



**Ames United Church of Christ  
Sunday, October 16, 2016**

*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 for today are Rachel Schelle, scripture; Eileen Gebbie, prayers, Children's Celebration, sermon; George Belitsos, Mission Moment; Allen Trenkle and Carl Tipton, table hosts; Kristin Shields, Deacon; Gary Deal, Karen Lasche, Bill Slinger, Sharron Slinger, ushers and greeters.*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Most announcements are also in your bulletin and our weekly e-newsletter. To sign up, e-mail [office@amesucc.org](mailto: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: Come before the Lord, who hears your every cry.

**Many: Listen, O Lord: your faithful people implore you! Amen.**

**HYMN** "Let Us with a Joyful Mind," Hymn 16, verses 1-4

*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: You are a God of mercy who knows the prayers of your people. Grant us those requests which will glorify you even if we cannot always see the when or the how. Amen.

## 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.*

One: We confess our brokenness before God and one another. God of the covenant,

**Many: We, like your people of old, have not always been faithful.**

**We have heard the words but haven't always believed them.**

**We have been shown the way but haven't always followed.**

**We have been called by you but have refused the invitation,  
thinking we know better.**

**We deeply desire your mercy, and beg for your forgiveness. 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.*

## 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: The promise of God is as true today as it was in the beginning. We are chosen, we are loved, and we are pardoned. Receive the blessing of God's absolution and believe that the words are true! Amen.

## CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION WITH SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

*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.*



Make new friends but keep the old. One is sil-ver and the oth-er gold.  
You help me and I'll help you; With God's help and love we'll see it through.

One: Dear friends, as we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism....Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their parents' acceptance of their children into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's co-creation, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**All: This is the water of baptism.  
Out of this water our children rise into a new life,  
marked as beloved members of Christ's body.**

One: Do you, Sally and Joe, desire to have Patricia Harrison baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

One: Will you, Sally and Joe, encourage Harris to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the living freedom of Christ?

One: Will you, Sally and Joe, teach Harris such that she may be led to profess a love of God and commitment to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ?

One: Ames United Church of Christ, do you promise, by the grace of God, to grow with Harris in the Christian faith, to help her to be faithful members of this church by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that she may affirm her baptism as she grows?

### *Affirmation of Faith*

One: Do you have faith in God?

**All: I have faith in God.**

One: Do you have faith in Jesus Christ?

**All: I have faith in Jesus Christ.**

One: Do you have faith in the Holy Spirit?

**All: I have faith in the Holy Spirit.**

*Sacrament of Holy Baptism*

One: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save, which is to heal, those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin, which is brokenness and cruelty, may have no power over them. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

In honor of the global Christian church, and in celebration of our own particular community's faith, we baptize in three pairings of names: Father and Creator, Son and Child, Holy Spirit and Redeeming Power.

Patricia Harrison, you are baptized in the name of the Father and the Creator, the Son and the Child the Holy Spirit and Redeeming Power.

We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all, for this child and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as children and siblings in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Highland Cathedral"  
Joseph Smith, Bagpiper

**HEBREW BIBLE** 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

*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.*

Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the LORD's house. In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. And she made a vow, saying, "LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him."

Then Hannah prayed and said:  
"My heart rejoices in the LORD;  
in the LORD my horn is lifted high.  
My mouth boasts over my enemies,  
for I delight in your deliverance.

"There is no one holy like the LORD;  
there is no one besides you;  
there is no Rock like our God.

"Do not keep talking so proudly  
or let your mouth speak such arrogance,  
for the LORD is a God who knows,  
and by him deeds are weighed.

"The bows of the warriors are broken,  
but those who stumbled are armed with strength.  
Those who were full hire themselves out for food,  
but those who were hungry are hungry no more.

She who was barren has borne seven children,  
but she who has had many sons pines away.  
“The LORD brings death and makes alive;  
he brings down to the grave and raises up.  
The LORD sends poverty and wealth;  
he humbles and he exalts.  
He raises the poor from the dust  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;  
he seats them with princes  
and has them inherit a throne of honor.

“For the foundations of the earth are the LORD’s;  
on them he has set the world.  
He will guard the feet of his faithful servants,  
but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness.

“It is not by strength that one prevails;  
those who oppose the LORD will be broken.  
The Most High will thunder from heaven;  
the LORD will judge the ends of the earth.

“He will give strength to his king  
and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

## SERMON

### HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Jesus Took the Bread,” verses 1-3

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Our Communion table is open to all: young and old, faithful and dubious. No one will be turned away. We serve the bread and the juice through “intinction,” which means dipping the bread into the juice. Your server will offer each to you with the phrases “the Bread of Life” and “the Cup of Blessing.” If you are unable to come forward but would like to participate in the meal, simply wait for your row to be empty, then raise your hand. A server will come to you. The bread is free of gluten, soy, and dairy. If you have brought canned goods for the Food at First pantry, please set them at the Communion table before being served.*

### *The Communion Prayer*

**One:** Let us gather around the table with the offering of bread and drink upon it and the promise of the Living Christ among us. This is the welcome table of God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited in to this holy mystery. Come.

