



Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, August 9, 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.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements are posted in the back of your bulletin and also in our weekly e-newsletter. To sign up for the weekly e-newsletter please send your request via e-mail to: 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.

*150th ANNIVERSARY HISTORIC CALL TO WORSHIP

A formal, and mutual, invitation to move into the worship experience. A note by Charles Kniker about today's historic call to worship and hymn, in honor of our 150th year as a church:

In the first thirty years of this congregation's life (1865-1894), it had eight ministers. Most of them came from New England, many from Vermont. They sought to transplant their theology and religious practices here, in a land that was often viewed by Easterners as a barbaric, chaotic land to be conquered, much like a mission field. Although young (31 years old when he came to Ames), the first minister, Rev. John White, had already been a missionary to Africa.

Although we do not have a printed order of service from that time period to use as a guide, the typical New England worship service of this era would likely have begun with the recitation of some psalms or other biblical passages. The three couplets or sets of scripture (Minister and People) reflect first, the Congregational Church's commitment to foreign missions, second and third, particular interests in observing the Sabbath and temperance (opposing alcohol). Rev. White and 13 young women of the congregation were active in closing the first saloon in Ames in 1868. In 1888 Rev. William Bennett was active in promoting a constitutional amendment in favor of prohibition.

All the scriptures are from the King James Version of the Bible.

Minister: All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. (Isa. 52:10)

People: **Say among the nations that the Lord reigneth.** (Psalm 96:10)

Minister: My Sabbaths ye shall keep; for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you. (Ex. 31:13)

People: **The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath; therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.** (Mark 2:27-28)

Minister: The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.

People: **He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him; he also will hear their cry, and will save them.** (Psalm 145:14, 19)

150TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORIC HYMN

“Blessed Assurance,” Hymn 473

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: Loving God, we welcome your living presence in our midst. Share our joy and our thanks for the life you give us. Sing with us! Dance among us! Pray with us! Shower us with your love!

Many: 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: Heavenly Stranger, our Companion on the Way, we yearn for your love and grace. We seek your wisdom and guidance. We relish the joy which burns within our hearts when you are with us.

**Many: Yet, sometimes we would cling to you,
hoard the blessings of relationship with you,
and not share your love with others. Forgive us, Dear One.**

One: Remind us that your love is to be carried throughout the world. Press us to share the hope and joy of your love, so that someone who hungers for spiritual food may be filled by our witness to your grace. Shine the light of your Spirit through us, so that we may show your Way those who long for peace and help to revive those in whom hope has died.

Many: 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 will come to us, unrecognized, as a stranger. The Risen Christ reaches out to us in unexpected ways as we travel along The Way. The Word of our Stillspeaking God continues to burn in our hearts. 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. We sing the song below as they come forward and as they return to their seats or head off for Godly Play.

**In Christ there is no East or West
in Christ no South or North.
But one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth!**

CHRISTIAN TESTAMENT Hebrews 1:1-4 (New Revised Standard Version, modified for inclusive language)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days God has spoken to us by a Son, appointed heir of all things, through whom God also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

SERMON

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please share your prayer needs as you are so moved.

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 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 com, 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. All cash gifts will go to supporting our community justice partners like Food at First.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN OF SENDING** “We Live by Faith and Not by Sight,” Hymn 256, verses 1-3

*BENEDICTION

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

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

A sung blessing, this song or part of a song varies throughout the year.

A-a-a-men, A-a-a-men, A-a-men, A-men, A-men

(3 times)

POSTLUDE

You are welcome to be seated and enjoy the day’s postlude or move into the parlor for fellowship. Our worship leaders will greet you at the end of the center aisle, or you may go out the side aisle. Thank you for joining us today – if you have any questions or concerns, please contact any one of our pastors or members of staff.

Devotion: Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. Find a routine that works best for you.

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

God of our ancestors, you have spoken through the prophets, and you have spoken through Christ, your Son. Speak to us today, and give us ears to hear the wisdom you wish to share with us. Amen.

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

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. Hebrews 1:1-2

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

Just as God's voice was heard throughout the stories of the Old Testament, so God's voice can be heard through Christ's words and actions, and even today through the words and actions of others that reflect Christ, as an imprint reflects its original.

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

Sunday, Hebrews 1:1-4, *God Has Spoken*

Monday, Hebrews 1:5-14, *The Son Superior to Angels*

Tuesday, Hebrews 2:1-4, *Warning to Pay Attention*

Wednesday, Hebrews 2:5-9, *Jesus a Little Lower than Angels*

Thursday, Hebrews 3:1-6, *Moses and Christ*

Friday, Matthew 3:7-19, *Warning against Unbelief*

Saturday, Hebrews 4:1-13, *God's Promised Rest*

Where does Jesus fit into the story of God and God's story? How does Jesus compare with God's angels?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your life. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with “Highs” and “Lows.”

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point? Do you think Jesus still speaks to the world today? Where do you see evidence of Jesus’s voice in your community? How is your life a reflection of Jesus’ life? Where could you make changes so that your life reflects your values?

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

Get a small diary or journal to carry with you throughout the week. Make a note of every time you hear Jesus’ voice speaking through other people, music, news, worship, and more.

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God’s voice speak to you each and every day. Amen.

