



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, February 26, 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 Barbara Faidley; our greeters and ushers are Debi Ford, Barbara Hauerrberg, Steve Rogers-Smith, and Kristin Shields.

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: Jesus, our guide, has brought us to the mountain.

Many: It is good, O God, that we are here!

HYMN "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding," Hymn 182

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: God remade and revealed, You have transformed all things through the vision of an earth restored. Make us willing participants in your work to reconcile all things again to you, in Jesus' holy 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.

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Luke 9:28-45”

Ben Schrag

Silas Erickson, Sara Goplin, Amanda Petefish-Schrag, Ben Schrag,
Celia Schrag, Eli Schrag

GOSPEL

Luke 9:28-45 (The Message Version)

Jim Peake

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.

Language changes. New words are formed. Old words take on new meaning. There is a need in every generation to keep the language of the gospel message current, fresh, and understandable—the way it was for its very first readers. That is what The Message version seeks to accomplish for contemporary readers. It is a version for our time—designed to be read by contemporary people in the same way as the original koine Greek and Hebrew manuscripts were savored by people thousands of years ago. The goal of The Message is to engage people in the reading process and help them understand what they read. This is not a study Bible, but rather “a reading Bible.” The verse numbers, which are not in the original documents, have been left out of the print version to facilitate easy and enjoyable reading. The original books of the Bible were not written in formal language. The Message tries to recapture the Word in the words we use today.

About eight days after saying this, he climbed the mountain to pray, taking Peter, John, and James along. While he was in prayer, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes became blinding white. At once two men were there talking with him. They turned out to be Moses and Elijah—and what a glorious appearance they made! They talked over his exodus, the one Jesus was about to complete in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, Peter and those with him were slumped over in sleep. When they came to, rubbing their eyes, they saw Jesus in his glory and the two men standing with him. When Moses and Elijah had left, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, this is a great moment! Let's build three memorials: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He blurted this out without thinking.

While he was babbling on like this, a light-radiant cloud enveloped them. As they found themselves buried in the cloud, they became deeply aware of God. Then there was a voice out of the cloud: “This is my Son, the Chosen! Listen to him.”

When the sound of the voice died away, they saw Jesus there alone. They were speechless. And they continued speechless, said not one thing to anyone during those days of what they had seen.

When they came down off the mountain the next day, a big crowd was there to meet them. A man called from out of the crowd, "Please, please, Teacher, take a look at my son. He's my only child. Often a spirit seizes him. Suddenly he's screaming, thrown into convulsions, his mouth foaming. And then it beats him black-and-blue before it leaves. I asked your disciples to deliver him but they couldn't."

Jesus said, "What a generation! No sense of God! No focus to your lives! How many times do I have to go over these things? How much longer do I have to put up with this? Bring your son here."

While he was coming, the demon slammed him to the ground and threw him into convulsions. Jesus stepped in, ordered the vile spirit gone, healed the boy, and handed him back to his father. They all shook their heads in wonder, astonished at God's greatness, God's majestic greatness.

While they continued to stand around exclaiming over all the things he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, "Treasure and ponder each of these next words: The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into human hands."

They didn't get what he was saying. It was like he was speaking a foreign language and they couldn't make heads or tails of it. But they were embarrassed to ask him what he meant.

SERMON Tim Wolfe, Chicago Theological Seminary Student

HYMN OF PREPARATION "Jesus Take Us to the Mountain," (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

"How Long Will You Hide"

Ben Schrag

Sarah Goplin, Barbara Fisher, Ben Schrag

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

"God of Change and Glory," Hymn 177

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.

THEOLOGIAN IN RESIDENCE WEEKEND

March 4-5, 2017



Harry T. Cook God, Christ, and Religious Action: A Challenge to Your Beliefs and Actions

Harry T. Cook is a nationally known theologian and religious commentator known for his provocative insights concerning the Bible, religion, and social action. A retired Episcopal priest and a scholar of ancient religious texts, his primary area of research focuses on both the canonical and non-canonical gospels. He asks how these texts have influenced theological thought since the emergence of Christianity.

Reminder: Registration for box lunches closes TOMORROW, February 27.

Register online at amesucc.org/tir or contact Katie Bonney in the church office. (515-232-9323, office@amesucc.org)

Would you like to volunteer to help make Theologian in Residence a success?

Contact Charles Kniker (515-296-5036, charlesk@ghrc.co)

Read a review by Nancy Marks on Cook's book *Resonance*: Cook has compiled 24 Biblical texts first into modern English, then sets forth the issues in a commentary that focuses on Workshop Style interpretations. His plan is to highlight what may be meaningful to and resonate with modern readers, giving inspiration and education for the 21st Century. The author hopes to help each reader explore his/her meanings of each passage.

One section that illustrates the author's goals deals with Luke 10:38-42 and is entitled "The Necessary Thing." Jesus visited two sisters, Martha and Mary. Martha busied herself preparing food, but Mary sat listening to Jesus to learn as much as possible from him. Luke implies that Mary had done "the better part," but Cook expands on Luke's message that Martha was told by Jesus that she accomplished "the one thing necessary" as he was there to serve, but she also served. The author offers this as a caution to not just carry on business but to also be aware of the needs of the church.

February 26, 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.

Transfigured Lord, You have transformed all things through the vision of an earth restored. Make us willing participants in your work to reconcile all things again to you, in Jesus' holy name, Amen.

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

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Luke 9:28-29

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

Life with Jesus may be confusing at times, but never boring. Peter and friends have witnessed Jesus transfigured with ancient prophets, and triumphing over a malicious demon, all in the space of two days. But what are they to make of it all?

