



Just Peace, Open & Affirming

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No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2014

*Those who are able please stand

Songs: NCH – *New Century Hymnal*; SPP – *Sing, Prayer & Praise*

Bold face indicates where the congregation is invited to join in saying the words

RINGING THE BELL

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emily Kenneke

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

ADVENT CENTERING

Lighting the Third Candle of Advent

Larry and Bonnie Trede

We light candles during Advent to scatter the darkness. As we light these candles, the circle of Christ's love grows wider. Today we light three candles as a sign of God's coming reign of joy.

We look for the Advent of God into this world, turning sorrow to joy. Come, Lord Jesus!

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jacob Buchele

One: We journey together through this time of Advent.

All: Love, the guest, is on the way!

One: A time of reflection, anticipation, and prayer.

All: Love, the guest, is on the way!

One: We continue to move on in this journey together.

All: Love, the guest, is on the way!

***SONG**

"People Look East" (insert)

***SILENT PRAYER**

Kerry Strum

***SUNG RESPONSE**

"Gloria 3"

Taize Community

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

***SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE**

The peace of our Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please share Christ's peace with one another.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM "The ABC's of Christmas" (insert)

***SONG**

"Star Child" (insert)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸ For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be

called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ ³⁴Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ ³⁵The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.’ ³⁸Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

CHRISTMAS PASSAGE REWRITTEN BY OUR YOUTH GROUP

Read by Abby Buchele & Kathryn Shields

Joys and Concerns

Alison McHenry

Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore's stepfather, Joe, who is undergoing radiation for cancer.

For the Pastor Search Committee in this period of discernment.

For Mitchell, brother-in-law of Greg Wool, in ongoing health concerns.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray the following, or whatever version is most meaningful to you:

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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Cecilia Monroe

***SUNG RESPONSE**

“Prepare the Way” v. 3

PH 13

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Joy to the World”

NCH 132

***BENEDICTION**

Ryan Strum

***SENDING MUSIC**

USHERS/GREETERS: Ryan Johnson, Emma Johnson, Kerry Strum, Kathryn Shields

UCC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 14 –Third Sunday of Advent **Thursday, December 18**
of Advent **No INSIGHT study group**

6:00p Youth Group Christmas Party
at Hannover's – 800 Vermont Circle

Saturday, December 20
MOW –Tipton

Monday, December 15

6:00p Pastoral Search Committee, *rm 104*

9:30a Food at First
9:30a Chancel Choir Christmas
Program Practice (*sanctuary*)

Tuesday, December 16

4:40p Worship & Music Planning
mtg.

7:15p Executive Board

**Sunday, December 21 – Fourth
Sunday of Advent**

No Learning Center

No Sunday School

10:45a Worship, *sanctuary:*
Chancel Choir Christmas Music

No Youth Group

Wednesday, December 17

8:30a Morning Bible Study,
Fellowship Hall

9:00a Wed. AM Work Crew

12:10p Peace Bell Ringers, *bell tower*

2:00p UCC Book Club

No WAC

6:45p Chancel Choir rehearsal,
music rm

UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alternative Gift Market will be available in the Parlor after worship today. An Alternative Gift is a humanitarian gift given in honor of a friend or loved one. Thirty projects ranging from water wells in South Sudan to medicine for Burmese refugees are available through our partner, Alternative Gifts International. Just like traditional gifts, Alternative Gifts express love and affection, celebrate occasions, and show you care. Unlike traditional gifts, Alternative Gifts do not contribute to the consumer stream and will not be re-gifted. Alternative Gifts express our stewardship of the world God gave us, and give us a tangible way to care for our brothers and sisters. Give gifts that have global impact!

The Ames Chamber Artists will perform "Sing in Exultation," a concert of holiday music, on Saturday, December 20, at 7:30 pm at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 1416 20th St. in Ames. Advance tickets for the performance are \$12 for adults, \$9 for seniors and students (\$15 at the door). Children under 12 are admitted free. Tickets are available at Everts Flowers, Home and Gifts, and Rieman Music in downtown Ames or from Lesley Lackore. This concert will also be presented Friday, December 19, at 7:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 703 Greene Street, in Boone. No tickets are required - a free-will offering will be taken.

December 21 Chancel Choir Christmas Program

The Chancel Choir will lead worship on Sunday, December 21, at 10:45 a.m. presenting *In the First Light*, arranged by Tom Fettke. This Christmas cantata incorporates familiar carols such as *Angels We Have Heard on High*, and introduces new music for traditional texts such as *For Unto Us a Child Is Born*, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, *Gloria* and more!

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m.

Come Explore Membership!

Are you interested in becoming a member, or just curious about what membership means in the UCC? Then come to Membership Exploration Class! These classes will be an opportunity to learn about the church, get to know other newcomers as well as some long-time members, and come away with a clearer sense of your own spiritual journey.

These classes truly are an *exploration*: you don't have to be ready to sign on the dotted line to attend! **Classes will be 12:00-1:00 p.m. on January 4, 11, and 18, with lunch and childcare provided.** We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will come and explore with us!

Welcome! Whether you are passing through, attending with a friend or relative, searching for a church home, or seeking answers to life’s questions, we are glad you are with us today. Please introduce yourself to the minister following the service and stay for refreshments so others in our fellowship may meet you. If you want to know more about our church, please tell the minister or indicate this on our fellowship pads.

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.

Nursery Care: We welcome children to stay during our worship service...in fact, we enjoy it! However, if you or your child(ren) would like to use our staffed nursery, it is available during worship for infants and children through kindergarten. Our nursery is located on the second floor on the east side of the church building, and a parent or guardian will be required to sign their child in and out. Please feel free to use this service.

Godly Play: Join us during the Sunday School hour for *Godly Play*! On the second Sunday through the end of the month, children ages Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited upstairs to experience a story from the Bible and then create, play, or act out their ideas. The first week of the month will feature *speed rotations*, where children experience a Bible story through an action-packed variety of activities. *Godly Play* is also offered during worship on the first Sunday of each month, following the Children’s Message.

Bell Ringing for Peace: Join us every Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. in the bell tower to ring the bell and pray for worldwide peace. Ames UCC is a Just Peace church, encouraging the interrelation of friendship, justice, and common security from violence.

Communion: Jesus included everyone present in the meals he shared, and so do we. The bread we use is free of gluten, soy, and dairy products (it does contain eggs); and the wine is unfermented (aka “juice”). In our theological understanding, it is not the bread or the wine that is changed in Communion, but we who are changed in the sharing of it. If you are here on a Communion Sunday, we hope you will join us in this transformative meal.

To contact the Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore: During regular office hours, if the matter is not urgent, please call the church office or email Terry at terry@amesucc.org. If your situation is an emergency, don’t hesitate to call her cell phone at 415.686.4799.

Program Staff:

Interim Minister.....Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore
Minister to Children & Families.....Hannah Hannover
Youth Director.....Emily Kenneke
Music Director.....Lesley Lackore
Keyboardist.....Karen “Sunny” Stewart

