



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, February 5, 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 Kim Spangler; our greeters and ushers are Barbara Hauerrberg and Peg Powell. We have no one scheduled today for building lockup.

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP Debi Smith Ford

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

One: God, we cannot believe we are worthy to have you come under our roof and sometimes we cannot believe other people are worthy of your presence

**Many: And yet, you have made your home among your all people,
calling us beloved.**

Let us rejoice! Amen.

HYMN "Carry the Light," (insert)

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."

Today we are learning a new "end of worship" song. In order to be able to really belt it out, to really sing the message, when the time comes, we are singing it as our "start of worship" song, too!

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: Holiness, You are the fabric of heaven and earth. Look upon us kindly and grow our faith so that we would always know your presence as our loving teacher, inviter, and example. In Jesus' name, 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. Light of the world,

Many: Your patience with us is never ending.

You have shown us wonders,

yet we are so often complacent.

You have showered us with mercy,

yet we withhold mercy from others.

You have given us everything,

and we act as though we were entitled all along.

Forgive us these and all our secret sins.

You know our hearts;

we implore you to make us whole again. 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: The words of Jesus are trustworthy: Faith can make you well. May our hearts overflow with gratitude at the gift of God's mercy, and may we also be merciful in our turn. In the name of Jesus, 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.

GOSPEL Luke 7:1-17 (English Standard Version) Jim Coppoc

Gospel means "good news," making the full title of this book of the Bible "The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Luke." We will stay in this book of the Bible until after Easter.

The English Standard Version (ESV) stands in the classic mainstream of English Bible translations over the past half-millennium. Each word and phrase in the ESV has been carefully weighed against the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, to ensure the fullest accuracy and clarity and to avoid under-translating or overlooking any nuance of the original text. The words and phrases themselves grow out of the Tyndale-King James legacy, and most recently out of the Revised Standard Version. Archaic language has been brought to current usage and significant corrections have been made in the translation of key texts. The ESV is an "essentially literal" translation that seeks as far as possible to capture the precise wording of the original text and the personal style of each Bible writer. It seeks to be transparent to the original text, letting the reader see as directly as possible the structure and meaning of the original.

After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue." And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.

Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and

“God has visited his people!” And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

SERMON

COMMISSIONING OF NEW TEAM LEADERS

Anyone may serve on our leadership teams, though the positions of Chair and Vice Chair are reserved for those who have become formal members. Our Executive Team (Board of Directors) consists of Chairs and the Executive Committee.

One: Would those who have committed to serve on our leadership teams please stand, as you are able, as your names are called, to affirm your covenant with this body of Christ?

Christian Education

Ellen Barnhart, Chair
Genya Coffey
Barbara Faidley
Nanette Heginger
Tracey Johnson
Ann Reinhardt, Vice Chair

Executive Committee of the Executive Team

Jennifer Gelwick-Luecke, Moderator (and immediate past Vice Moderator)
Rachelle Schelle, Vice Moderator
Lynette Spicer, Clerk

Financial Stewardship

Janet Binder, Chair
Joel Johnson
Jim Peake
Joe Rayzor, Vice Chair

Invitation & Welcome

Allison Anderson, Chair
Debi Smith Ford, Vice Chair
Greg Widener
Barbara Yungclas
Bill Yungclas

Member Services

Laura Beason
Irene Dohrmann, Chair
Ami Frank
Peg Powell
Donna Shenefelt
Kristin Shields
Bonnie Trede

Property

Steve Barnhart
Ken Birt
Burton Heginger
Bob Kerksieck
Dinah Kerksieck
Nick Lyon
Josh Pilcher, Chair
Justin Watts, Vice Chair

Representatives to the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ

Phil Spike (immediate past Moderator)
Bill Yungclas

Social Justice & Outreach

George Belitsos, Vice Chair
Diane Birt, Chair
Jan Flora
Linda Hanson
Amanda Petefish-Schrag
Ben Schrag

One: Let us pray. Almighty God, who out of your great love gathered one church by the power of the Holy Spirit to be the light of the world, we thank you for those in all ages who have given their lives to tend it, to care for it, to lead it, and to serve in every way to forward its ministry. Now we thank you especially for those named and recognized here, whom we commission in your name for the ministry to which you have called them, Guide, inspire, empower them, and keep them faithful to your call that by their lives, your world may continue to be blessed.

**Many: We receive you as a commissioned leader among us.
We promise to labor with you as your siblings in Christ.
Amen!**

Staff

Two of our staff positions are elected members: Nancy Heathman will continue as our Financial Secretary (incoming monies) and Lee Bauer is taking over from Jim Dickson as Treasurer (outgoing monies).

Worship & Music

Dan Coffey, Vice Chair
Barbara Faidley, Chair
Greg Lamont
Tom Meyer
Dale Shenefelt
Linda Shenk
Donna Starck
Kim Spangler
Pat Spangler
Richard White

HYMN OF SERVICE

“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant” (insert)

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

“Praise God, Alleluia”

Eugene Butler

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%).

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF SENDING “Carry the Light” (insert)

BENEDICTION

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

February 5, 2017

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.

Holy Lord, You hold the authority of heaven and earth in your hand. Look upon us kindly and grow our faith so that we would always know you as our loving teacher, provider, and example. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Reflect: Reflect on the key verses from Sunday’s reading.

Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, rise!” The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Luke 7:14-15

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

Jesus is approaching superstar status. No longer are his fellow Jews the only ones putting their hopes on him, but now he is known throughout the region. And sometimes the faith of an outsider can surprise even Jesus.

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

Sometimes we might surprise Jesus with our faith.

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

Sunday: Raising the Widow’s Son, Luke 7:1-17

Monday: Jesus Speaks in Parables, Luke 8:4-10

Tuesday: Jesus Speaks in Parables, Luke 8:11-18

Wednesday: Jesus’ Mother and Brothers, Luke 8:19-21

Thursday: Jesus Calms a Storm, Luke 8:22-25

Friday: Jesus Heals the Gerasene Demoniac, Luke 8:26-30

Saturday: Jesus Heals the Gerasene Demoniac, Luke 8:31-39

Why do you think Jesus taught and healed people?

God’s StoryTM
Our Story

Connect: Connect in conversation with others.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Who in your community is in need to prayer and special care? What might you do to help?
- What do you need from God? Can you pray for God's help?

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

Find out who in your community lives alone. Invite them for coffee.

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

Receive God's blessing when you are with people and when you are alone. Amen.

Upcoming Scriptures

2/12 Luke 7:18-35

2/19 Luke 7:36-50

2/26 Luke 9:28-45

3/5 Luke 10:25-42

Help Provide Our Extravagant Welcome

The Worship and Music team is in need of your help. We need ushers to help us greet people, pass out bulletins and collect the offering during our Sunday services. Men, women, young adults, all our welcome. All that we ask is that you arrive at church at 10.05 with your name tag on and a SMILE on your face to welcome our congregation to our beautiful sanctuary. Sign up using SIGN UP GENIUS (address on side-bar) or Barbara Faidley will be in the parlor before and after church with a sign-up sheet on Sunday morning.

Early Deadline for Stillspeaking Lenten Devotional – 2/6

The UCC's Stillspeaking Writers Group's Advent devotional sold out well before Advent itself. Their Lenten devotional will be called "Diving Lessons," described as a fresh collection of unique Lenten devotions that includes an insightful scripture verse and prayer for each day of Lent. Please let me know if you want one (or more) for \$5 by Monday, February 6. Thank you! –Pr. Eileen (eileen@amesucc.org, 515-232-9323)

Women's Fellowship – 2/8

The first meeting of the month will be Wednesday, February 8. Lori Peake will be our hostess. She has planned a meeting with a game called Truth and Lies. That seems appropriate at this time. Actually, it is a game where we can find out details about a person's life. All women of the church are welcome. At 12.15 pm in Fellowship Hall for lunch and some FUN.

Intergenerational Game Night – 2/10, 3/10

Faith formation and human development require the sharing of different perspectives. In a culture that all too often sequesters human beings based on demographics of age, intentionally intergenerational gatherings are one way that we push back on such isolation and move into beloved community. And we can have a lot of fun doing it! So please join the Pilcher family for games and fun on the second Friday of the month in the Fellowship Hall and Youth Room from 6:30–10 p.m.

Book Club Reads Theologian in Residence Writing – 2/15

The UCC Book Club welcomes all readers and even those who just want to hear the discussion on **February 15 in the church parlor at 1 p.m.**

Long Live Salvation by Works: A Humanist Manifesto by Harry T. Cook.

(2012 nonfiction, 200 pages) Discussion leaders: book club members

Harry T. Cook is a retired Episcopal priest, a scholar of ancient religious texts and the ideas that have emerged from them and the Theologian in Residence at Ames UCC on March 3-5.

Manna & Mercy: Learn the Bible with an Adult Coloring Book (RSVP by 2/15)

If you are unfamiliar with the arc of our Bible's story, or would like a refresher, join me for a Lenten study of Genesis through Revelation using Daniel Erlander's "Manna and Mercy" adult coloring book. We will gather from 7–8:30 p.m. on Monday March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3. Location on campus TBD.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 15 so that I may order books. There will be a \$10 charge, with a few copies available for those for whom this is a hardship. Please also let me know if you will need childcare. It is just fine if you can't make every session, but I do want to have sufficient supplies and be able to tell you the schedule of coloring.

Either e-mail (eileen@amesucc.org) or call (515.232.9323) me. Thank you! –Pr. Eileen

Learn about Theologian in Residence Harry T. Cook's Books

Harry T. Cook, speaker for the 2017 Theologian-in-Residence weekend has written several books which will be available for sale, including *Christianity Beyond Creeds*.

Christianity Beyond Creeds argues that the creeds of antiquity have become an intellectual prison for the church, and a comfortable one at that for those who do not wish to be troubled with reflective thinking. What does it mean, for example, to say, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth" or "I believe in the resurrection of Jesus"? This book presents Harry T. Cook's original analyses of traditional beliefs and their restatement in terms compatible with our own time.

Calendar for the Week

Monday, February 6

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

Friday, February 10

6:30 p.m. Intergenerational
Game Night

Wednesday, February 8

8:30 a.m. Bible Study
12:00 p.m. Peace Bell Ringers
12:15 p.m. Women's Fellowship
2:05 p.m. Wednesday Afternoon Club
6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 12

9:15 a.m. Learning Center
9:15 a.m. Godly Play and Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

Thursday, February 9

10:00 a.m. Ames Area Religious Leaders
1:00 p.m. Library Work 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

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