

First Congregational UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

608 West Fourth St Waterloo IA 50702 www.firstcongucc.org phone 319-234-8927



Easter Sunday



Worship Leader

Diane Highnam

Mini-MessageGina Greene

Director of MusicLuke Overton

Guest Preacher Rev. Brad Braley **Organist**

Hudson Lourenço-Feld

Office Manager
Michelle Wolfe

Custodian

Kyle Lindaman

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Prelude Hymn Improvisation Hudson Lourenço-Feld

Opening of Worship

Call to Worship Diane Highnam

One: Beloved, why are you weeping? The tomb is empty; the grave clothes are cast aside. Now is the time for tambourines and dancing, for victory songs and shouts of joy! Do not be afraid. See and believe: Our redeemer lives! Alleluia! Jesus Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

*Processional Hymn Alleluia! My Redeemer Lives by Benjamin Harlan (See Screen)

*Opening Prayer (unison)

Diane Highnam

God of amazing surprises and powerful love, your Easter victory is our sign of hope. Your Easter triumph is our promise of new beginnings. Your Easter alleluia is unexpected, undeserved, and graciously welcomed. We need your Easter: the promise that dawn brings new possibilities, the assurance that your love is stronger than death, the hope that every day might be touched by Easter joy. Let everyone feel the possibilities for living life surrounded by your powerful love and surprising grace. In the name of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Welcome & Announcements

Diane Highnam

Joys & Concerns

Diane Highnam

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Rev. Brad Braley

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Mini-Message Gina Greene

*Hymn Christ the Lord is Risen Today #233 (NCH - Black)

Invitation to Offertory Rev. Braley

Offertory Song of Triumph by Arnold B. Sherman Touch of Brass Bell Choir

*Response Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks vss. 2 & 3 (See Screen)

*Prayer of Dedication by Freda Gardner, Peacemaking through Worship Diane Highnam

One: For this Easter day and all the Easters of our lives;

All: We thank you with hearts overflowing, O God.

One: For times when we were violated by word or deed and were raised again;

All: We thank you with the vitality of our lives, O God.

One: For dead ends which became new beginnings;

All: We thank you with the freshness of hope, O God.

One: For graves which caught our tears

but could not hold those for whom we wept;

All: We thank you with the gratitude of healing, O God.

One: For the presence in our midst of a living Lord;

All: We give you our Alleluias, O God.

One: For your abundant gifts of new life and hope to us;

All: Use our gifts to bring new life and hope to others. Amen.

Scripture Lesson John 20:1-18 Rev. Braley

Choral Anthem Lift Your Voice and Sing, He is Risen! by Lloyd Larson Chancel Choir

Message "I have Seen the Lord!" Rev. Braley

*Affirmation Good News Music by Ann Weems, Reaching for Rainbows

Rev. Braley: How long shall we come before the Lord with tired spirits and droning voices? How long will we sit in half-filled churches and sing praise with noiseless songs? How long will we worship with bored faces and dulled senses and offer tin when we could give gold? Do we or do we not believe the news is good?

South Side: Oh, Lord, you love us! Why aren't we shouting? We don't have to earn it! Why aren't we singing? The stone's rolled away! Why aren't we dancing to your good news music?

North Side: Oh, Lord, you love us! Why aren't bells pealing? The victory's won! Why aren't the drums beating? And you forgave us! Why aren't the harps resounding to your good news music?

South Side: Why aren't the feet stomping, and the doves flying, and the bands marching, and the fingers snapping, and the tongues praising, and the hands clapping, and the trumpets blaring, and the choirs singing, and the cymbals clashing, and the children laughing? And why aren't the people coming to bow down?

North Side: Why aren't the eyes smiling, and the knees kneeling, and the banners blowing, and the horns sounding, and the voices calling, and the crowds clamoring, and the arms waving, and the tambourines playing, and the hearts humming, and the old men running? And why aren't we crowning Christ King of Kings and Lord of Lords?

Rev. Braley: If the news is good... Sing!

*Benediction Rev. Braley

One: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Closing Song The Hallelujah Chorus from The Messiah (See Screen)

Postlude Hymn Improvisation Hudson Lourenço-Feld

^{*} You are invited to Stand