



Ames United Church of Christ Sunday, September 13, 2015

Welcome to Ames UCC! Worship is the way we praise God and learn what it means to be a Christian. Services of worship are just that: a way that we serve the power that calls us together and sends us out to be the eyes, hands, and feet of justice in the world. We hope that you leave today feeling connected, renewed, and in relationship with the holy.

In keeping with the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome all people of any age, gender, race, culture, ability, sexual orientation, or gender identity into our community of faith and affirm the worth of all people as unique individuals made in God's image. We are open to the special gifts that each person brings and invite each one to participate in the life of our church.

Our worship leaders today are Eileen Gebbie (sermon), Hannah Hannover (Children's Celebration and reception of new members), Emily Kenneke (prayers), and Jean Watts (scripture).

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Most announcements are also in your bulletin and our weekly e-newsletter. To sign up, e-mail office@amesucc.org.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Passing the Peace is an ancient Christian tradition in which we show we carry no weapons, only love.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

A formal and mutual invitation to move into the worship experience.

One: Let us sing to the God of Hosts

**Many: who provides for us,
and whom we worship in this space.**

One: How awesome is our God

**Many: who created from nothing
all that is beautiful in this world.**

One: who anticipates our every need;

**Many: who loves us beyond measure.
O God, our God give heed to our presence.
Hear our voices lifted up to you in praise. Amen.**

***HYMN OF WELCOME**

“This Is the Day,” Hymn 84

Singing is one way to connect to God through our bodies. We stand up, breathe deep, and let loose. And as Augustine wrote, “(S)he who sings, prays twice.”

INVOKING THE HOLY

God is always with us, so this “invoking” or invitation to God, is really an invitation to our own selves to become aware of that constant presence.

One: Most Gracious God we greet you once again in this sacred space. We have come because we need to be reminded of your love and your expectations for our living. We are like the vine you planted, watered and protected. We know in our hearts that we need, want and desire your presence in our lives. So we come in prayer and listen for your Word to speak to our hearts and reveal again your desires for us.

Many: Amen.

150th ANNIVERSARY HISTORIC PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Confession has a long tradition in Christian history. It is a way to name our own brokenness and failing, sometimes generically and sometimes quite specifically, as a means to cleanse our hearts as we move through the service.

A note by Charles Kniker about today’s historic prayer of confession, in honor of our 150th year as a church:

During the second thirty-year period of First Congregational Church’s history, its worship site and its worship services reflected its changing world view. It was no longer an infant congregation with limited budgets facing a rugged rural landscape inside the walls of a rough, frame building. In 1900, the growing household of faith dedicated an “English country” brick sanctuary. From its pulpit and programs, it spoke about and acted upon matters international as well as national. Printed bulletins, a vested choir, a paid quartette, and new hymnals were signs of a more formal liturgy. The organist, also compensated, began the service with a prelude and concluded with a postlude. For many years during this period, the congregation stood after the prelude, singing first the Doxology, then reciting the Lord’s Prayer, singing the Gloria, having a responsive reading (often a Psalm), and closing this gathering part of the service with a hymn. Scripture readings and the sermon were either in the middle or toward the end of the service.

One: O Lord, make us more worthy of the heritage of that pilgrim band, self-exiled from a land of beauty and security to go out and find a better country, they knew not whither, where their souls might feel at home.

Many: We have entered into the fruitage of their labors.

One: Thou hast vouchsafed to us, through them broader horizons, greater power and knowledge, and kindlier creeds.

Many: But, good Lord,
preserve us from deserting the rock of faith upon which they built
with devotion to duty and exaltation of the sovereignty of God,
Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.
Forgive us for surrendering to the temporal things which were so secondary
to them.
Help us to follow the gleam, to launch our Mayflower,
that we may win triumphs for thee and help open new worlds
of power and freedom for all mankind. Amen.

SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

A brief moment to reflect on the prayer and your own heart and life. Silence is as important as noise in our dialogue with the divine.

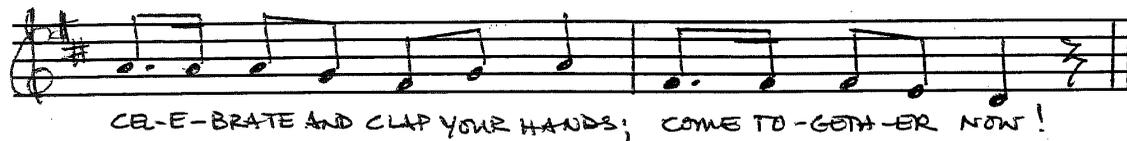
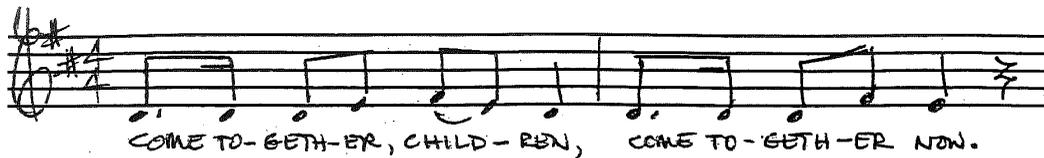
150th ANNIVERSARY HISTORIC WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As a people of Easter, there is always good news: when we die to our brokenness, we live again in hope.

