



**Just Peace, Open &
Affirming**

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

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 3, 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 Savior, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CENTERING MUSIC

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

arr.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ is the vine, and we are the branches,

drawing life and faith from him.

We are nourished by Christ’s love, and strengthened in community,

bearing fruit as we could never do apart.

***OPENING SONG**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

NCH 28

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

***SUNG RESPONSE**

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

***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 MESSAGE

Hannah Hannover

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION “Waiting for You”

SPP 20

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Isaiah 56:3-8

Do not let the foreigner joined to God say, “God will surely separate me from God’s people”; and do not let the eunuch say, “I am just a dry tree.” For thus says God: To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. And the foreigners who join themselves to God, to minister to God, to love God’s name, and to be God’s servants, all who keep the sabbath and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

SERMON

“Fruitful Connection” Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

***SONG**

“We Are Called”

ELW 720

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Lowell Mathison at Mercy Hospital, Des Moines.

Steve Barnhart's mother recovering from a broken hip.

Ellen Barnhart's father in hospice care.

Devon, Diana McHenry's 13-year-old niece, diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Kaiden, Diana's 10-year-old cousin, struggling with current treatment for leukemia.

Christa Andersen's father on a recent diagnosis of cancer.

The People of Nepal

The People of Baltimore

Caregivers

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray the following, or a version 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

**"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" arr. Keith Christopher
Chancel Choir**

***SUNG RESPONSE**

“You Are Holy”

SPP 82

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***SONG**

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

NCH 425

***BLESSING**

***SENDING MUSIC**

“We Are Called” music printed under OneLicense #A-720517

UCC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, May 3

Noon 150th Capital Campaign &
Social Justice Outreach
survey for all
6:00-7:30p Youth Group

Monday, May 4

4:30p Property Board mtg.

Wednesday, May 6

8:30a Morning Bible Study
9:30a Work Crew
12:10p Peace Bell Ringers
2:05p WAC
6:45p Choir rehearsal,
sanctuary

Thursday, May 7

3:00p INSIGHT Study Group,
rm 104 (last until Fall)

Saturday, May 9

MOW – Trenkle

Sunday, May 10

9:00a Breakfast, *Fellowship Hall*
9:30a Learning Center,
Fellowship Hall
9:30a Sunday School
9:30a 150th Capital Campaign
meeting with Sunday
School parents
10:45a Worship, *sanctuary*
Texts: Acts 10:44-48,
Psalm 131, John 15:9-17
Sermon: “Children of the
Heavenly Mother”
Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore preaching
6:00-7:30p Youth Group

UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following worship today, the 150th Anniversary Capital Campaign Team and Social Justice & Outreach Team will have a meeting in Fellowship Hall concerning the suggestions for our investments outside the church that will be supported by funds raised in our capital campaign. We shall present the requests and answer questions from the congregation that will guide us in preparing and conducting a survey of members to prioritize the projects. Light refreshments will be served.

HELP FOR NEPAL

The UCC is already at work in Nepal, providing much-needed humanitarian aid to people who have lost homes and loved ones. Given the magnitude of the disaster, this will be a long-term commitment. You can help with your prayers and with your money. You can give online at: https://unitedchurchofchrist.nationbuilder.com/international_emergency_relief_fund or by mail: **make checks payable to International Emergency Relief Fund**. Mail to: United Church of Christ c/o Financial Services office, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland OH 44115. Undesignated giving allows UCC Disaster Ministries to respond where resources are needed most but **if you prefer to designate your gift** you may do so by noting the disaster in the memo line of the check.

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Adults Can Learn Something New Every Sunday at Learning Center

Continental breakfast at 9:00 a.m., program at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

- May 10 Josh Skipworth from the American Friends Service Committee will speak on "Social Justice and the Presidential Campaign: Best Practices for Getting Involved"
- May 17 Breakfast potluck at 9:00 followed by brainstorming programming for next year.

New "Light" Summer Reading Group

Gordon Knight and Amy Erica Smith are planning a summer reading group starting the week of May 11--think Monty Python mixed with despair, the afterlife, and glorification of God. We plan to read *Horrendous Evils and the Goodness of God*, by Marilyn McCord Adams, and *Sum: Forty Tales from the Afterlives*, by David Eagleman. If you're interested in joining us contact Gordon at gknight@iastate.edu, or Amy Erica at

April is Good Neighbor Awareness Month: "How can I learn more about Good Neighbor?"

In the past, Good Neighbor has published a quarterly newsletter that is mailed to donors and anyone who asks to be put on the mailing list. Now, there are also some new ways to connect with Good Neighbor! Check out their new website at www.gnea.org, where you can get the latest news about Good Neighbor and make online contributions. Or, join them on facebook! If you're a member of facebook, just search for "Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance," and become a fan. Of course, it's always good to connect in person with those who know Good Neighbor best. You are encouraged to talk with Director Michael Fritz by phone at 515-296-1449 or email at gneainc@gmail.com.

-----UPCOMING EVENTS-----

Women's Fellowship Wednesdays, May 13 and 27 at Noon
Spring Church Work Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 9:00 - Noon
Sunday School Celebration/Graduation Sunday, May 17
Volunteer Recognition Sunday, May 17
Pentecost/Confirmation on May 24

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 nursery, there are qualified childcare providers during worship 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.

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.

Bell Ringing for Peace: Join us every Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. in the bell tower to ring the bell for peace and pray for worldwide peace. Ames UCC is a just peace church.

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

Ministers of Worship & Hospitality:

Deacon.....Tom Meyer
Ushers.....Allen Trenkle, Diana McHenry, John Baty
Greeter.....Cindy Zhu
Welcome.....Barbara & Bill Yungclas
Liturgist.....Rachel Schelle
Coffee.....Jerry & Sally Chase