



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, January 15, 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 Tom Meyer; our greeters and ushers are Mary Cochran, Barbara Faidley, Debi Ford, Steve Rogers-Smith. We have no one scheduled today for building lockup.

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP Jim Coppoc

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

One: The Spirit of God brings good news to the poor and release to the captives!

Many: The confused receive clarity and the oppressed go free. Alleluia! Amen!

HYMN "Come, My People, Welcome to Worship" (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."

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: Holy Presence, you have brought your promises to life in the person of Jesus.
Gather us into your adopted family that his person might be ours as well.
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 and true: Your movement toward faith makes you well. May our hearts overflow with gratitude at the gift of God's mercy, and may we also be merciful in our turn. Amen.

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 4:14-30 (Good News Translation) 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.

The Good News Translation (GNT), formerly called the Good News Bible or Today's English Version, was first published as a full Bible in 1976 by the American Bible Society as a "common language" Bible. It is a clear and simple modern translation that is faithful to the original Hebrew, Koine Greek, and Aramaic texts. The GNT is a highly trusted version. It first appeared in New Testament form in 1966 as Good News for Modern Man: The New Testament in Today's English Version, translated by Dr. Robert G. Bratcher in consultation with a committee appointed by the American Bible Society.

Then Jesus returned to Galilee, and the power of the Holy Spirit was with him. The news about him spread throughout all that territory. He taught in the synagogues and was praised by everyone.

Then Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath he went as usual to the synagogue. He stood up to read the Scriptures and was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to set free the oppressed

and announce that the time has come

when the Lord will save his people."

Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. All the people in the synagogue had their eyes fixed on him, as he said to them, "This passage of scripture has come true today, as you heard it being read."

They were all well impressed with him and marveled at the eloquent words that he spoke. They said, "Isn't he the son of Joseph?"

He said to them, "I am sure that you will quote this proverb to me, 'Doctor, heal yourself.' You will also tell me to do here in my hometown the same things you heard

were done in Capernaum. I tell you this," Jesus added, "prophets are never welcomed in their hometown. Listen to me: it is true that there were many widows in Israel during the time of Elijah, when there was no rain for three and a half years and a severe famine spread throughout the whole land. Yet Elijah was not sent to anyone in Israel, but only to a widow living in Zarephath in the territory of Sidon. And there were many people suffering from a dreaded skin disease who lived in Israel during the time of the prophet Elisha; yet not one of them was healed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were filled with anger. They rose up, dragged Jesus out of town, and took him to the top of the hill on which their town was built. They meant to throw him over the cliff, but he walked through the middle of the crowd and went his way.

SERMON

HYMN OF PREPARATION "Come to the Table of Grace" (insert)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

WITH THE OFFERING OF FOOD AND GIFTS Nick Lyon and Pr. Hannah Hannover

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 the Food at First pantry, please set them at the Communion table before being served.

The Communion Prayer

One: Let us gather around the table with the offering of bread and drink upon it and the promise of the Living Christ among us. This is the welcome table of God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited in to this holy mystery. Come.

Many: We are ready!

One: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty."

Many: We are hungry and thirsty. We come!

One: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus offered the bread in thanksgiving and said . . .

Many: "Take, eat.

This is my body breaking because of what you will do.

Do this in remembrance of me."

One: In the same way, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said,

Many: "Take, drink.

This is the seal of a new covenant, my poured-out life.

Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

One: God, we bless for you this bread that the earth has given and human hands have made.

Many: May it be for all the Bread of Life!

One: Bless also this cup, fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

Many: May it be for all the Cup of Peace!

One: Bless us too, that by our eating and drinking we may have love for each other and be servants of Christ's peace, until the New Day comes and every creature finds an honored place at the Banquet of Life!

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**All: Gracious and loving God,
you have made us one in the body of Christ,
and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink.
Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst.
Now send us into the world
to do the work you have given us to do:
to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls,**

to free prisoners, and make the powerful care.
Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil,
and to proclaim in all we say and do the good news of God in Christ. 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

"Draw the Circle Wide"

Mark A. Miller

Chancel Choir

Our financial gifts go to support the work and mission of our church. Loose coins and bills are sent to mission partners like Food at First and Youth and Shelter Services. Checks and cash placed in envelopes, unless otherwise designated, go to the church proper to help keep our ministries (like worship, youth group, and Godly Play) vital. If you would like to sign up for electronic giving, please contact Katie Bonney for details (office@amesucc.org, 515-232-9323).

Today, we are also taking a special offering for Funding Future Leadership: Scholarships for Ministry Preparation. It is expensive to train ordained clergy. Over time, the burden of paying for education has shifted from the denomination to the student, leaving many seminary students and pastors deeply in debt. This Iowa-exclusive special offering will go to creating direct scholarship aid for our seminary students. Blank white envelopes are available in the pew racks for your giving.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF SENDING

"The Church of Christ, in Every Age" (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.

January 15, 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.

Lord God, You have fulfilled your word in the person of Jesus, your son. Gather us into your adopted family that his proclamation might be ours as well. In the name of Christ, Amen.