**Many: We are ready!**

**One:** Jesus said: “I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty.”

**Many: We are hungry and thirsty. We come!**

**One:** We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus offered the bread in thanksgiving and said . . .

**Many: “Take, eat. This is my body broken because of you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

**One:** In the same way, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said,

**Many: “Take, drink. This is the seal of a new covenant, my poured-out life. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.”**

**One:** God, we bless for you this bread that the earth has given and human hands have made.

**Many: May it be for all the Bread of Life!**

**One:** Bless also this cup, fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

**Many: May it be for all the Cup of Peace!**

*One:* Bless us too, that by our eating and drinking we may have love for each other and be servants of Christ's peace, until the New Day comes and every creature finds an honored place at the Banquet of Life!

### *Sharing of the Elements*

### *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**All:** Gracious and loving God,  
you have made us one in the body of Christ,  
and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink.  
Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst.  
Now send us into the world to do the work you have given us to do:  
to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls,  
to free prisoners, and make the powerful care.  
Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil,  
and to proclaim in all we say and do the good news in Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*Please share your prayer needs as you are so moved.*

### **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 and welcome you to use the words for transgressions—be it debts, sins, or trespasses—that is most meaningful to you.*

**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/trespasses as we forgive our debtors/those who trespass against us. 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.**

### **OFFERING**

"Amazing Grace"

Joseph Smith, Bagpiper

*Our financial gifts go to support the work and mission of our church. Loose coins and bills are sent to mission partners like Food at First and Youth and Shelter Services. Checks and cash placed in envelopes, unless otherwise designated, go to the church proper to help keep our ministries (like worship, youth group, and Godly Play) vital. If you would like to sign up for electronic giving, please visit [amesucc.org/give](http://amesucc.org/give)*

### **MISSION MOMENT**

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

### **HYMN OF SENDING**

"Let Us With a Joyful Mind," Hymn 16, verses 1, 5 and 6

### **BENEDICTION**

*From the Latin of "well" and "to speak," this is one final good word to send us off. Please join us next door in the parlor for refreshments and fellowship.*

### **POSTLUDE**

"Brown Haired Maiden"

Joseph Smith, Bagpiper

October 16, 2016

Devotion: Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone or with others; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

# God's Story<sup>™</sup> Our Story

Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

*You are a Lord of mercy who heeds the prayers of your people. Grant us those requests which will glorify you and bring us into more perfect devotion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Reflect: Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

*They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord." 1 Samuel 1:19-20*

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

*Hannah knows what she wants, and is bold enough to ask for it. However, the intensity of her prayer is equaled by her promise to dedicate her son to the Lord. How could God resist such a request?*

Consider: Consider this theme for the week's text.

*God answers prayer.*

Read: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday: God Answers Hannah, 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

Monday: God Calls Samuel, 1 Samuel 3:1-18

Tuesday: The Ark of God Captured, 1 Samuel 4:2-11, 6:2, 11-13

Wednesday: Samuel Anoints Saul as King, 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8, 10:17-27

Thursday: Saul Rejected and David Anointed, 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Friday: David Defeats Goliath, 1 Samuel 17:1-54

Saturday: David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem, 2 Samuel 6:1-23

*What are the benefits and drawbacks for Israel to shift from a tribal nation to a kingdom? How might our political system serve God?*

Connect: Connect in conversation with others.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- How do you think prayer works? How did Hannah's prayer affect her life? How did affect the future of Israel?
- What have you asked God for that still awaits an answer? What did you bargain in return for a favorable answer? Does God require something in exchange for answered prayer? Where do you see God working while you wait for the answer?

Do: By acting on what we learn we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

*Set aside 10 minutes every day to pray in a way you're not used to. Here are some possibilities: a quiet, still posture of prayer; yoga; meditation; mindfulness; prayer while walking or running, be creative with your prayer life. How did the habit of prayer affect your mood?*

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

*May God hear your prayers and answer favorably. Amen.*

PLEASE TAKE ME HOME.  
HAVE YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS, SCRIPTURES, AND WEEKLY  
CALENDAR WITH YOU ALL WEEK LONG BY TAKING YOUR BULLETIN  
HOME WITH YOU AFTER THE SERVICE TODAY.

#### **Upcoming Scriptures**

10/23 2 Samuel 7:1-17

10/30 Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28; then 31:31-34

11/6 1 Kings 17:1-16 [17-24]

11/13 Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10 [4:1-11]

#### **Thank you, David!**

On October 17, we celebrate David Cook's four years of service as our sexton. Thanks to David our space is clean and kept in good repair.

#### **Fall Church Clean Up Day - October 22**

Come help clean and work around the church between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 22. Drop in as your schedule allows. Come back that night for chili and pie supper at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!

#### **Chili and Pie Supper - October 22**

There is an October chill in the air which means it is time for our chili and pie fest. Get out your old favorite recipes or try a new adventurous one. Chili soups and pies of all kinds are encouraged and welcomed. Our members are happy to try them all. We will gather on October 22nd at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there!