Media at Ames UCC: In this digital age, the church takes many pictures and video recordings of baptisms, choir performances and concerts, worship services, mission trips, special presentations, Church School, fellowship activities and community outreach projects. We use these images to record, to promote and to celebrate our church ministries. Photos and videos are used on bulletin boards, in slide shows and PowerPoint presentations, in publications, on our church website and social media pages. Some persons may choose not to have their photos and video images, or those of their children, used, and we strive to be respectful of their wishes. In such case, we are providing a Media Opt-Out form for individuals and / or families who prefer NOT to have images of themselves used by the church. If you so choose to opt out please contact the church office (office@amesucc.org).

UCC Calendar for the Week

Sunday, August 9

9:30am Church Worship Service
3:00pm Youth of Ames
4:00pm After A Year of Violence: A Service of Lament

Monday, August 10

5-5:30pm Emergency Residence Project

Tuesday, August 11

12:00pm Men's Fellowship
3:00pm Farm to Folk

Wednesday, August 12

8:30am Morning Bible Study
9:30am AM Work Crew
10:00am ABC Sale Team (*Room 209*)

Saturday, August 15

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

Sunday, August 16

9:30am Church Worship Service
Scripture: Hebrews 2:10-18
Preacher: Paster Eileen Gebbie

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.

Nursery Care: We welcome children to stay during our worship service...in fact, we enjoy it; however, we do provide a staffed nursery available during the worship service 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.

Godly Play: All Godly Play activities will be on break for the summer, and will reconvene after Labor Day.

Bell Ringing for Peace: Join us every Wednesday at 12:10pm 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 the transformative meal.

UCC Announcements

Youth of Ames UCC: Attention Youth of Ames UCC, we will be having a beginning of the year event today, Sun, August 9th from 3-4pm. Please come and check out our new temporary space and brainstorm some fun activities for the year. Snacks provided! Questions?.....Contact Emily at emkenneke@gmail.com

After a Year of Violence: A Service of Lament: Lafayette, Charleston, Ferguson, Chattanooga, Baltimore, New York City, Cleveland: join Ames UCC in a service of lament after this year of violent death. All are welcome, today, Sun Aug 9th at 4pm.

Women's Fellowship: There will be a change from what was posted in the August Newsletter...on August 12 the women of the church will gather at noon and have a "Joys and concerns" general discussion. Our recipe collection will start in September.

New Member Classes: Those interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and Ames UCC are urged to sign up for our new member classes: Sunday, August 23 & Sunday August 30. Each class will meet for 1 hour immediately after Sunday worship service. We will meet in Room 104. Childcare is available, but please indicate your need (ages & number of children) when you register. Both classes are required for joining the church; however, taking the classes is not a commitment to join Ames UCC. We will receive new members during worship on Builder's Day, Sunday, September 13th, which is also when worship time returns to 10:45. Please register with Pastor Eileen by calling the church office (515) 232-9323, or by emailing Pastor Eileen at Eileen@amesUCC.org.

ABC Sale Planned: Preparations for the Attic to Basement Church Sale continue on Wednesday mornings, 10am to noon, in Room 209. "Pickers" old and new welcome! Sale dates will be Friday, August 28, and Saturday August 29 in Fellowship Hall. We are accepting merchandise donations (cash too if desired), and can pick up if needed—no clothing this year, please! Donations can be left any time under the coat racks immediately inside the glass doors. Contact Barbara Faidley, Barbara Yungclas, or Cornelia Flora for more info.

Congratulations to Cindy Zhu and Sam Shi: Announcing the birth of Cindy & Sam's 1st child, Steven, Wed, July 22, 8lbs, 14 ounces, 22.5 inches long. Cards can be sent to 221 S. Oak Ave, Apt 23, Ames, Iowa 50010. Anyone who would like to visit is asked to please call first at 515-520-5671.

Congratulations and a Big Thank You to Lesley Lackore!: This month we celebrate Lesley's 10th year of service as a member of our music ministry staff. Adding in the five years she also served in the 1990's puts her at a grand total of 15 years service at UCC. Thank you Lesley! We appreciate your service! We appreciate you!

Work of the People: Each time we gather to worship God and practice what it means to be Christian, our day’s preacher has liturgists alongside, who do the call to worship, prayers and read scripture. “Liturgy” is from a Greet word that means “work of the people.” So it is the work of the people to be in worship leadership! Please contact Pr Eileen to join in this important part of our lives together. Even if the thought makes you nervous. Maybe ESPECIALLY if it makes you nervous, your voice is important. No experience necessary and all ages are welcome. Eileen@amesucc.org or 515-232-9323.

To contact Pastor Eileen Gebbie: From time to time, we find ourselves in life situations when the church office is closed, and we need a pastor. In order to serve you in these times of need, we will now be available to you by calling our Pastoral Emergencies line at 515-428-1779. Leave a message with your concern and your contact number. Pastor Gebbie or another “on-call” pastoral caregiver will receive the message and will respond as soon as possible. Eileen can also be contacted at eileen@amesucc.org

Program Staff:

- Minister.....Eileen Gebbie
- Minister to Children & Families.....Hannah Hannover
- Youth Director.....Emily Kenneke
- Music Director.....Lesley Lackore
- Keyboardist.....Karen “Sunny” Stewart