



# First Congregational

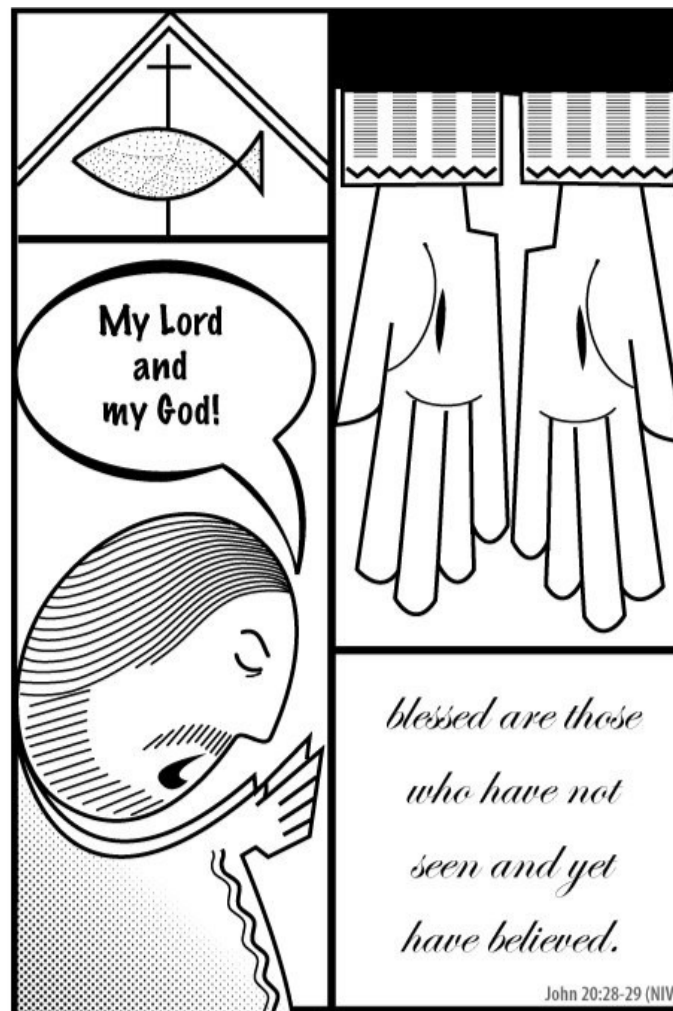
## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

608 West Fourth St  
Waterloo IA 50702

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# Second Sunday of Easter



**Worship Leader**  
Gina Greene

**Mini-Message**  
Diane Highnam

**Director of Music**  
Luke 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

**Welcome & Announcements** Gina Greene

**Call to Worship** Gina Greene

Leader: Come! Bring your doubts, your hopes, and your faith.

Come! Bring your questions, your wonderings, and your misgivings.

Come! Bring your fears, your sorrows, and your joys. Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**\*Opening Prayer** (unison) Gina Greene

Sometimes we hide behind locked doors or in tombs of our own making, preferring to stay in familiar places of doom, gloom, self-pity, and fear, rather than to venture out into the new and uncertain dawn of resurrection. Come to us, God. Open our locked doors and hearts. Dust us off, and make us new. Lead us, with all our questions and wonderings, into the exciting mysteries of discipleship. We long to be your Easter people, to live and proclaim new life with all of our being. Amen.

**\*Hymn** *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing* #244 vss. 1,4,5,6 (NCH - Black)

**Joys & Concerns** Gina Greene

**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** Diane Highnam

**Choral Anthem** Chancel Choir

**Invitation to Offertory** Gina Greene

**Offertory** Hymn Improvisation Hudson Lourenço-Feld

**\*Response** *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* vss. 1, 4 (See Screen)

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Gina Greene

Scripture Lesson

John 20:19-31

Rev. Braley

\*Hymn

*We Live By Faith and Not by Sight*

#256 (NCH - Black)  
(tune: Azmon #383)

Message

*“That YOU May Believe!”*

Rev. Braley

\*Affirmation of Faith

*“I Do Not Believe”*

Rev. Braley

**I do not believe God wills hunger and poverty for the planet's children.  
I do not believe God organizes the death of anyone, young or old.  
I do not believe God hates our questions and detests our doubts.  
I do not believe God wishes us to accept everything without debate.  
I do not believe God likes the status quo that denies people liberty and freedom. I do not believe  
God is silent in the councils of government. I do not believe God approves what we have done to  
religion.  
I do not believe God speaks only through words. I do not believe God can be understood only  
through the interpretation of scholars.  
I do not believe God is limited by human description.  
I do believe God loves us.  
I do believe God loves us so much that death was crushed, and life began anew. I believe what I  
can grasp, and hold, and touch,  
and also what I cannot grasp but know deep within.  
I have not seen the empty tomb but I believe in the Risen Christ.  
I believe. God, help my unbelief. Amen.**

\*Hymn

*Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!*

#253 (NCH - Black)

\*Benediction

Postlude

Hymn Improvisation

Hudson Lourenço-Feld

\* You are invited to Stand

Sunday School for students up to 6th grade is provided after the Mini-Message.  
We welcome your child(ren) to follow our Sunday School leaders to the  
youth director's office at the conclusion of the Mini-Message.  
After church, you will be able to pick up your kids in the church basement.