#### **Manna & Mercy: Learn the Bible with a Coloring Book - RSVP by October 23**

If you are unfamiliar with the arc of our Bible's story, or would like a refresher, join Pr. Eileen for a 6-week study of Genesis through Revelation using Daniel Erlander's "Manna and Mercy" adult coloring book. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall from 7-8:30 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: November 2, 9, 16, and 30; December 7 and 14.

Childcare will be provided if requested by Sunday, October 23. Please also reserve your copy of the book by Sunday, October 23. There will be a \$10 charge, with a few copies available for those for whom this is a hardship. Either e-mail ([eileen@amesucc.org](mailto:eileen@amesucc.org)) or call (515.232.9323) Pr. Eileen. Thank you!

#### **Join us: Explore Membership at Ames UCC**

Join Pr. Eileen and current church members to learn more about the theology and polity (governance) of Ames United Church of Christ as well as what formal membership means, all over a tasty lunch. The next two luncheon dates are below as well as the Sundays on which you would join, if you choose to do so (participation in the lunch does not mean a commitment to join). Childcare will be available on request. Membership Exploration & Luncheon on Sunday, October 23 from right after worship until 1:30 p.m.

New Member Sunday on November 6

RSVP to Pr. Eileen ([eileen@amesucc.org](mailto:eileen@amesucc.org), 515-232-9323) by Sunday, October 16

Membership Exploration & Luncheon on Sunday, December 18 from right after worship until 1:30 p.m.

New Member Sunday on January 8

RSVP to Pr. Eileen ([eileen@amesucc.org](mailto:eileen@amesucc.org), 515-232-9323) by Sunday, December 11

#### **Costumes on October 30**

On Sunday, October 30, children and youth (and adults?) are invited to wear their costumes to Church School (9:15 a.m.) and Worship (10:30 a.m.).

#### **Submit Names for All Saints Day**

On Sunday, November 6 we will celebrate All Saints Day. This will include reading the names of all those we love but who have moved onto another stream of the life eternal during this last year. Please submit the names of your saints to Pr. Eileen by Tuesday, November 1: [eileen@amesucc.org](mailto:eileen@amesucc.org) or 515-232-9323.

## Announcing.... Listening Sessions!

In February of 2016, Pastor Eileen provided each of the seven teams with a book by David McMahill, *Completing the Circle*. The book provides a process by which a congregation can conduct an overall evaluation of congregational life. It outlines a three-year cycle that encompasses many phases of church life, providing a framework to foster healthy communication and planning within congregations—often in areas where ministers devote much of their time. It can serve as an important resource for a congregation’s planning cycle.

The primary objective of the book is to pursue a process that results in stronger congregational mission and ministry. As a key aspect of this process are listening sessions where congregants get together in small, facilitated focus groups to share their first hand experiences and listen to the experiences of others. Unlike situations focused on providing evaluative comments meant to assess a minister or a situation, these sessions are designed to create positive conversation to discover interest and share personal experiences.

To implement this process, Worship and Music will be conducting two listening sessions for 10-12 members with a particular focus on discussing congregants’ experiences in a key element of our congregational mission: lay-led worship. The discussion will be focused around questions such as the following:

- What about our worship service, for you, best shows our commitment to be a congregational church, where we are all ministers?
- What specific lay-led moments or practices in worship have been particularly meaningful for you?
- What new practices/ideas do you think we, as the congregation, could take on ... even occasionally...during worship?

Following the sessions, the Worship and Music Team will provide a summary of what was shared with both the congregation and the Executive Board.

Interested in joining one of these conversations? Tentative dates are October 23 and November 6, both at 9:30. The sessions will last approximately one hour and will be held in room 104.

Please contact Elaine Hieber at [jehieber@gmail.com](mailto:jehieber@gmail.com) by Oct 17<sup>th</sup> if you are interested.

## Calendar for the Week

### Monday, October 17

*David Cook’s Anniversary as Sexton*

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project  
(Beason/Goedeken)

### Tuesday, October 18

5:30 p.m. Staff Worship Planning  
7:15 p.m. Executive Board

### Wednesday, October 19

*Newsletter deadline*

8:30 a.m. Bible Study  
9:30 a.m. AM Work Crew  
10:00 a.m. Sale Work Group  
12:00 p.m. Peace Bell Ringers  
2:00 p.m. Book Club  
2:05 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club  
6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, October 20

*Pr. Hannah off*

### Saturday, October 22

10:00 a.m. - Fall Clean Up Day  
4:00 p.m.  
11:20 a.m. Meals on Wheels (Tipton)  
5:30 p.m. Chili and Pie Supper

### Sunday, October 23

9:00 a.m. Worship and Music Meeting  
9:15 a.m. Learning Center  
9:15 a.m. Godly Play and Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Membership Meal &  
Exploration  
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

### **Be In Touch with Ames UCC**

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

Mon 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Tues-Thurs 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

24-hour pastoral emergencies:  
515-428-1779

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