



Ames United Church of Christ  
Sunday, August 23, 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.*

## 930 a Worship on Sunday, August 23, 2015

### WELCOME

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*Today's service features special musical guests The Whimsical Warblers:*

*Altos: Evelyn Bentley, Ames, and Pat Crawford, Slater*

*Seconds: Helen Hoeven, Slater, and Vivian Whitmore, Story City*

*Sopranos: Sharon Strohm, Ames, and Carol Smith, Ames*

*Sound Man: Chuck Hoeven, Slater*

*Our worship leaders today are Christa Andersen (scripture), Eileen Gebbie (preaching), Hannah Hannover (Children's Celebration), and Terry Potter (prayers).*

### GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Most announcements are also in your bulletin and our weekly e-newsletter. To sign up, e-mail [office@amesucc.org](mailto: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.*

WHIMSICAL WARBLERS "When They Call My Name," Mosie Lister

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: Christ is in our midst! How will you bid him welcome?

**Many: We will throw open the doors to our hearts. We will delight in his presence.**

One: When God shows up, surprising things can happen.

**Many: We will make ourselves ready.**

**We will lay down our burdens and set aside our distractions.**

One: Here we receive good news: Nothing is too wonderful for God!

**Many: So let us laugh and sing, rest and listen, dance and praise—  
Let us worship God!**

HYMN “Hope of the World,” Hymn 46, verses 1, 2, & 4

*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: Wonderful, surprising God, you bring us hope when we are discouraged, peace when we are anxious, and joy when we are least expecting it. Help us, now, to rest in your presence. Be our welcome Guest not only here but everywhere we go this week. Show us how to receive all that you have to offer us. May we remain open even to what seems too incredible to be true, for with you, so much more is possible than we even imagine. We pray this in the name of your most Glorious Impossible, Jesus the Christ.

**All: 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.*

**All: Gracious, inviting God,  
you continually provide us with opportunities to practice generous hospitality.  
But our fear of difference, reluctance to share, and desire to be in control  
make our welcome appear weak and insincere.  
Because we long for what is familiar and comfortable,  
we have difficulty honoring the stranger as a sacred guest  
who bears the face of Christ.  
Worn out and irritated by the work we think we must do,  
we miss opportunities to receive the gifts that such guests offer us.  
Forgive us, O God, for focusing on the wrong things.  
Show us how to do what is right.**

## 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: The Psalmist declares that those who speak the truth from their heart will abide in God's sanctuary. God hears the difficult truths we have named aloud and in the silence of our hearts. Now let the wonderful gift of God's forgiveness flow through you. May the abundance of God's mercy and grace set you free to serve God with love.

**Many: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION WITH BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

*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 4:14-5:10 (New Revised Standard Version)

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

## SERMON

WHIMSICAL WARBLERS “Coming Down,” by Wes Homner and arranged by Tom Fettke

## 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 WHIMSICAL WARBLERS

*Thank you for giving what you can. All cash gifts will go to supporting our community justice partners like Food at First.*

**“What a Wonderful World,” Words/Music by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele,  
arranged by Mark A. Brymer**

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#### HYMN OF SENDING

**“There Is a Name I Love to Hear,” Hymn 52**

#### 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.*

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;**

**Fill our hearts with joy and peace;**

**Let us each your love possessing,**

**Triumph in redeeming grace:**

**Oh, refresh us, oh refresh us,**

**Traveling through this wilderness.**

#### 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 23–29, 2015



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.**

Great High Priest, you know the trials and sufferings of humanity yet remained in love and a lover. Show us how to treat each other with the compassion you showed to us. Amen.

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

*Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:14-15*

**Study: Study the reading and consider the background.**

Jesus, called the Great High Priest by the author(s) of Hebrews, responded to God's call to minister to the world, not just his own community. These duties included blessing the people. Jesus is accessible and understands the human plight and lived through the temptations and trials of humanity.

