

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, March 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 Steve Rogers-Smith; our greeters and ushers are Janet Binder, Jim Coppoc and family, Bill Slinger, and Sharron Slinger.

LENTEN CENTERING MUSIC

Lent is one of many seasons of the church year that developed millennia ago to help guide and nurture our faith. From Ash Wednesday (March 1) to Holy Saturday (April 15), each of us is invited to go deeply into the story of Jesus' public ministry as well as his execution through additional silence and more meditative song. In doing so, we allow the Easter mystery work on us more powerfully.

SILENCE

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP FOR LENT

A formal, and mutual, invitation to move into the worship experience, which we will sing during the season of Lent.

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and
know that I am God. 1. 2.
know that I am God.

INVOKING THE HOLY

Hannah Hannover

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 of the here and now, we have Moses and the prophets, and all your faithful witnesses. Open our ears to their message of repentance and reconciliation that we might waste no time in bringing about your kingdom on earth. 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. God of mercy,

**Many: We come before you just as we are,
pretending nothing, hiding nothing.**

**You know the deepest workings of our hearts and minds,
and that we have failed to be
your faithful servants and witnesses.**

**We implore you to help us deliver ourselves
from the suffering we generate and share with others.**

Hear us, gracious Lord. Amen.

SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

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: God hears us always, and knows what we need even when we do not. Receive God's healing love and put your trust in the ever-renewed covenant that is God in Christ 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. We sing the song below as they come forward.

Lord pre - pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar - y, - pure and ho - ly, tried and
true; _____ with thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a
liv - ing _____ sanc - tu - ar - y for _____ you.

HYMN “Through All the World, a Hungry Christ” (insert)

GOSPEL Luke 16:19-31 (New Revised Standard Version) Kevin Binder

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

‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.” But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.” He said, “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my

father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.” Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” He said, “No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.””

SERMON Ailis Shenk Cook, Adela Johnson, Adeline O'Neal, Celia Schrag

SILENCE

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 Poor Man Laz'rus arr. Buen Suerte
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%).

Today's One Great Hour of Sharing offering supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF SENDING “God Be With You,” Hymn 81, verses 1-3

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.

March 26, 2017

God's Story[™] Our Story

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 of the here and now, We have Moses and the prophets, and all your faithful witnesses. Open our ears to their message of repentance and reconciliation, that we might waste no time in bringing about your kingdom on earth. Amen.

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

"He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'" Luke 16:30-31

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

Rich man, poor man. Heaven and Hell. Was Jesus telling a simple morality tale, or was Jesus making a deeper statement about what is possible for each of us right now – in this present moment?

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

We have everything we need right here to make informed decisions about how we will show up in the world.

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

Sunday: Rich Man and Lazarus, Luke 16:19-31

Monday: Sayings of Jesus, Luke 17:1-10

Tuesday: Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers, Luke 17:11-19

Wednesday: The Coming of the Kingdom, Luke 17:20-37

Thursday: The Widow and the Unjust Judge, Luke 18:1-8

Friday: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector, Luke 18:9-17

Saturday: The Rich Ruler, Luke 18:18-30

What makes a person rich, other than money?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Whose voices are you listening to? Whose voices are draining? Whose voices are life-giving? Whose voices could you listen to this week?
- How often are you tempted to believe that your sins are keeping you from heaven or that your good deeds are securing a place for you there? If good works are not the way to salvation, then what is? What, if anything, is required of you?

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

Calculate how much money you regularly spend in one week. Cut the amount in half. Live on half of your usual spending this week. What did you have to give up? What did you gain?

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

You are rich in spirit and God's love. Amen.

Upcoming Scriptures

4/2 Luke 18:31-19:10
4/9 Luke 19:29-44
4/16 Luke 24:1-12
4/23 Luke 24:13-35

Easter Flowers

Help decorate our sanctuary for Easter by contributing to the purchase of floral arrangements in memory or honor of our loved ones. These floral arrangements will then go back out into our church community, delivered to members who are unable to be with us in worship. Give as much or as little as you wish, and we will purchase as many flowers as possible with the funds that come in. An order form is available in your bulletin. Return it in the offering plate or to the church office by Monday, April 3.