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

Jesus can reveal himself to us in ways we can't yet understand, but maybe one day we will.

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

Sunday: Transfiguration, Luke 9:28-45

Monday: Who Is Greatest, Luke 9:46-48

Tuesday: Whoever Is Not Against You Is For You, Luke 9:49-50

Wednesday: The Challenge of Following (Ash Wednesday), Luke 9:51-62

Thursday: Mission of the Seventy, Luke 10:1-12

Friday: Woes to Unrepentant Cities, Luke 10:13-16

Saturday: Seventy Return and Jesus Rejoices, Luke 10:17-24

God's StoryTM
Our Story

How does Jesus describe greatness?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Who are your community's greatest leaders, past or present? How have they shaped your community? How might you become a leader in your community today?
- How has God revealed truths about Jesus to you? (Scripture, people, worship, media?) How might you be intentional about giving time to those things that reveal Jesus to you this week?

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

Add light to your home. Here are some ideas. Light candles that you have only used for decoration. Put "fairy lights" in a mason jar. Hang a string of outdoor lights across your living room. Fall asleep with a soft, flickering LED candle in your bedroom. Enjoy the light.

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

Notice and be warmed by the light of Christ. Amen.

Upcoming Scriptures

3/12 Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

3/19 Luke 15:1-32

3/26 Luke 16:19-31

4/2 Luke 18:31—19:10

Lenten Devotionals – \$5

Although many of you reserved copies of this year's Lenten devotional, I did order extras. They will be available in the parlor this Sunday and the next. Please contribute \$5 to the jar. Thank you, Pr. Eileen

Ash Wednesday Services – 3/1

12 p.m. at Ames UCC with imposition of ashes

7 p.m. with First United Methodist and First Christian at First Christian Church (6th and Clark) with imposition of ashes

Give Something for Lent

This Lenten season, the Worship and Music Team is sponsoring a non-food drive for the MICA Food Pantry. These are items the pantry is frequently lacking. Starting Ash Wednesday, March 1 through Easter, April 16, we will be collecting the following items in a grocery cart in the parlor:

Personal items like bar and liquid soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, men's and women's deodorant, feminine products, toilet paper, kleenex, diapers in sizes 4, 5, 6 and pull ups

Cleaning products like laundry soap, dishwashing soap, dryer sheets, disinfectant wipes, bathtub cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, powder or spray kitchen cleaner, pledge or pledge wipes

Lenten Soup Suppers Start 3/8 – sign up now!

The Lenten soup suppers will start on Wednesday March 8th at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They will continue on March 15, 22, 29 and April 8. Everyone is welcome to attend and contribute to any of the meals. Join us in food and fellowship together throughout the season of Lent.

Please visit our SignUpGenius at bit.ly/2017SoupSuppers and sign up to bring soup, bread, veggies or help in the kitchen. Contact Kristin Shields (515-292-9125, sleepycat@hotmail.com) if you have difficulties with SignUpGenius.

Midday, Midweek Lenten Worship & Lunch – 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 4/5

Please join me, Pr. Hannah, Ben Schrag, and Greg Lamont for a special Lenten service each Wednesday during the season. Our Peace Bell ringers will start with their bell ringing, prayer, and song in the bell tower at noon. Immediately after (about 12:10 p.m.) we will sing, pray, and listen for God in the sanctuary proper. We will adjourn by 12:30 p.m. If you are able, please bring your lunch and stay to eat it together after in the Fellowship Hall. The dates are March 1 (Ash Wednesday), 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5. –Pr. Eileen

Introduction to Lent – 3/8

What is Lent? Why is Lent? What has it meant in the past and what might it mean for us now? On Wednesday, March 8 from 6:45 – 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (right after the soup supper) come learn and come teach. God is still speaking to all of us! Childcare will be available.

Join Our Easter Choir during Lent – Rehearsals 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 4/5, 4/12

Many of us have too much to do and cannot take on one more long term commitment. To that end, your worship staff members and lay team are developing one-time and limited term opportunities for giving of our time and talents in worship. On Easter Sunday, April 16, we will have a special musical presentation by an “Easter Choir”: regular choristers plus any additional worshippers who would like to join in for a spell. Rehearsals will be after the Lenten soup suppers on Wednesday, March 8, 15, and 22 and April 5 and 12 from 6:45–8 p.m. Contact Lesley Lackore (llackore@gmail.com, 515-231-0958) for more information or just show up. Childcare will be available throughout. –Pr. Eileen

Potluck and Discussion on Providing Sanctuary – 3/12

Following the worship service on March 12, the AMOS immigration group and members of the Ames UCC Social Justice and Outreach Team will hold a potluck and lead a discussion regarding possible ways Ames UCC might help in providing sanctuary, either as a sanctuary church or in support of other sanctuary churches. A sanctuary church is a sacred space of refuge for immigrant individuals or families that are in immediate danger of deportation. There will be opportunities for large and small group discussion.

Calendar for the Week

Monday, February 27

Pr. Eileen out
Theologian in Residence
Registration Deadline
5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project
(Hannover)

Tuesday, February 28

Pr. Eileen out
12:00 p.m. Men’s Fellowship
7:00 p.m. Worship and Music

Wednesday, March 1

8:30 a.m. Bible Study
12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Ash Wednesday
Service at First Christian
Church

Thursday, March 2

Pr. Eileen out
1:00 p.m. Library Work Group

Saturday, March 4

Theologian in Residence Weekend
Register by tomorrow, February 27 at
amesucc.org/tir

Sunday, March 5

9:15 a.m. Adult Forum with
Harry T. Cook
9:15 a.m. Godly Play and Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
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

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