One: He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Amen. (Psalm 103:10-12, King James Version)

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION

Children are very important to our church. Each service they come forward for a special lesson just for them. We want all children to know they are welcome everywhere in our sanctuary, even – especially – at the very front. We sing the song below as they come forward.



HEBREW BIBLE

Genesis 2:4-25 (Good News Translation, modified for inclusive language)

We use "Hebrew Bible" instead of "Old Testament" out of respect for our Jewish sisters and brothers (it isn't old to them) and acknowledgement of the living voice still found in these ancient stories.

And that is how the universe was created.

When the LORD God made the universe, there were no plants on the earth and no seeds had sprouted, because he had not sent any rain, and there was no one to cultivate the land; but water would come up from beneath the surface and water the ground.

Then the LORD God took some soil from the ground and formed a human out of it; he breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the human began to live.

Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the East, and there he put the man just formed. God made all kinds of beautiful trees grow there and produce good fruit. In the middle of the garden stood the tree that gives life and the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad.

A stream flowed in Eden and watered the garden; beyond Eden it divided into four rivers. The first river is the Pishon; it flows around the country of Havilah. (Pure gold is found there and also rare perfume and precious stones.) The second river is the Gihon; it flows around the country of Cush. The third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria, and the fourth river is the Euphrates.

Then the LORD God placed the human in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it. God told the human, "You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, except the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad. You must not eat the fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die the same day."

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the human to live alone. I will make a suitable companion to help." So God took some soil from the ground and formed all the animals and all the birds. Then God brought them to the human to see what the human would name them; and that is how they all got their names. So the human named all the birds and all the animals; but not one of them was a suitable companion to help.

Then the LORD God made the human fall into a deep sleep, and while sleeping, he took out one of the human's ribs and closed up the flesh. God formed another human out of the rib and brought them together. Then the first human said,

“At last, here is one of my own kind—
Bone taken from my bone, and flesh from my flesh.
‘Woman’ is her name because she was taken out of man.”

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they become one.

The man and the woman were both naked, but they were not embarrassed.

SERMON

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Invitation

Questions about Participation

Leader: All, do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God’s people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world? If so, say, “I promise, with the help of God.”

Leader: Ames United Church of Christ, what promises do you make?

**All: In the name of God and with God as our witness,
we promise to be in community with one another
as we strive to be faithful disciples of Jesus,
whom we proclaim as the Christ, God’s anointed.
We profess our belief in God who created and is still creating us.
We hold as our vision for the world Jesus’ vision of shalom,
where all are welcomed, where justice reigns, where all are provided for,
and where peace prevails.
We affirm that we can only be faithful disciples in community
with others who share that vision and who work to achieve it.**

**Therefore, we promise, insofar as we are able,
to attend the services of this church, to volunteer our time to its mission,
and to contribute financially to its work.
Finally, we earnestly pray for the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit
that God might bless all that we do together.**

Welcome and Reception

Leader: Let us, the members of Ames United Church of Christ express our thanks, and welcome, and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. Amen! Thanks be to God!

***HYMN OF CELEBRATION**

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service,” Hymn 495

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

If you would like a name on the prayer list, simply contact the pastors.

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

The basics of the Lord’s Prayer appear in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. It may be familiar to you in this form, or with “sins” or “trespasses” toward the end. We also support the use of traditional or contemporary language for addressing the holy and naming the holy’s realm.

Our Father/Creator who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom/kin-dom 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom/kin-dom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Rachel Schelle

On Sunday, September 13, 20, and 27 we will receive testimony regarding the value of our time, talent, and treasure to our church and wider community. On Sunday, October 4 we will receive your pledges of each for the coming year.

OFFERING “Sing Joy!”

Thank you for giving what you can. All cash gifts will go to supporting our community justice partners like Food at First.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF SENDING

“Standing at the Future’s Threshold”
(see alternate tune: Holy Mannah)

BENEDICTION

From the Latin of “well” and “to speak,” this is one final good word to send us off.

Ames UCC Announcements

Upcoming Sunday Scriptures

During the 8:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study, in the Fellowship Hall, we reflect on the coming week’s scripture. Join us!

9/20 Isaac Born to Sarah, Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

9/27 Jacob Wrestles God, Genesis 32:22-30

10/4 Moses & God’s Name, Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-10

10/11 Hear O Israel, Deuteronomy 5:1-21;6:4-9

Wednesday Afternoon Club (WAC) begins Wednesday, September 16th!

