



Just Peace, Open & Affirming

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www.AmesUCC.org

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 2015

*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

Welcome to Ames UCC! Worship is the way we praise God and learn what it means to be a Christian. Services are a way to 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.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many 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.

Anita Clark, Liz Morse, flutes

A bridge between the hubbub of the Peace and business of announcements and our time of worship.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

One: Let us pray these familiar words, recognizing in the Risen and still rising Christ our Good Shepherd:

Many: Jesus, you are our shepherd. We shall never want.

You make us lie down in green pastures;

you lead us beside the still waters.

You restore our souls.

You guide us in the paths of righteousness for your name’s sake.

Even though we may walk through the valley

of the shadow of death,

we fear no evil, for you, Christ, comfort us.

Jesus has prepared a table for us

in the presence of our foes;

Jesus has anointed us with the oil of salvation;

our cup runs over!

Surely, goodness and mercy will follow us

all the days of our lives,

And we will dwell in the house

of our Holy Savior forever and ever. Amen.

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.”

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: Merciful and Loving God, we ask forgiveness because our consciousness of you is dimmed by everyday desires and needs.

Many: Raise our consciousness of you, O God.

One: We forget that we are a reflection of your image. We act as though you are a Sunday-only event.

Many: Increase our mindfulness of you, O God.

One: Help us to a greater common awareness of your deep mystery and infinite presence.

Many: Rouse our awareness of you, God.

One: Open our eyes from surface focus to depth perception. Turn our heads from shallow concerns to eternal truths.

Many: Awaken us from faint-heartedness, O God.

One: Forgive us for our narrow and selfish ways. Save us from cheap grace with your amazing grace.

All: Forgive us, O God. We ask in Jesus’ precious name. 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: God is in such a hurry to forgive us that we are already trusted with new opportunities to live into Christ's call and are led to all the other people God wants to reach. Thanks be to God!

Many: **Amen!**

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.

HEBREW BIBLE Psalm 23 (Jewish Publication Society, 1917 version)

Using "Hebrew Bible" instead of "Old Testament" is a sign of respect for our Jewish cousins (it isn't old to them) and acknowledgement of the living voice still found in these ancient stories.

HaShem is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; He guideth me in straight paths for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of HaShem for ever.

GOSPEL John 10:11-18 (New Revised Standard Version, modified for inclusive language.)

Gospel means “good news,” making the full title of this book of the Bible “The Good News of Jesus Christ according to John.”

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as God knows me and I know God. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason God loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from God.”

SERMON

Rev. Eileen Gebbie

***HYMN OF REFLECTION** “My Shepherd Is the Living God”

NCH 247

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please come forward to share your prayer needs as you are so moved.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Lowell Mathison recovering at Bickford Cottage following a fall.

Steve Barnhart’s mother recovering from a broken hip.

Ellen Barnhart’s father in hospice care.

Devon, Diana McHenry’s 13-year-old niece, diagnosed with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma.

Kaiden, Diana’s 10-year-old cousin, struggling with current treatment for leukemia.

Christa Andersen’s father on a recent diagnosis of cancer.

Caregivers

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 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.

OFFERING WITH CHORAL ANTHEM

Thank you for giving what you can to the work and mission of our church.

*"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" arr. Mack Wilberg
Chancel Choir & Liz Morse and Anita Clark, flutes*

***SINGING GLORY**

This song and practice is also known as a "doxology," or "glory saying." It is a short hymn of praise that we rise and sing as the offering comes forward. We are not standing for or praising money, but the God to whom we present our gifts, who inspires and calls us to ministry.

**Praise God from whom all blessing flow,
Praise Christ the word in flesh born low,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore,
One God, Triune, whom we adore,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN OF SENDING**

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

NCH 42

***BENEDICTION**

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

SENDING MUSIC

UCC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, April 26

Congregational mtg. and **vote**
and **Coffee Fellowship** to follow
worship

6:00-7:30p Youth Group

Monday, April 27

Emergency Residence: Powell

Tuesday, April 28

9:30a Staff meeting
12:00p Men's Fellowship
4:40p Worship Planning mtg.,
Office Conference rm.

Wednesday, April 29

8:30a Morning Bible Study
9:30a Wed. Morning Work Crew
12:10p Peace Bell Ringers
1:00p Assemble newsletter
2:05p WAC
6:45p Choir rehearsal, *sanctuary*

Thursday, April 30

3:00p INSIGHT Study Group,
Rm. 104

Saturday, May 2

*Meals on Wheels – 1. Potter/Andersen
2. Clark*

10-11:30a 150th Capital Campaign
Executive mtg. - *Fellowship Hall*

Sunday, May 3

9:00a Breakfast, *Fellowship Hall*
9:30a Learning Center, *Fellowship
Hall*
9:30a Sunday School
10:45a Worship, *sanctuary*
Texts: Acts 8:26-40
John 15:1-8
Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore preaching
Following worship, the 150th
Committee and the Social Justice &
Outreach Team will conduct a
congregational survey to prioritize our
investments outside the church.
Fellowship Hall
6:00-7:30p Youth Group

UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Congregational Meeting

There will be a special congregational meeting in the sanctuary following worship **today** to consider extending a call to the Rev. Eileen Gebbie as the next minister of the United Church of Christ-Congregational in Ames.

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The Ames Choral Society will present its 50th Spring Concert, "A Singing City," at 7:00 p.m. this evening at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 209 Colorado Ave., in Ames. Directed by Steve Hoifeldt, the program includes music selected to illustrate the important role singing has played as an enriching community activity in European and American culture. The audience will be invited to sing familiar songs.

To help celebrate its 50 seasons of community singing, the Ames Choral Society especially invites past directors and former members to attend the concert and be honored at a reception to follow. In its history, the society has welcomed 12 directors, including Hoifeldt, who has been the director since 1982. Tickets for "A Singing City" are \$12 for adults and free for children under 12. Tickets are available at the door. On May 4, the Ames Choral Society will welcome new members to join in preparing summer performances on June 27 and July 3. For more information contact (515) 232-5545 or visit ameschoral.org.

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Sign-Up Online *or* in the Church Parlor to Help with Sunday Mornings

Want to help with Sunday mornings? We always need readers, ushers, coffee servers, deacons, and greeters. One way is to go to the church website (amesucc.org), click on the "Members" tab at the top of the page, and you will see a place on the left side of the page where you can sign up. You may also sign up on the sign up clipboard located on the large rolling announcement board in the church parlor. After signing up, you will receive instructions by email describing exactly what to do. **Please sign up today!**

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 nursery, there are qualified childcare providers during worship for infants and children through kindergarten. Our nursery is located on the second floor on the east side of the church building. A parent or guardian will be required to sign their child in and out. Please feel free to use this service.

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.

Bell Ringing for Peace: Join us every Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. in the bell tower to ring the bell for peace and pray for worldwide peace. Ames UCC is a just peace church.

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
Music Director.....Lesley Lackore
Keyboardist.....Karen “Sunny” Stewart

Ministers of Worship & Hospitality:

Deacon.....Ed Goedeken
Ushers..... Elaine Hieber, Allen Trenkle,
Rachel Schelle, Bradley Duckstein
Greeter.....Rachel Schelle
Liturgist.....Linda Shenk
Coffee.....Kermit & Trudy Dirks,
John & Marjorie Uitermarkt
Welcome.....Barbara & Bill Yungclas