

LIVING OUR UNITY, WORSHIPPING TOGETHER



NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

JUST PEACE, OPEN & AFFIRMING

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 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

WELCOME

Welcome to a joint service of First Christian Church and Ames United Church of Christ! 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 send 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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Passing the Peace is an ancient Christian tradition in which we show we carry no weapons, only love.

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP “Halle-Halle-Hallelujah” (3x)

SPP 55

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

music

*CALL TO WORSHIP

A formal and mutual invitation to move into the worship experience

One: Come away, disciples of Christ, and rest from your labors.

Many: We are weary from our work.

One: Come away, disciples of Christ, and leave the demands of the crowds.

Many: There are always more who need our help.

One: Come away, disciples of Christ, and be renewed in fellowship with our shepherd.

Many: We, too, love the sheep, but need our own renewal. We, too, need to hear anew the teachings of Jesus, to give us strength for the journey.

One: Come away, disciples of Christ, and draw courage from the one who gives us peace.

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: Reconciling God, proclaim peace to us once more. Put to death all hostility within us, and help us be one with our enemies, that we may all be members of your household. Remove the animosities to which we cling, and be our shepherd, even as we are the sheep of your pasture, through Jesus Christ, our guide and guardian.

Many: O God, the rock of our salvation, your faithfulness is as constant as the North Star. But your holiness frightens us, for the justice of your love brings judgment on our lives. Like David before us, we would rather build you a temple and keep you safely in one place, than have you move about with us in a tabernacle, and be everywhere we go.

Like the psalmist, we would rather shout the certainty of your favor, a favor as predictable as the rising sun and moon, than face the possibility that our peace may come – not through strength of arms, but through the love of a shepherd for the lost sheep of our world.

SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

A brief moment to reflect on the prayer, and on 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: In Christ, we are citizens with the saints as members of the household of God.

Many: In Christ, we are built spiritually into a holy temple of God, a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God!

CHILDRENS 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.

GOSPEL

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

John 6:1-21 (Modified for Inclusive Language)

After this, Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain, and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jewish faith, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Phillip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Phillip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.”

Now there was a great deal of grass in the place, so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign

that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough, because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

SERMON **“The Politics of Compassion”** **Pastor Eileen Gebbie**

HYMN OF REFLECTION **“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”**
NCH 495 V. 1 & 4

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 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, forever and ever, Amen.

OFFERING

Thank you for giving what you can to the work and mission of our churches. Checks may be made out to the church of your choice. Cash gifts will remain with the hosting church.

“Sing and Make Music to the Lord”

James E. Clemens
Joint FCC/UCC Choirs

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN OF SENDING**

“Guide My Feet”

NCH 497

BENEDICTION

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

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE “Amen, Amen” (3x)

NCH 161

*A sung blessing, this song or part of a song varies throughout the year.
Please repeat three times.*

(music)

UCC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, July 26

9:30 a.m. Joint Worship with FCC

Monday, July 27

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project (Shedd)

Tuesday, July 28

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship

3:00 p.m. Farm to Folk

Wednesday, July 29

8:30 a.m. Morning Bible Study

9:30 a.m. AM Work Crew

10:00 a.m. ABC Sale Team

12:10 p.m. Peace Bell Ringers

1:00 p.m. Newsletter Assembly Team

Saturday, August 1

11:20 a.m. Meals on Wheels (Trenkle, Potter, Andersen)

Sunday, August 2

9:30 a.m. **Church in the Park**

Joint Worship with First Christian
And First Baptist Churches at
Brookside Park

*Preachers: Eileen Gebbie, Mary
Jane Button-Harrison, Dave
Russell*

Holy Communion Sunday

UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. Register with Pastor Eileen by calling the church office (515-232-9323), or by emailing Pastor Eileen at eileen@amesucc.org.

Church in the Park: On Sunday, August 2, please plan to worship with us at 9:30 a.m. at Brookside Park. We will be joined by our fellow seekers from First Christian Church and First Baptist Church. Some picnic seating will be available under the "Hickory" shelter (by the fire engine), but you are welcome to bring your own folding chair, too. You are also invited to bring cookies for the fellowship time after worship.

Attic to Basement Church Sale: Mark your calendars: Friday 8/28 and Saturday 8/29! Team meets every Wednesday at 10 a.m. to sort through the donations in Room 209. Join in the fun!

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. Please contact Pr. Eileen to join this important part of our lives together.

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: 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 12:10 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 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	Rev. Eileen Gebbie
Minister to Children & Families.....	Hannah Hannover
Youth Director.....	Emily Kenneke
Music Director.....	Lesley Lackore
Keyboardist.....	Karen “Sunny” Stewart