Easter Egg Goodies

We need goodies to fill our Easter Eggs for the hunt on Easter morning! If you have something that you would like to donate, please leave it in the parlor. Individually wrapped candy, small toys, and stickers work well and are very much appreciated! Thank you!

Midday, Midweek Lenten Worship & Lunch – 3/29, 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, 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 remaining dates are March 29 and April 5. Do you need a ride? Call me by Monday of the week and we will do our best to get you here. –Pr. Eileen

Lenten Soup Suppers – 3/29, 4/5

The Lenten soup suppers continue on March 29 and April 5. 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.

Taize Service – 3/29

Taize is a religious community in France that has developed a beautiful, meditative style of worship. At 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29 (after our soup supper), we will go to the sanctuary for a service of song, prayer, and silence in the style of Taize.

Free Concert Tickets to Navy Concert Band

On Thursday, March 30, the Navy Concert Band from Washington, DC will be giving a free concert at Stephens Auditorium. The church has gotten a number of tickets. If you would like to attend by yourself or with your family, come to our table in the Church Parlor to pick one up.

The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. and the building will be open by 6:45 p.m. The tickets are general admission so you can sit anywhere you would like. If you have never been to Stephens Auditorium before this is a great opportunity to see this incredible theater and enjoy a free concert. If we run out of tickets, we will put your name on a list and more tickets will be available the beginning of the week. Barbara Faidley will have extra tickets if you decide you want to attend after Sunday. (barbara@faidley.org, 233-3874)

Stations of the Cross – 4/5

The “stations of the cross” are the moments and incidents that the Bible records Jesus going through prior to his execution. On Wednesday, April 5 from 6:45 – 8 p.m. (right after the soup supper), we will walk those stations (throughout our building) and take time to discuss our responses. Childcare will be available.

Celebrate Shakespeare’s 453rd Birthday – 4/23

Come celebrate with a fun afternoon of British food, music, and Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*. Join us on April 23 at 12 p.m. for lunch at the Mucky Duck Pub owned by Marcus Johnson, with a pre-performance prep talk by our resident Shakespearean scholar Linda Shenk. At 2 p.m. ISU Theater presents *The Tempest* at Fisher Theater, directed by Amanda Petefish-Schrag.

Tickets to the play are \$18. Please RSVP and have your ticket money to the church by April 9. Contact Kristin Shields (515-292-9125, sleepycat@hotmail.com) or Katie Tschopp in the church office for details (515-232-9323, office@amesucc.org). Lunch prices vary based on menu choice; we will preorder meals to save time. Lunch choices will be collected the week prior to the event.

Give Something for Lent

You have been so generous with your donations we needed to empty our shopping cart. We will be collecting until Easter, April 16, so please fill it up again and again. The list of items recommended is above the cart or lists to take away are on the cart. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Join Us for Holy Week

Palm Sunday – 4/9

Palm Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. The story and celebration of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, then turning our attention to what comes next, marked in the services throughout the rest of the week.

Maundy Thursday – 4/13

7 p.m. service with the last supper and extinguishing of the light along with song. We will have no benediction after this service because the events of this night do not conclude until Easter morning's resurrection.

Good Friday – 4/14

First Christian Church’s Easter Prayer Vigil will begin at 1 p.m. and go through Sunday, April 16 at 6 a.m. To sign up for a prayer slot, visit <http://bit.ly/2o86b9n>

7 p.m. service at Ames UCC with contemporary readings, classic hymns, and women blessing the cross with petals.

Easter – 4/16

Join us at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for an Easter Egg Hunt before worship. All children are invited! Please bring your own basket or bag to keep all your goodies. Youth are encouraged to meet Hannah at 9:15 a.m. to help hide eggs.

Easter worship at 10:30 a.m.

Calendar for the Week

Monday, March 27

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project (Hanson)
7:00 p.m. Manna & Mercy Coloring Book Course of the Bible

Tuesday, March 28

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

Wednesday, March 29

8:30 a.m. Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Library Work Group
12:00 p.m. Midday Worship with Bell Ringing (& brown bag lunch)
2:00 p.m. Wednesday Afternoon Club
6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper
6:45 p.m. Taizé Service

Saturday, April 1

11:00 a.m. Celebration of Life for Kathie Drummond

Sunday, April 2

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

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.

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