #607

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

**POSTLUDE**

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

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

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Organist: Antonia Rupert  
Worship Leader: David Burrow  
Pastor: Rev. Chris Burtnett  
May Radio Sponsor: Larry & Sandy Person  
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Birthdays: May-13 Jack Grindberg; 16-Mark Scuffham

Sunday, May 11: 10:30am – Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee

Tuesday, May 13: 9:30am.-Pastor at Feed Mill  
6:30 – Food Pantry Board Meeting

Friday, May 16: 6pm. – Pilgrim Hights Meeting at Ames UCC

Saturday, May 17: 9am.- Adeline Reynolds Graduation Reception Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 18: 10:30am – Worship  
Last Day of Sunday School  
Coffee

Our Daily Bread Easter booklet may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.



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167 Years  
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