



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!

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 30, 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

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.

CENTERING

“A Time of Waiting”

Lighting the First Candle of Advent

Nicholas and Rachel Schelle

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 one candle: the candle of hope.

We look for the Advent of God into this world, turning despair into hope. Come, Lord Jesus!

***GATHERING SONG** "O How Shall I Receive You"

NCH 102

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

***SUNG RESPONSE**

"Gloria 3"

***SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE**

Advent is a time of preparation and hopeful anticipation. Just as we prepare for a splendid feast, a new birth in a family, or the receiving of a gift, so we extend a warm welcome to each other. May the love and peace of God through Jesus the Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please share Christ's peace with one another.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Hannah Hannover

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION "Prepare the Way" v. 1

PH 13

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 64:109

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you

in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

SERMON

“A Time of Transition”

Rev. Dr. Charles Kniker

***SONG**

“Watcher, Tell Us of the Night”

NCH 103

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *beginning with “Come and Fill Our Hearts”*

Joys & Concerns

Nancy Heathman and her family in the death of her mother.
For the Pastor Search Committee in this period of discernment.
For Kenneth Kniker, brother of Charles Kniker, in ICU in St. Louis.
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

“Shout to the Lord”
Zachary Houborg, piano

Zscheck, arr. Kevrin

*SUNG RESPONSE

“God Gives Us What We Need”
Tune: Schumann; Text: Kniker/Zeigler

Abundant Gifts

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we give our best to you, not out of guilt or fear, but with gratitude and faith. Use these gifts to make a difference and to bring hope to those in need. Amen.

*SONG

“Awake to Change”

AWAKE TO CHANGE

Knicker/Zeigler

***BLESSING AND COMMISSION**

One: We can be hope in a world often hopeless.

All: We can be hope for those who fear.

One: By showing that dread cannot defeat us,

**All: that dark depression must never win,
we can be hope in the name of God.**

***SENDING MUSIC**

UCC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Nov. 30 - First Sunday of Advent

10:45a Worship, *sanctuary*
"A Time of Transition"
Rev. Dr. Charles Kniker
Scripture: Isaiah 64:109, Psalm 80:1-7,
17-19, 1Corinthians 1:3-9

Alternative Gift Market

6-7:30p Youth Group

Monday, Dec. 1

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

Wednesday, Dec. 3

8:30a Morning Bible Study, *Fellowship Hall*

9:00a Wed. AM Work Crew

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

2:05p Wednesday Afternoon Club

6:45p Chancel Choir rehearsal, *music rm*

Thursday, Dec. 4

3:00p INSIGHT study group, *rm 104*

Saturday, Dec. 6

MOW – 1. Potter/Andersen

2. Clark

Sunday, Dec. 7- Second Sunday of Advent

9:00a Breakfast, *Fellowship Hall*

9:30a Learning Center, *Fellowship Hall*

9:30a Sunday School

9:30a Bible Study, *library*

10:45a Worship, *sanctuary*

"Baptized Into the Wilderness"

Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-14

Alternative Gift Market

**Congregational Meeting to vote on the 2015
Budget and elect new officers**

6-7:30pm Youth Group

UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome the Rev. Dr. Charles Kniker to our pulpit this morning! Charles is a member of this congregation, a hymn writer, and a former President of Eden Theological Seminary, along with many other accomplishments.

Advent Party & Church Decorating – Today at 4:30 p.m. Come make crafts (for all ages), listen to Christmas music, decorate Christmas cookies baked by Charles Kniker, and enjoy each other's company as we kick off this very special time in the church year. People can also gather in the sanctuary to decorate our church for Christmas! Then, stay for pizza in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Alternative Gift Market will be available in the Parlor after worship today, December 7, and December 14. 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!

Donate Christmas Items – Donations of new and gently used items for Food at First's Pass Along Party are being accepted now through Monday, December 1. The Pass Along Party gives families in need the opportunity to Christmas shop for free. Donations of household items, books, toys, toiletries, gift wrapping supplies and more may be dropped off on the front porch at 3324 Preston Circle in Ames, or left in the donation boxes available in the Parlor.

Congregational Meeting December 7 – We will gather after worship on December 7 to vote on the 2015 budget and elect officers for the coming year. The Executive Board has approved a budget for 2015 that will appear in the December issue of the UCC Courier, along with nominations for officers. An optional information session will be held after worship on November 30 to answer questions on the proposed budget.

Art Exhibitors Needed – Ames UCC is looking for artwork to exhibit in the Parlor for the next several months. If you have paintings, quilts, or any other types of art you would like to share, *or if you know an artist*, please contact Jan Bauer at 515-292-3739 or bauerjan@yahoo.com. Thank you!

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