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

And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown."
Luke 4:24

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

The boy from Nazareth has made good for himself, and now Jesus makes a rousing return to his childhood temple. But is his shocking brand of prophecy too much for the hometown crowd to handle? Joseph's son is about to find out.

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

Prophetic words can be hard to hear.

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

Sunday: Sermon at Nazareth, Luke 4:14-30

Monday: Jesus Casts Out an Unclean Spirit, Luke 4:31-37

Tuesday: Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law, Luke 4:38-39

Wednesday: Jesus Heals and Casts Out Demons, Luke 4:40-44

Thursday: The Spirit of the Lord, Isaiah 61:1-3

Friday: Elijah Helps a Widow, 1 Kings 17:8-16

Saturday: Elisha Heals Naaman, 2 Kings 5:1-14

How does Jesus' ministry begin?

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 are the outcasts in your community? How might you welcome and serve them?
- When have you felt pressure to speak harsh or prophetic words to people you are close to? How were your words received? What, if anything, might you do differently the next time?

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

View or read your regular news source throughout the week. Pay attention to the voices. Whose voice is speaking? Whose voice is being silenced?

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

Speak your voice. Speak the voices of others. God hears you. Amen.

Upcoming Scriptures

1/22 Luke 5:1-11
1/29 Luke 6:1-16
2/5 Luke 7:1-17
2/12 Luke 5:1-11

Year-end financial statements are available in the back of the sanctuary. Those that are not picked up will be mailed.

Raising Up the Beloved Community! - January 15

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Service
January 15, 2017 at 2:00 PM
Hosted by First United Methodist Church of Ames
516 Kellogg Ave.

Please join us to:

Raise Up King's Dream of the Beloved Community
Share the Ames Dream with Compassion in Action
Share the Dream with the Youth of YSS
Enjoy a Massed Choir of Local Area Singers and Ames Children's Choir
Contribute to a love offering for the YSS Dream Seed Program
Fellowship Time immediately following the service

New Quarterly Newsletter: Articles Due - January 18

Submit your articles for Ames UCC Courier's Spring Issue by Wednesday, January 18. You are invited to submit articles about upcoming events, updates from our teams, and church stories: your own personal experiences at Ames UCC.

This new quarterly format will have the following due dates for the year:

Spring: January 18
Summer: April 19
Fall: July 19
Winter: October 18

Have questions? Contact Katie Bonney in the church office (515-232-9323, office@amesucc.org).

Book Club - January 18

The UCC Book Club welcomes all readers and even those who just want to hear the discussion. The group meets in the parlor on the third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. This month's title is *Kitchen Table Wisdom: Stories That Heal* by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D. (1996 nonfiction, 384 pages). Christa Andersen will lead discussion.

Mental Health Education Forum - January 21

You are invited to a Mental Health Education Forum with facilitator Julie Saxton, the Ames Police Department Mental Health Advocate. This event is for members/friends of First Baptist Church, First Christian Church, First United Methodist Church, and Ames United Church of Christ, as well as volunteers of Food at First.

Saturday, January 21, 2017

9:00 am – Noon in the Great Room

611 Clark Avenue

Field Trip: Ta-Nehisi Coates - January 30

Our denomination has a long history on standing on the side of racial justice and freedom. Please join me and Barbara Faidley for ISU's "A Deeper Black: Race in America" with Ta-Nehisi Coates on Monday, January 30 at the Memorial Union.

Ta-Nehisi Coates is a national correspondent at The Atlantic, where his cover story on slavery and race, "The Case for Reparations," struck a national chord. His latest book, Between the World and Me, is written in the form of a letter to his teenage son about the challenges he will face growing up black in America. Coates is also the author of The Beautiful Struggle, a memoir about growing up in Baltimore.

We will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the food court on the first floor, then head up to the Great Hall. The event starts at 7 p.m. –Pr. Eileen

White Privilege Curriculum - Train the Trainers

Many of you know that the national setting of the UCC has recently released a study curriculum on "White Privilege." There is interest among the staffs of the UCC Conferences in the West Central Region to identify individuals - lay or clergy - to be trained to prepare congregations to use the curriculum. If being trained for that task interests you, please be in touch with Jo Ordway (jo@ucciaconf.org) at the conference office. And let me know, too! –Pr. Eileen

Calendar for the Week

Monday, January 16

Anniversary of Open & Affirming Vote (2000)
Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project
(Hanson)

Tuesday, January 17

7:15 p.m. Executive Board

Wednesday, January 18

Spring Newsletter Deadline
8:30 a.m. Bible Study
12:00 p.m. Peace Bell Ringers
2:05 p.m. Wednesday Afternoon Club
6:15 p.m. Staff Worship Planning
6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 19

1:00 p.m. Library Work Group

Saturday, January 21

9:30 a.m. Food at First
10:00 a.m. Leadership Retreat
11:20 a.m. Meals on Wheels

Sunday, January 22

9:15 a.m. Learning Center
9:15 a.m. Godly Play and Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Matthew 25 Ministers
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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