

I AM...THE GOOD SHEPHERD, THE VINE

.....AND LOVE: JESUS

Sixth Sunday after Easter

Peace United Church of Christ Elkader. Iowa 52043

CANDLE LIGHTING AND PRELUDE:

"Sing a New Song" Edward Broughton

BELL RINGING, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, CONCERNS

CONFESSION AND GRACE:

L: Easter is such a wonderful season of hope, Lord. As the earth is being refreshed by spring's warmth, so we are being refreshed and made new by Jesus' resurrection every day of every season. We need to go into the valley to be your witnesses, into the trenches. Far too often, we have turned our backs on this message. We cannot believe that we can actually live our lives in love. Often we act in ways that are hurtful rather than helpful. May you stop us in our tracks. May you help us, heal us, place us again on your path of peace and love to all people. May we be strengthened to share your love, your good news and your grace.

P: We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

CALL TO WORSHIP from the Chancel Choir:

"Love Unmeasured, Love of God"

Music: Lloyd Larson Words: Susan Boersma

***PASSING THE PEACE: (unison)**

On this day, O Prince of Peace, we come together. May you bless our worship and this community as we greet each other in peace. (please pass the peace—then sit)

THE WORD OF LOVE FOR US

PRAYER: (unison)

Loving, creative God, we gather to hear your word of love. May you open our hearts, minds and souls to receive it. AMEN.

SONG: "Help Us Accept Each Other" #388

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS:

Acts 10:44-48 I. John 5:1-6 Mary Webber

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17 Pastor Paula

MESSAGE: "Who Are the Gentiles in Our Lives?"

CREED: A New Creed #887

THE PEOPLE'S PRAYERS, THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. AMEN.

OFFERING INVITATION: (unison)

From you, O Lord, comes every good gift, every blessing we have. May we not

hoard them for ourselves, but offer them back to you. This we pray in Jesus' Name.
AMEN

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "They'll Know We Are Christians"

Peter Scholtes

***DOXOLOGY:** *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,

HOLY COMMUNION

***COMMUNION SONG:**

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" #347

(please sit)

INVITATION:

L: O Lord, love is your holy language. You sent Jesus to us when we were wandering and alone. You sent Jesus to join us, to teach us how to live, to set us free from sin. You sent Jesus to go down the wilderness road into the cold tomb of death. And then you raised him to new life so that he can proclaim that we, too, have new life, eternal life. That life we celebrate at your table today.

For Jesus' sake, we pray. **P: AMEN.**

P: Christ died that we might live through him;

Christ was raised that he might live through us;

Christ will come that all might have eternal life with you, O Lord.

BLESSING THE MEAL:

L: On the night of betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body given for you."

Then Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, blessing it anew, passed it among his disciples, saying, "Take and drink. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you eat this bread and drink from this cup, remember me, remember my words, remember my life." All is ready at the table. Come and eat!

THE MEAL IS SERVED

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER: (unison)**

O Lord, the bread and the fruit of the vine have nourished us. May the strength we have received from this holy food help us. Help us join with other sisters and brothers of all times and places, loving as we have been loved, putting the needs of others ahead of our own, feeding others as we have been fed. AMEN

***BENEDICTION LITANY:**

(inspired by today's scripture lessons)

L: Flashes of blinding light, Creation, earth, water, wind, fire, all come together to form this world.

P: In the beginning, God lovingly created...

L: beasts of the field, creatures of the waters, birds of the air, people of all colors and backgrounds, all that have breath receive the holy breath of God.

P: God called all of it good and blessed it all...

L: God's love is poured out to all people, even to those who turn their backs.

P: Time after time, God calls to people to return.

L: In the fullness of time, God's Son, Jesus, comes to teach and witness to the powerful, yet gentle love of God.

P: In God's time, Jesus changes the whole world....

L: From a group of huddled, frightened disciples emerge a mighty source of witnesses proclaiming God's presence and power through Jesus Christ.

P: And we can see such a great cloud of witnesses in the Word!

L: In this time and place, we, this community of faith, are called to go forth, to live and breathe the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ, to join that great cloud of witnesses. Friends and beloved of Christ, let us go into the world with the message of God's love.

P: Let us go into the world, bearing the fruit of hope and joy, peace and justice to all we meet. May the peace of God be with us all. Amen! Alleluia! Amen!

***SENDING FORTH SONG:**

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service" #495

***POSTLUDE:**

"We Are Called to be God's People"

Tune: Franz Joseph Haydn

WELCOME

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Worship Leaders

Today

Worship: Pastor Paula

Reader: Mary Webber

Fellowship: Mary Webber

Organist: Laura Moser

Ushers: Florence Gifford

**Opening/
Closing** Bruce Landis

Next Sunday

Pastor Paula

Sue Stott

Cookie Cupboard

Laura Moser

Mary H., Betty M.

Jane W.

Nancy McClure

PRAYER LIST: Greg Anderson, Gus Augustson, Dave & Diane B-H, Inge Baumgartner, Eli Belser, Roger and Betty Buchholz, Jonah Burns and Burns family, Linda Cranston, Deb Dennler, Wayne F., Karen Glesne, Linda Glesne, Penny Jacobson, Karla, Ruth

Grau, Gerry Kramer, Marlene Marmann, Jane Metcalf, Marilyn Nielsen, Ruth and Jenny Olson, Lucena Phelps, Sharon Reichert, Harry & Gloria Robbins, Joan Strauss, family of Charlie Mason (Penni Leonard's brother-in-law); Lillian Nold and her family on the death of her son, Edward.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

PASTOR PAULA

(subject to change if emergencies arise)

9 a.m.-noon—Mon. Wed. Thur; 9-10:45 a.m. Tues.

DEBBIE

3:30-4:30 p.m.---Mon; 1:30-3:30 p.m .Wed. & Thur.

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES

TODAY: **Worship Committee meets after worship**
Monday: 9-12 noon-office hours
Tuesday: 11 a.m. Pastor at clergy text study
Wednesday: 9-noon-----Office hours
 5 30-6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
 6:30-7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Thursday: 9 a.m. Sunday BULLETIN Deadline—give info
 to Pastor Paula
Friday: Pastor's Day Off
Saturday: Worship Preparation

ATTENTION

Financial contributions to assist Burns family can be done by: check--write Peace UCC attn: Jonah's Journey and drop off at Freedom Bank OR bring to Peace UCC, 301 N. Main, 9-12 noon, Mon-Thur. OR mail to Peace UCC at Box 268, Elkader, Iowa 52043 OR Mail to Jasen & Marnie Burns, Box 322, Elkader, IA.52043 OR Venmo is JM Burns PLEASE SEND: notes and cards to Jonah Burns, Box 322, Elkader, Iowa 52043

REMINDER: those who do opening/closing need to plug in the coffee pots!!!