



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, December 10, 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 Greg Lamont; our youth are serving as greeters and ushers. Steve Rogers-Smith is scheduled for building lockup.

HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE

During each week in Advent, all households are invited to take home empty Christmas tree ornaments to bring back the next week somehow representing the Advent theme of the week. This week we are distributing balls for love. Fill them or decorate them as you are so moved. We will hang them on our tree during the passing of the peace next week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Most announcements are in your bulletin, our weekly e-newsletter, and our quarterly print newsletter. To sign up for the last two, contact Katie Tschopp at either 515-232-9323 or office@amesucc.org.

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: Come with joy to the living waters and drink your fill!
Many: To God be the glory!

One: God's word goes forth and will not return empty.
Many: To God be the glory!

One: Incline your ear; listen so that you may live!
Many: To God be the glory!

HYMN "With Joy Draw Water," Hymn 109

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."

OUR ADVENT WREATH: The Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy

Silent Preparation

Prayer

One: Just as the prophet Isaiah knew the parching thirst for a love without end,

Many: so we too thirst for waters

to quench our yearning for a place in God's loving family.

One: We still yearn, but yearning leads to hope.

Many: We light this candle as a sign that this hope never ends.

One: And we light yet another,

Many: trusting God's peace will come.

One: But the third, the flame of love, points to God's infinite compassion—

Many: the promise of God-with-us,

the one to fill our souls with the endless life-giving waters of love.

Hope, Peace, and Joy are Kindled

Silent Response to Hope, Peace, and Joy

Sung Response to Hope, Peace, and Joy

**All: O come, O Dayspring, come & cheer
our spirits by your advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
& death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Passing the Peace is an ancient Christian tradition in which we show we carry no weapons, only love. Please hang your ornaments of peace on our tree.

HEBREW BIBLE Isaiah 55:1-12 (New Revised Standard Version)

We use "Hebrew Bible" instead of "Old Testament" out of respect for our Jewish sisters and brothers (it isn't old to them) and acknowledgement of the living voice still found in these ancient stories.

Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,

and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,

for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;
 let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
 let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
 and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
 making it bring forth and sprout,
 giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
 it shall not return to me empty,
 but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
 and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,
 and be led back in peace;
 the mountains and the hills before you
 shall burst into song,
 and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S PROGRAM: "An Alphabet ADVENTure!"



Watch and wait, lis-ten and pray. Je-sus will be born on Christ-mas day.

Watch and wait, lis - ten and pray. Lord, give us hope;

Lord, give us peace; Lord, give us joy to - day.

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|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| A is for Angel | Erin Frank |
| B is for Bethlehem | Mari Briseno & Eliana Briseno |
| C is for Census | Erin Frank |
| D is for Donkey | Fionn Coppoc |
| E is for Exhausted | Brecken Johnson & Will Hannover |
| F is for Family | Eli Schrag |
| G is for Good News | Annalynn Watts & Oliver Watts |
| H is for Herds | Eliana Briseno |
| I is for Imaginations | Sarah Frank |
| J is for Joy | Oliver Watts |
| K is for Kindness | Norah Klocke |
| L is for Love | Lucy Hannover & Annelise Johnson |
| M is for Manager | Oscar Chelcea |
| N is for Noel | Erin Frank |
| O is for Offering | Erin Bauer & Annelise Johnson |
| P is for Prayer | Julia Shannon |
| Q is for Quiet | Stella Klocke |
| R is for Revelation | Elliot Coffey |
| S is for Star | Sarah Frank |
| T is for Trust | Eli Schrag |

U is for Unity Reese Johnson
V is for Vulnerable Eliana Briseno
W is for Wonder Elliott Coffey
X is for Xmas Fionn Coppoc
Y is for You Will Hannover & Brecken Johnson
Z is for Zeal Oscar Chelcea

Readers: Maya Shannon, Annelise Johnson, Julia Shannon

Songs:

Clap Your Hands! Sing for Joy! K. Stewart
One Bright Start K. Stewart

Littlest Singers: Amy Bauer, Adam Chelcea, Galahad Pepe, Persephone Pepe

HYMN OF REFLECTION “Joy to the World,” Hymn 132

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Please share your prayer needs as you are so moved.

PRAYERS 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 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

The First Noel

arr. John Carter

*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%). **The latter is currently overdrawn due to substantial needs within our own church family.***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF SENDING

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav’nly song?
(refrain)**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
(refrain)**

BENEDICTION

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

Bring Back Your Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

During Advent we have the opportunity to fill and decorate hollow Christmas tree ornaments using the four themes of Advent, then hang them on our tree during worship. Take as many as your family/household feels moved to fill, and bring them back! If you still have your ornaments from past weeks, you still have time to bring them back and add to the meaningful decoration of the tree.

Cards of Care

Have you ever felt scared and alone, grieving and heartsick? Did someone reach out to you at just the right time? Please join me and a small group of congregants in being present for each other during such times through greeting cards (actual paper in the actual mail). If yes, please let me know and I will add you to our list of fellow “care card-ers.” And if you know of someone who might appreciate a little postal love from their fellow seekers, please let me know. –Pr. Eileen (eileen@amesucc.org, 515-232-9323)

This Week on Wednesday – 12/13

This week on Wednesday, join us for faith formation and fellowship in all our midweek gatherings.

- 8:30 a.m. AM Bible Study (John 1:1-18)
- 12:00 p.m. Peace Bell Ringing in the bell tower
- 12:00 p.m. Women’s Fellowship
- 2:00 p.m. Wednesday Afternoon Club
- 2:00 p.m. Book Club (What are you reading? What do you recommend?)
- 6:30 p.m. PM Bible Study (John 1:1-18)
- 6:30 p.m. Christmas Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Find a bookmark in the pews listing upcoming Bible study topics.

Women’s Fellowship – 12/13

All women of the church are invited to our Holiday Celebration on Wednesday, December 13 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room at Northcrest. The entrance to Northcrest is off 20th Street, just beyond the railroad tracks near Ames High School. Just follow the drive till you reach the big building. Ask the receptionist for the Fireside Room. Our activities will include Christmas games, sharing memories of family Christmas traditions and an ornament exchange. They can come from your collection at home. If you buy a new ornament, please do not spend more than \$5! Please make sure you wrap your ornament and remember to bring your lunch. Come join us for some holiday cheer.

Christmas Fund Special Offering – 12/17

The Christmas Fund is one of the United Church of Christ's five yearly national special offerings. Donations to this offering provide financial assistance to retired UCC clergy and lay employees, groups that are historically (and often still) underpaid and unable to save for retirement. This offering funds pension and health premium supplementation, Christmas “thank you” gift checks, and even emergency grants for active or retired clergy and employees. Ames UCC will collect for this offering on Sunday, December 17. To learn more about the Christmas Fund, visit christmasfund.org.

Advent and Christmas Services Continue

- Sunday, December 17 Advent 4 (Love) with our Christmas Choir leading worship and Holy Communion
- Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve worship at 7 p.m. with Holy Communion
- Monday, December 25 Christmas Day worship at 9:30 a.m.

Calendar for the Week

Tuesday, December 12

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship
7:15 p.m. Executive Board

Wednesday, December 13

8:30 a.m. AM Bible Study
(John 1:1-18)
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
12:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship
2:00 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club
2:00 p.m. Book Club

6:30 p.m. PM Bible Study
(John 1:1-18)
6:30 p.m. Christmas Choir
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, December 17

9:15 a.m. Godly Play
9:15 a.m. Youth Coffee Talk
9:15 a.m. Learning Center
10:30 a.m. Worship

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

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