



Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, August 16, 2015

WELCOME

*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.*

*Our worship leaders today are:
Dan Coffey (prayers), Cornelia Flora (scripture), Eileen Gebbie (preacher)*

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GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Most 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.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: We gather today, seeking the peace Christ gives.

Many: We gather, in spite of many a conflict, many a doubt, within our souls.

One: We gather, longing for the breath of God's Spirit to give us courage and renewal.

Many: Come, Christ Jesus, be our guest.

**Bless us through the power of your Spirit,
and give us the courage to live and your disciples day by day. Amen.**

*HYMN "This Is My Song," New Century Hymnal 591

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: God, with great gentleness and care, you call us to be your people and to do your work. Be known to us here today, for we come, asking for your support in all that we do. We need your love, transforming our lives in hope. Be with us, we pray. 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.

**Many: O God, our God, we celebrate the new life which you have given us.
We have experienced broken lives made whole,
old wounds of alienation healed over and tired spirits
rejuvenated with new vision.
Gracious God, we are so grateful for the purpose and possibilities
you have placed before us.
Yet there are times when doubt has overcome hope,
cynicism has replaced dedication,
the world's values have captured us more than yours.
Forgive us those times, we pray.
Help us let go of the past that we might move joyfully
into a new future that points to your love and justice. 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: Our God sets captives free. Our God brings new life to the desperate. Our God changes water into wine. Even our lives can change and be changed in hope.
Alleluia! 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.

**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 2:10-18 (New Revised Standard Version,
modified for inclusive language)

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Creator. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

SERMON

HYMN OF PREPARATION "I Come with Joy," New Century Hymnal 349

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 Invitation

One: Come, you weary and restless, come, all who hunger and thirst. Jesus calls us to dine as friends, come, God's feast of welcome awaits us.

The Communion Prayer

One: God be with you!

Many: And also with you.

One: As we partake of this bread and fruit, we honor Creator and creation. As we bless and share these gifts, we celebrate the table-fellowship of Jesus. All are worthy, all are welcome! As we receive the fruits of Spirit, we celebrate the communion of all things. Creator, Christ, and Spirit dance as one. So may it always be. Come, Holy One, come. Bless and prosper this meal; bless and prosper this fellowship; bless and prosper our lives, that justice and love may be the measure of our common witness.

Many: Amen.

Sharing the Meal "Spanish Dance" by Gaspar Sans, played by Tom Meyer, guitar

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Thanks be to you, O God, for your presence and your purpose, for your loving kindness and your steadfast Spirit.

**Many: May the blessings of this table strengthen our faith,
increase our generosity and unify our hearts,
for we pray in the name of Jesus, the Risen One. Amen.**

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 “Pavane” by Diego Pisador played by Tom Meyer, guitar

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 “I Am the Light of the World,” New Century Hymnal 584

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.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS
August 16–22, 2015

God's Story Our Story

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

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

Holy God, Jesus, died at our hands. Deliver us from inflicting such suffering, and bring us into your kingdom. Amen.

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

Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2:17

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

Some believe that Jesus became flesh and blood to atone for humanity's sin. By extension, they feel, so, Jesus freed all people from sin and death. Others suggest that Jesus was a man infused by holiness who died because he refused to tolerate Empire. In doing so, he showed us a path to liberate ourselves and others from horror and loss.

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

Sunday, Hebrews 2:10-18, *Praise for Those Being Tested*

Monday, Hebrews 5:11-14, *Warning against Falling Away*

Tuesday, Hebrews 6:1-12, *Peril of Falling Away*

Wednesday, Hebrews 6:13-20, *God's Certain Promise*

Thursday, Hebrews 7:1-10, *The Priestly Order of Mechizedek*

Friday, Hebrews 7:11-28, *A Priest Like Melchizedek*

Saturday, Hebrews 8:1-13, *Mediator of a Better Covenant*

How did Jesus' testing make him better able to relate to humanity? Was it part of a plan from God? Does it redeem all of us as we are? What work are we to do?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household. 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?

Why do you think there is suffering in the world?

Do you believe God tests people? How do you view suffering in your own life? How does suffering shape your life?

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

Check your local news, social media, or your congregation to find people who may be experiencing suffering due to illness, grief, loss, or some other reason. Determine their need, whether emotional support, financial support, a meal, or something else.

Provide for that need.

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God deliver you from suffering today and every day. Amen.



Welcome to Ames UCC!

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 indicate this on the fellowship pads in the pews.

