



## Ames United Church of Christ Sunday, April 16, 2017

*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.*

*Our deacon for today is Debi Ford; our greeters and ushers are Barbara Faidley, Ed Goedeken, Barbara Hauerrberg, and Steve Rogers-Smith. Steve Rogers-Smith is scheduled for building lockup.*

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

*Easter is the holiest day of the Christian year. At the same time, it is the one most fraught with confusing and even off-putting theology. We hope that during this celebration you will find ample room for your soul's understanding of God's relationship with us through Jesus Christ. God is still speaking and we are committed to listening to both God and each other.*

### **RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL**

### **EASTER ACCLAMATION**

#### **WITH THE RETURN OF OUR ALLELUIAS**

"Alleluia"

Colby Kegley

*On the first Sunday in Lent, one of our young children took the alleluia out of our church. Today, now that it is restored to the Communion table, is the first day we will say it in six weeks.*

One: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Many: **Christ is risen indeed!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **HYMN**

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today," Hymn 233

*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: Creator, Christ, and Redeeming Power, you have been true to your word, and you have shown that the death-dealing cannot not defeat the life-giving. Pour the joy of your resurrection into our hearts, that our lips would also overflow with the joyous news. In the name of the ever-rising Christ, 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.*

One: We confess our brokenness before God and one another. Ever-rising Christ,

**Many: Even as we rejoice at your resurrections,  
we confess our shortcomings.**

**We have often been ruled by our fear,**

**concerned more with looking good**

**than proclaiming good news,**

**with being right than living as a community**

**modeled on your righteousness.**

**Please forgive our clumsy attempts at responding to your gifts,**

**and bring us back into the light of new life. 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: Christ is gracious and merciful, and does not hold our mistakes against us. Let us rejoice once more at God's promise to deliver us from all that enslaves, and let us rest in the assurance of God's grace, which has always and will always be ours. Alleluia! Amen.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

## 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.*



## GOSPEL Luke 24:1-12

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

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Creation must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

## SERMON

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** “Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day,” Hymn 241

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WITH THE OFFERING OF FOOD AND GIFTS

*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 bread is free of gluten, soy, and dairy. If you have brought canned goods for our local food pantries, please set them at the Communion table before being served.*

### Invitation

One: Come! If you are hungry, there is food to eat. Come! If you are thirsty, there is water to drink. It is food for those who hunger for justice, and water for those who long for life in all its fullness. Come! Eat and drink to proclaim the feast of God's kin-dom where all are welcome and no one is left out.

### Prayer

One: God, our Mother and Father,

**Many: You have given us this earth rich and vibrant.  
Its renewing life sustains us.  
Its unfailing goodness nourishes us.  
Blessed be your name.**

One: Jesus, our Guide and Healer,

**Many: You ate with friends and enemies.  
At a meal you brought the gift of hope.  
At a meal you gave the word of life.  
Blessed be your name.**

One: Spirit, our Comforter and Disturber,

**Many: You do not leave us on our own.  
Here are companions to know our joy.  
Here are companions to share our sorrow.  
Blessed be your name.**

### Sharing the Meal

### 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 CHURCH

*Please share your prayer needs as you are so moved.*

### PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

*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 come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts/trespasses as we forgive our debtors/those who trespass against us. 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

"Hallelujah! Resurrection Day!" Larry Shackley  
Chancel Choir

*In 2017, nine percent of our total budget will help fund local, regional, and national charitable programs. On the third Sunday of each month, when we have Holy Communion, loose change and bills are designated for a Communion Fund, which supports Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance (75%) and our in-house Pastoral Emergency Fund (25%). You may also designate your gift directly to the Communion Fund.*

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## **HYMN OF SENDING**

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today,” Hymn 240

*If you would like to participate in the choral benediction, please come forward during this hymn. Choir Director Lesley Lackore will provide you with music.*

## **CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Hallelujah Chorus from  
“The Messiah,” G. F. Handel

*From the Latin of “well” and “to speak,” this is one final good word to send us off. On Easter Sunday we do this as a community. Afterward, please join us next door in the parlor for coffee, tea, treats, and community.*

## **TODAY’S FLOWERS**

*Flower arrangements from today’s service will be delivered to those who are unable to be with us in worship. If you contributed to these flowers, you are welcome to take one of the unlabeled vases home.*

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**Devotion:** Use this resource at home to guide your household’s daily devotions. You can do this alone or with others; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

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

*Risen Lord, You have been true to your word, and you have shown that death could not defeat life. Pour the joy of your resurrection into our hearts, that our lips would also overflow with the joyous news. In the name of the risen Christ, Amen.*

**Reflect:** Reflect on the key verse from Sunday’s reading.

*The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Luke 24:5*

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

*It’s been a grueling week for the followers of Jesus, but still they faithfully carry out the rituals due to the dead. How could these grieving women have known that their anointing oils would not be needed, for the best reason imaginable?*

**God’s Story**<sup>™</sup>  
**Our Story**

**Consider:** Consider this theme for the week’s text.

*We live grounded in the mystery of the resurrection.*

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

Sunday: Empty Tomb (Easter), Luke 24:1-12

Monday: Jesus Appears to His Disciples, Luke 24:36-53

Tuesday: Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas, Acts 1:12-26

Wednesday: The Holy Spirit, Acts 2:1-13

Thursday: Early Christians, Acts 2:14-47

Friday: Peter Heals a Crippled Beggar, Acts 3:1-10

Saturday: Peter Speaks in Solomon’s Portico, Acts 3:11-26

How did Jesus’ resurrection change the world?

