



Just Peace, Open & Affirming

217 Sixth Street | Ames, Iowa
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www.AmesUCC.org

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

EPIPHANY OBSERVED

JANUARY 4, 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

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 MUSIC “The Magi Who To Bethlehem Did Go” M. F. Juncas
UCC Chancel Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Within the chaos of our world, God’s Spirit moves.

Upon the darkness of our world, God’s light breaks through.

The light shines in the darkness --

and the darkness will never overcome it.

***GATHERING SONG**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

NCH 145

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***SUNG RESPONSE**

“Eternal Light, Shine in My Heart” v. 1

*** ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

***SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE**

The peace of our Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please share Christ’s peace with one another.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Hannah Hannover

***SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

“Eternal Light” v.2

Eternal life, raise me from death; Eternal brightness, help me see;

Eternal Spirit, give me breath; Eternal Savior, come to me.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of our God has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but God will arise upon you, and God's glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' " Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON

“Tracks in the Snow” Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

***SONG**

“Star Child”

SPP 174

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Lowell Mathison at Green Hills for physical rehab (no visits yet).

For Mitchell, brother-in-law of Greg Wool, in ongoing health concerns.

Donna Trenkle, receiving Hospice care.

Caregivers

The Pastor Search Committee.

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

"Some Children See Him"

A. Bert

***SUNG RESPONSE**

"He Came Down"

ELW 253

**He came down that we may have love.
He came down that we may have love.
He came down that we may have love—
Hallelujah, forevermore!**

v. 2that we may have peace....

v. 3....that we may have light....

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Beckoning God, who called
the rich to travel toward poverty,
the wise to embrace your folly,
the powerful to know their own frailty,
we offer you our gifts.

Stir us with holy discontent over a world which gives its gifts to those

**who have plenty already,
whose talents are trumpeted,
whose power is recognized;**

**and help us to share our resources with those who have little,
and to receive with humility the gifts they bring to us. Amen.**

***SONG**

“This Little Light of Mine”

NCH 524

***v. 1 This little light of mine, - I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine, - I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

v. 2 Hide it under a bushel? No!....

v. 3 Don't let anyone blow it out!....

v. 4 Everywhere I go....

Repeat vs. 1

***BLESSING**

***SENDING MUSIC**

UCC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 4, 2015

12:00-1:00p Membership
Exploration Class (Fellowship Hall)
No Youth Group

Monday, January 5

11:45-1:00p AMOS Housing (Parlor)
6:00p Pastoral Search Committee
(Rm 104)

Tuesday, January 6

Epiphany

Wednesday, January 7

**January/February newsletter
deadline**

8:30a Morning Bible Study
(Fellowship Hall)
9:00a Wed. AM Work Crew
12:10p Peace Bell Ringers (Bell
Tower)
2:05p Wed. Afternoon Club
6:45p Chancel Choir rehearsal
(Music Room)

Thursday, January 8

3:00p INSIGHT study group (Rm 104)
7:00p “Easy as Curry” (large kitchen)

Saturday, January 10

MOW –Andersen/Potter

Sunday, January 11

9:30a Learning Center
9:30a Sunday School
10:45a Worship
12:00-1:00p Membership Exploration
Class (Fellowship Hall)
6:00-7:30p Youth Group

UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership Exploration Starts *Today!*

Are you interested in becoming a member, or just curious about what membership means in the UCC? Then come to Membership Exploration Class! These classes will be an opportunity to learn about the church, get to know other newcomers as well as some long-time members, and come away with a clearer sense of your own spiritual journey.

These classes truly are an *exploration*: you don't have to be ready to sign on the dotted line to attend! **Classes will be 12:00-1:00 p.m. on January 4, 11, and 18, with lunch and childcare provided.** We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will come and explore with us!

"Easy as Curry" I will demonstrate a chicken dish and one or two vegetarian options which can be used as main dishes or side dishes. We'll talk about the geographic diversity of approaches to making "curries" around the Asian subcontinent. I would also encourage you to come just to experience the difference between "curry powder" and spice mixes made from fresh ground spices--it's eye and nose opening.

If you would be interested in participating in either of two classes: Thursday, January 8, at 7:00 p.m. or Saturday, January 17, at 10:00 a.m., contact Dinah Kerksieck at dinahandbob@hotmail.com or 515-233-3550.

January/February newsletter deadline is Wednesday, January 7.

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