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

Sunday, Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10, *Jesus the Great High Priest*

Monday, Hebrews 9:15-22, *Mediator of a New Covenant*

Tuesday, Hebrews 9:23-28, *Christ's Sacrifice*

Wednesday, Hebrews 10:1-18, *Christ's Sacrifice*

Thursday, Hebrews 10:19-25, *Call to Perseverance*

Friday, Hebrews 10:26-31, *Call to Perseverance*

Saturday, Hebrews 10:32-39, *Call to Perseverance*

What does it mean that Jesus is the Great High Priest? What other images can you think of for Jesus that speak to you?

**Connect: Connect in conversation with others. 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?

Where do you see Christianity persevere in your community? How does your expression of Christianity look the same as it did at the time of Jesus? How does it look different?

Do you think there is a limit to how much suffering people can endure? What is your limit?

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

Consider how you have struggled to persevere as a Christian in your community. Have you struggled to share your faith with others? To live by the values your faith professes? To make sense of the differing faiths of others you are close to? Be intentional this week to work at perseverance in the area you struggle with the most.

**Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.**

May Jesus, the Great High Priest, bless 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](mailto:office@amesucc.org)).



## UCC Calendar for the Week

### **Sunday, August 23**

9:30am Church Worship Service  
10:45 New Member Class, Room #104

### **Monday, August 24**

5-5:30pm Emergency Residence Project

### **Tuesday, August 25**

12:00 pm Men's Fellowship  
1:00 pm Workshop, Architectural History  
3:00 pm Farm to Folk  
Pastor Eileen's Reading Day

### **Wednesday, August 26**

8:30 am Morning Bible Study  
9:30 am AM Work Crew  
10:00 am ABC Sale Team  
12:00 pm Women's Fellowship  
12:10 pm Ringing of the Bells  
1:00 pm Newsletter Team

### **Friday, August 28**

4-7 pm ABC Sale—Fellowship Hall

### **Saturday, August 29**

8-12 noon ABC Sale—Fellowship Hall  
11:20 Meals on Wheels (Chase)

### **Sunday, August 30**

9:30 am Church Worship Service  
Scripture: Hebrews  
10:45 am New Member Class  
10:45 am ABC Sale—Fellowship Hall  
10:45 am Campaign Executive Meeting  
11:20am Meals on Wheels (*Chase*)

***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 are on break for 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**

**Address Change:** Best Wishes to Mary Dengler who has moved to the Perry Lutheran Home. Mary would love to keep in touch with her UCC family. You can send greeting to her at her new home: Mary Dengler, Perry Lutheran Home, Room 137, 2323 Willis Avenue, Perry IA 50220. Also, if you are ever out that way, a visit would be much welcomed as well.

If you have recently moved or changed any of your contact information, please take the time to notify the church office by emailing to [office@amesucc.org](mailto:office@amesucc.org) or call 515-232-9323.

**Bible Study:** Come join us for Bible Study on Wednesdays at 8:30am. The study is taking place in fellowship hall. The study scripture for Wednesday, August 26th will be Hebrews 9:1-14.

**ABC Sale Almost Here!** Preparations for the Attic to Basement Church Sale continue and we have STUFF!!! We need PEOPLE!!! Please stay after service today & help us to move the donated items from the upstairs Sunday School rooms down to the Fellowship Hall. Also, please note: morning & afternoon ABC Work Crews will work all week, Mon Aug 24—Thursday, Aug 27 in fellowship hall finalizing preparations for the sale.

Sale dates will be Friday, August 28, 4-7pm and Saturday, August 29, 8am-12noon in Fellowship Hall. The sale will again be open on Sunday, August 30th after worship service and all items will be half price on that day.

**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 [SignUpGenius.com](http://SignUpGenius.com)

**Congregational Dinner:** We are still looking for hosts for our Fall Congregational Dinner. Dinners will be arranged for the weekends of September 25, 26, 27 and Oct 2, 3, 4. A Congregational Dinner 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](mailto: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 Leadership Formation and #Black Lives Matter Leader, Rev Waltzing Middleton, will be held the afternoon on Sunday, September 27th. Come celebrate our new ministers 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.

**Program Staff:**

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