**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Easter marks the most significant event in a Christian’s life. Who could you share this news with?
- How will you honor Christ today?

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

*Sing your favorite Easter hymn every morning when you wake up. If you don’t have a favorite Easter hymn, sing whatever favorite song reminds you that Jesus is alive!*

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

*Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Amen.*

### **Upcoming Scriptures**

4/23 Luke 24:13-35

4/30 Acts 6:1—7:2a, 44-60

5/7 Acts 8:26-39

5/14 Acts 15:1-18

### **Church Closed Tomorrow – 4/17**

The church will be closed on Easter Monday.

### **Summer Newsletter Articles Due – 4/19**

Submit your articles for the Ames UCC Courier's Summer issue by Wednesday, April 19. You are invited to submit articles about upcoming events, updates from our teams, and church stories: your own personal experience at Ames UCC. Have questions or ready to submit your article? Contact Katie Tschopp ([office@amesucc.org](mailto:office@amesucc.org), 515-232-9323).

### **Yom HaShoah Service – 4/23**

Please join me and other community faith leaders for a Yom HaShoah (Holocaust remembrance) service on Sunday, April 23, at 3:00 pm, at the Ames Jewish Congregation (3721 Calhoun Ave). –Pr. Eileen

### **Will We Build Power for Justice? – 4/30**

As one of the 30 member institutions of AMOS, we have the opportunity to take part in a campaign of conversations in preparation for the fall city and school board elections. On Sunday, April 30 after worship, please join me to decide if we will participate. No previous AMOS experience is required. – Pr. Eileen

### **Thank you for providing our Extravagant Welcome!**

The Worship and Music Team wish to thank the following people for being part of lay leadership during the month of March. They were deacons, greeters and ushers. Janet Binder, Jim Coppoc & family, Debi Ford, Mim Fritz, Barbara Hauerrberg, Karen Lasche, Tom Meyer, Aria Pilcher, Carter Pilcher. Steve Rogers-Smith, Bill Slinger, Sharron Slinger, Donna Starck, Tania Tipton, Carl Tipton, Allen Trenkle



## FLOWERS FOR TODAY'S SERVICE WERE GIVEN BY

Christa Andersen and Terry Potter in memory of Kathie Drummond.

Kevin and Janet Binder in memory of Donna Trenkle, Ann Stark, and Glen Binder.

Judith Blair in memory of Harry W. Blair and Jeffrey A. Blair.

Barbara and LeVern Faidley in honor of their three children, LeAnn, Galen, and Eric.

Ami Frank in memory of Herb, Julia, and Dot Tindall; Carol and Earl Smith; Pete Camaioni; and Loretta Tracy.

Mim Fritz in honor of those dear folks who cannot be present with us.

Eileen Gebbie and Carla Barnwell in honor of the Ames UCC staff.

Martha Geist and family in memory of Maury Geist.

The Hannover family in memory of Wayne Hannover.

Elaine Hieber in memory of Harriet H. Gorman.

Lesley Lackore in memory of Doran and Betty Lackore.

Paul and Pauletti Lasley in memory of Kathie Drummond.

Greg Luecke and Jennifer Gelwick-Luecke in memory of Richard L. Gelwick and Mary Ann Luecke.

Nancy Marks in memory of her mother.

Ruth Mortimer in memory of Randall Mortimer.

Doug and Peg Powell in memory of their parents, grandparents, and dear friend Susan Doyle.

Steve Rogers-Smith in memory of Barb Tiffany.

Leanne Rohrberg-Johnson in memory of Christine and James Johnson, and our grandparents.

Allen Trenkle in memory of Donna Trenkle and Ann Stark.

John and Marjorie Uitermarkt in memory of their parents.

Justin and Jean Watts in memory of Steven Watts.

## Calendar for the Week

### Monday, April 17

*Church Closed for Easter Monday*

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

### Tuesday, April 18

7:15 p.m. Executive Board

### Wednesday, April 19

*Newsletter deadline*

8:30 a.m. Bible Study  
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing  
2:00 p.m. Wednesday Afternoon Club  
6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Sunday, April 23

9:15 a.m. Godly Play & Sunday School  
9:15 a.m. Learning Center  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
12:00 p.m. Lunch and a Play  
3:00 p.m. Ames Jewish Congregation  
Yom HaShoah (Holocaust  
Remembrance) Service  
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

### **Be In Touch with Ames UCC**

217 6th Street, Ames, IA 50010

515-232-9323

Mon 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Tues-Thurs 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

24-hour pastoral emergencies:

515-428-1779

Lee Bauer, Treasurer

lee\_bauer@yahoo.com

David Cook, Sexton

cookdavi@gmail.com

Eileen Gebbie, Minister

eileen@amesucc.org

Hannah Hannover,

Minister to Children & Families

hannah@amesucc.org

Nancy Heathman, Financial Secretary

heathman@mediacombb.net

Lesley Lackore, Music Director

llackore@gmail.com

Karen "Sunny" Stewart, Keyboardist

karen.stewart@ames.k12.ia.us

Katie Tschopp,

Church Office Administrator

office@amesucc.org

Jean Watts, Youth Director

jean@amesucc.org