

# SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

**Ames United Church of Christ  
Sunday, March 12, 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 Karen Lasche, Carl Tipton, Tania Tipton, and Donna Starck.*

## **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.*

## **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: Loving God, you long to gather us under your wings. Let us not reject you, too caught up in in our own lives to recognize the opportunity for repentance and the gift of your grace. 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.*

**HYMN** "Within Your Shelter, Loving God" (insert)

**GOSPEL** Luke 13:1-9, 31-35 (New Revised Standard Version) Doug Pepe  
*Gospel means "good news," making the full title of this book of the Bible "The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Luke."*

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’ He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.” ’

## **SERMON**

## **SILENCE**

**HYMN OF REFLECTION**    “O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns,” Hymn 212

## **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**

“Peace Pilgrim’s Prayer”

Sean Kirchner

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%).*

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## **HYMN OF SENDING**

“Wherever You Go” (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.*

March 12, 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.  
*Loving Lord, you long to gather us under your wings. Let us not reject you, too caught up in in our own lives to recognize the opportunity for repentance and the gift of your grace. Amen.*

**Reflect:** Reflect on the key verse from Sunday's reading.  
*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! Luke 13:34*

**Study:** Study the reading and consider the background.  
*The question of suffering is an ancient one. But Jesus won't allow victims of tragedy to be blamed for their own misfortune, even if that was (and still is) a tempting explanation. Instead he asks just what are we choosing to do with the precious time we have left?*

**Consider:** Consider this theme for the week's text.  
*Jesus' mission is urgent, even today.*

**Read:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.  
Sunday: Tower in Siloam, Luke 13:1-9, 31-35  
Monday: Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman, Luke 13:10-17  
Tuesday: Parables, Luke 13:18-30  
Wednesday: Jesus Heals a Man with Dropsy, Luke 14:1-6  
Thursday: Parable of a Wedding Banquet, Luke 14:7-14  
Friday: Parable of a Great Dinner, Luke 14:15-24  
Saturday: The Cost of Discipleship, Luke 14:25-35

Who are the outsiders in these stories? Who are the insiders?

**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?
- How do you and your community distinguish "good" people from "bad" people? Are your assessments accurate? Are there sins that are unforgivable? How might God respond to those sins and those sinners?
- How do you measure your own goodness? Are there sins you need to confess to God? Are there sins God has already forgiven that you need to let go?

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

*Make a timeline of your life. Is there evidence that your behaviors cause tragedies? Where is God during the high points and low points in your life?*

**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.  
*May God forgive and cleanse you from carrying the burden of your sin. Amen.*

### **Upcoming Scriptures**

3/19 Luke 15:1-32  
3/26 Luke 16:19-31  
4/2 Luke 18:31-19:10  
4/9 Luke 19:29-44

### **The Communion Table**

During Lent different members of the Worship and Music Team are displaying items related to the scripture reading for that day on the communion table. This week you'll see a bowl of dried figs and a package of Fig Newtons.

### **Potluck and Discussion on Providing Sanctuary – TODAY!**

Following the worship service today, 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.

### **Lenten Soup Suppers – 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5**

The Lenten soup suppers continue on March 15, 22, 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](http://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](mailto:sleepycat@hotmail.com)) if you have difficulties with SignUpGenius.

### **Midday, Midweek Lenten Worship & Lunch – 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, 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 15, 22, 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

### **Crisis Theologies – 3/15**

Easter is the ultimate crisis in our faith – and often to our faith. On Wednesday, March 15 from 6:45–8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (right after the soup supper), we will talk about all manner of different theologies of crisis and crisis theologies. Childcare will be available.

### **Learning Center on Providing Sanctuary – 3/19**

9:15-10:15 AM in Fellowship Hall  
Should Ames UCC become a sanctuary church or support another sanctuary church in Ames? A sanctuary church is a sacred space of refuge for immigrant individuals or families that are in immediate danger of deportation. The AMOS immigration group and members of the Ames UCC Social Justice and Outreach Team will lead the discussion.

### **Why Bother Praying? And How – 3/22**

Prayer is one of the core practices of faith and religion, but it can also be one of the most confusing as well as the most difficult to incorporate into daily life. On Wednesday, March 22 from 6:45 – 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (right after the soup supper), we will explore different theologies and styles of prayer. Childcare will be available.

### **Explore Membership at Ames UCC – 3/26**

Join Pr. Eileen and current church members to learn more about the theology and polity (governance) of Ames United Church of Christ as well as what formal membership means, all over a tasty lunch. Participation in the lunch does not mean a commitment to join. Childcare will be available on request.

### **Membership Exploration & Luncheon**

Sunday, March 26 from right after worship until 1:30 p.m. (at the latest)

### **New Member Sunday**

Sunday, April 9 (Palm Sunday) in worship

RSVP to Pr. Eileen ([eileen@amesucc.org](mailto:eileen@amesucc.org), 515-232-9323) by Tuesday, March 21

### One Great Hour of Sharing – 3/26

On Sunday, March 26 Ames UCC will take part with churches across eight Christian denominations: American Baptist Churches USA, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Church of the Brethren, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), United Church of Christ, and Church World Service. This 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. To learn more about One Great Hour of Sharing, see the brochure in your bulletin or check out [ucc.org/oghs](http://ucc.org/oghs).

### 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. Through Easter, April 16, we will be collecting in a grocery cart in the parlor. Take-home lists of items are available by the cart for you to take with you as you are shopping.

### Books on Display

There are books in a book shelf in the sanctuary and books on a book shelf in the Parlor. All of these books are available to read during church or to be taken home. If you wish to take them home please put your name on the card inside the book and leave the card in the church library in the basket next to the card box. The Church Library Team hopes you enjoy the new selections we put out for the month of March.

### Batteries and Light Bulbs

The collection tubs for light bulbs and batteries have been moved to the west basement. Take the elevator to the basement and the tubs will be in the elevator lobby.

### Calendar for the Week

#### Monday, March 13

12:00 p.m. Member Services  
5:00 p.m. 150th Task Force  
5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project (Tipton)  
7:00 p.m. Manna & Mercy Coloring Book Course of the Bible

#### Tuesday, March 14

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship  
4:00 p.m. Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance  
5:30 p.m. Staff Worship Planning

#### Wednesday, March 15

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. Book Club  
6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper  
6:45 p.m. Crisis Theologies  
6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

#### Saturday, March 18

9:30 a.m. Food at First

#### Sunday, March 19

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.

24-hour pastoral emergencies:

515-428-1779

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