Children K-5th grade are invited to join us every Wednesday from the time school dismisses (2:05 p.m.) until 5:00 p.m. During this time we will learn about a new super hero of the Bible, play games, make crafts, and much more! Pr. Hannah is still looking for adult volunteers to help with WAC activities! If you are interested in volunteering your time, bringing a snack, or providing transportation for a child from their school to the church, please let Hannah know! You may contact her at: hannah@amesucc.org or by calling the church office.

Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 20th! Children age 2 - 5th grade will gather in the upstairs hallway for a time of singing and prayer before moving into their Sunday morning classrooms. The 2 and 3 year old children will spend each week learning about a new super hero of the Bible and doing a craft before going to play in the nursery. Children 4 years old through 5th grade will go to the Godly Play room for a story and time of wondering. We have added several new stories and art supplies to our room and are very excited to begin a new year of wondering together! Parents will need to pick up their child/children in the Godly Play room before worship each Sunday morning. Youth grades 6-12 will meet in the Youth Hangout which is in the office building. This will be a temporary space for the Youth to meet on Sunday mornings until the Youth Room renovations are complete!

Service of Installation on Sunday, September 27 at 3 p.m.

An installation marks the formal beginning of the relationship between pastor and parishioners. In it, our Central Association of the Iowa Conference of the UCC will lead us in making a covenant of mutual ministry with each other.

In addition, we will name our relationship with the wider UCC and Ames itself. We are inviting representatives of our faith and communities partners to be present and recognized during the service.

Our guest preacher for the afternoon will be The Rev. Waltrina Middleton, UCC National Minister for Youth Advocacy and Leadership. Rev. Middleton is also active in the Black Lives Matter movement, a movement that became even more painfully real on the murder of her cousin, The Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, at Mother Emanuel AME in Charleston, SC. Rev. Middleton will also participate in our Learning Center before the regular morning's worship and stay to meet with our youth after the installation. You may read more about Rev. Middleton below.

I do hope you will be able to attend. Please bring friends. We will gather for a reception after. *Childcare will be available throughout.*

Yours in faith, Pr. Eileen

The Rev. Waltrina Middleton serves as National Minister for Youth Advocacy and Leadership Formation with the United Church of Christ denomination based in Cleveland. In this work, Middleton serves more than 5,000 congregations and organizes youth programs and outreach for the denomination's 1-million membership, lifting up topics ranging



from homelessness and hunger to suicide prevention and from racialized violence to LGBTQ youth advocacy.

Middleton was recently recognized by Rejuvenate Magazine as one of its 40 Under 40 Professionals to Watch in the Non-Profit Religious Sector. This summer, she was awarded the Jonathan M. Daniels Memorial Fellowship by the Episcopal Divinity School. She is the inaugural Jeremiah A. Wright Jr. Fellowship Scholar and one of the inaugural William "Bill" Lucy Social Justice and Globalization Fellows, both received while matriculating as a Master of Divinity Student at Chicago Theological Seminary where she graduated with distinction. Her master's thesis explored Reconciling a God of the Oppressed: A Look at Sexual Abuse, Rape, Incest and Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation Within the Black Church. She is also an alumna of DePaul University and Howard University.

The Rev. Middleton has been actively engaged in social justice issues domestically and globally as they pertain to youth and young adults. Her advocacy work includes organizing in Cleveland, Washington, DC, Ferguson and beyond to address a systemic culture of violence rooted in racism, classism and state-sanctioned violence against marginalized communities. She is presently a doctoral candidate at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, researching and writing on Reclaiming the Womanist Divine. She is a preacher, poet and community organizer committed to human rights and actualizing the vision of a Beloved community. Middleton will travel to Jordan and Palestine this fall where she will continue to bridge cultural gaps across the globe through a project that explores activism and lament through poetry and creative arts.

CROP Walk - October 11th

The 2015 CROP Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 11, 1pm sign-in; 1:30pm walk. The approximately 5 KM walk & will go through the ISU campus, starting & ending at the Maple Shelter in Brookside Park. Funds raised through the CROP Walk help to fund food programs sponsored by Church World Service as well as seven local food programs. Twenty-five per cent of all funds raised are returned to the local food programs. The 2014 Walk raised \$26,823.87 with 18 groups participating. Anyone interested in participating can pick up an information / sign-up packet at the church office or contact Rachel Schelle at 515-450-3137.

Calendar for the Week

Monday, September 14

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence
 Project (Barnwell)

Tuesday, September 15

3:00 p.m. Farm to Folk
7:15 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 16

8:30 am Morning Bible Study
9:30 am AM Work Crew
12:10 pm Peace Bell Ringers
6:45 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, September 17

No Scheduled Activities

Friday, September 18

No Scheduled Activities

Saturday, September 19

11:20 am Meals on Wheels (*Clark*)

Sunday, September 20

10:45 am Church Worship Service

Be In Touch with Ames UCC

217 6th Street, Ames, IA 50010
515-232-9323

Mondays—Thursdays

8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

24-hour pastoral emergencies:
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