Bible Study

All are welcome to join us for Bible Study on Wednesdays at 8:30am. The study is taking place in fellowship hall. The current study is the book of Hebrews. Our study scripture for Wednesday, August 19th will be Hebrews 4:14—5:10.

Women's Fellowship

Our recipe collection will start in September. Make sure you are gathering your recipes!

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 23 we invite ALL that will be going back to school (children, teachers, administrators, professors, custodians, college students, etc) to bring their backpack, briefcase or totebag to worship for a blessing on your new year!

ABC Sale Planned

Preparations for the Attic to Basement Church Sale continue on Wednesday mornings, 10 a.m. 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 need donations, 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.

Make a Joyful Noise - Share Your God Given Talents!

We are all abundantly blessed by God, some of us with special talents of the arts. It is time to get out your instruments, practice your song or dance, brush up your public speaking, write a poem or practice the performance art of your choice. As part of the 150th Anniversary Celebration we will have a "Creating A Joyful Noise" talent show at 7pm, Saturday, September 19 in Fellowship Hall. Kristin Shields is the liaison for the youth members, who can sign up with her. Others can sign up with Tom Meyer, Laura Deal, or Greg Lamont. A sign-up page has also been created on SigUpGenius.com

Are You Willing to Host A Congregational Dinner?

It is time for our Fall Congregational dinners and we are looking for hosts! Dinners will be arranged for the weekends of September 25, 26, 27 and October 2, 3, 4. What is a Congregational Dinner? It is a time for each of us to get to know one another better, as we sit down to a meal together in someone's home. Individuals or couples graciously agree to host a dinner in their home, and then arrangements are made by Hannah to mingle members and friends of our congregation together to attend & socialize. Please contact Hannah at hannah@amesucc.org if you are interested in hosting!

Save the Date

The installation of The Rev. Eileen Gebbie, featuring the United Church of Christ Minister for Youth Advocacy and Leadership Formation and #BlackLivesMatter Leader, Rev. Waltrina Middleton, will be held the afternoon of Sunday, September 27th at 2pm. Come celebrate our new minister and join in the work of our local and national

United Church of Christ!

2015 Iowa Conference UCC Annual Business Meeting

You are invited to attend the 2015 Annual Business Meeting of the Iowa Conference UCC. This is an opportunity to learn about the Iowa Conference and make decisions that link our local churches, associations, committees and commissions, our Conference and the national UCC setting. Leaders will be elected, budget considered & reports given. It will be a day of worship, lunch gathering and plenary.

The meeting will be held Saturday, October 17, 2015 at Plymouth UCC, 4126 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines 50312. Registration / Coffee / Marketplace will begin at 9am, Worship / Meeting will begin at 10:30 - 3pm. Cost is \$25 per person & includes lunch. Parking is free in the church parking lot. Deadline for registration is September 25th. Walk-in's are welcome but there is no guarantee of meal or material availability for those not pre-registered.

New Member Classes

Interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and Ames UCC? Would you like to explore what becoming a member of our church means? Sign up for our new member classes: Sunday, August 23 and Sunday, August 30 after worship (for an hour). 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 13, which is also when worship time returns to 10:45. Register with Pastor Eileen by calling the church office (515-232-9323), or by emailing Pastor Eileen at eileen@amesucc.org.

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 Greek 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

Pastoral Emergencies

From time to time, we find ourselves in live 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

Calendar for the Week

Monday, August 17

5:00pm Emergency Residence Project
(Clark/Starck)

Tuesday, August 18

3:00pm Farm to Folk
7:15pm Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 19

8:30am Morning Bible Study
9:30am AM Work Crew
10:00am ABC Sale Team (Room 209)
12:10pm Peace Bell Ringers
3:30pm Theologian-in-Residence Meeting

Saturday, August 22

11:20am Meals on Wheels (Clark)

Sunday, August 23

9:30 Church Worship Service
Blessing of the Backpacks
Scripture: Hebrews 4:14-5:10
Preacher: Pastor Eileen Gebbie

Be In Touch

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

Eileen Gebbie, Minister
eileen@amesucc.org / Ext 11

Hannah Hannover,
Minister to Children & Families
hannah@amesucc.org / Ext 12

Emily Kenneke, Youth Director
emkenneke@gmail.com / 563-508-1794

Lesley Lackore, Music Director
llackore@gmail.com / 515-232-2907

Karen “Sunny” Stewart, Keyboardist
kstewart@ames.k12.ia.us / 515-268-2400