



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, April 1, 2018**

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, ushers, and greeters for today are Barbara Faidley, Barbara Hauerrberg, Rachel Schelle, Ginny Shenk, Lynette Spicer, and Justin Watts.

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter is the holiest day of the Christian year. At the same time, it is the one most fraught with confusing and even off-putting theology. We hope that during this celebration you will find ample room for your soul's understanding of God's relationship with us through Jesus Christ. God is still speaking and we are committed to listening to both God and each other.

PRELUDE "Tocatta in F Major" J. S. Bach

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

**EASTER ACCLAMATION
WITH THE RETURN OF OUR ALLELUIAS (PAPER & CHORAL)**

On the first Sunday in Lent, one of our young children took the alleluia out of our church. Today, after it is being restored to the Communion table, is the first day we will say it in six weeks.

"Christians Celebrate and Sing" Larson/Hayes
Chancel Choir

One: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Many: **Christ is risen indeed!**
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

HYMN "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," Hymn 233

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: Risen One, Good Friday grief has given way to Easter joy! Cheer our hearts with the good news of resurrection power, O Lord, and drive us forth to proclaim it to the world. In your name, we pray, 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: Let us confess our brokenness before God and each other.
Lover of life,

**Many: Though you have made all things new, we still cling to the old.
Forgive us when we doubt your presence, resist your call,
and lose heart in the face of challenges.
Remind us that you are bigger than our problems,
our petty concerns, and foolish preoccupations,
and restore us with your all-consuming love. 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: Jesus is risen, and yet rising, indeed. Neither our brokenness nor our evil has the power to separate us from the loves that rebukes death and endures eternally. In love, we are forgiven. 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.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

GOSPEL John 20:1-18 (New Revised Standard Version
with modifications for clarity of action)

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

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. (The beloved disciple) bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following (the beloved disciple), and went into the tomb. (Peter) saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then (the beloved disciple), who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that (Jesus) must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbi!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Creator. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Creator and your Creator, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON

HYMN OF PREPARATION "Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day," Hymn 241

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WITH THE OFFERING OF FOOD AND GIFTS

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.

Invitation

One: Come! If you are hungry, there is food to eat. Come! If you are thirsty, there is water to drink. It is food for those who hunger for justice, and water for those who long for life in all its fullness. Come! Eat and drink to proclaim the feast of God's kin-dom where all are welcome and no one is left out.

Prayer

One: God, our Mother and Father,
Many: **You have given us this earth rich and vibrant.
Its renewing life sustains us.
Its unfailing goodness nourishes us.
Blessed be your name.**

One: Jesus, our Guide and Healer,
Many: **You ate with friends and enemies.
At a meal you brought the gift of hope.
At a meal you gave the word of life.
Blessed be your name.**

One: Spirit, our Comforter and Disturber,
Many: **You do not leave us on our own.
Here are companions to know our joy.
Here are companions to share our sorrow.
Blessed be your name.**

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Thanks be to you, O God, for your presence and your purpose, for your loving kindness and your steadfast Spirit.

Many: **May the blessings of this table strengthen our faith, increase our generosity and unify our hearts, for we pray in the name of Jesus, the Risen One. 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/the cosmos, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom/kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven/the cosmos. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. 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

"Llanfair"

Alfred V. Fedak

Mark Kretsinger-Harries, organ

In 2018, ten 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 our in-house Pastoral Emergency Fund. You can also designate your gift to the Pastoral Emergency Fund directly. If you would like to sign up for automated giving, contact Katie Tschopp at 515-232-9323 or office@amesucc.org.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF SENDING "Jesus Christ is Risen Today," Hymn 240

If you would like to participate in the choral benediction, please come forward during this hymn. Choir Director Lesley Lackore will provide you with music.

CHORAL BENEDICTION Hallelujah Chorus from "The Messiah" G. F. Handel

POSTLUDE "Tocatta in F Major" D. Buxtehude

You are welcome to sit for the postlude or stay and talk or head out for coffee. Mark will not be in the least bit offended, either way. "It's sending music!," as he likes to say.

TODAY'S FLOWERS

If you contributed to today's flowers, you are welcome to take a vase home.

Now Hiring: Youth Director

Details available at amesucc.org/youth-director. Please share broadly.

Painting Help Needed

Volunteers are needed to paint the hallway between the parlor and east entryway and adjacent rooms. This week scheduled painting times are on Monday, April 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Friday, April 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Saturday, April 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Drop in for an hour or more. If you can help, please let Ken Birt know when you can be available at ken.birt.118@gmail.com.

Music Walk at Ames UCC – 4/6

Melodies fill the air in downtown Ames as local businesses host musicians of all genres on Friday, April 6, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Stroll from business to business throughout downtown and enjoy the variety of talent Ames has to offer. There will also be food trucks, and children's activities. This is a family-friendly event for the young, the old, and everyone in between. As a member of the Main Street Cultural District, our church will be a hosting venue featuring Ben Schrag.

Now Accepting Items for the ABC Sale

It is that time of year again. All those things you have been saving for our annual Attic to Basement Sale can be brought to the church now. Please leave all of your donations on the table in the elevator vestibule of the West Basement. Workers will take it from there to sort into categories. REMEMBER—we accept NO CLOTHES. Everything else is welcome. Large items will need to be collected closer to the date of the sale. The sale is scheduled for August 3 & 4.

Church Library News

The church library remains open even though one of the doors is now blocked off. Enter the library through the door near the stairs in the hallway. The library is also an area where you can listen to the service in the sanctuary from the loud speakers. An announcement will be made when the library has to close when we move to our new location in Room 104.



FLOWERS FOR TODAY'S SERVICE WERE GIVEN BY

Janet and Kevin Binder in memory of Donna Trenkle, Ann Stark, and Glen and Julie Binder.

Ken and Diane Birt in memory of their parents and in honor of their children and grandchildren.

Judith Blair in memory of Harry W. Blair and Jeffrey Blair.

The Buchele and Rowland families in memory of Burt and Mary Lou Moore and Marcia Buchele.

Kermit and Trudy Dirks in honor of their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Bradley Duckstein in memory of Louise Nikkel.

Barbara and LeVern Faidley in memory of Clarence and Bertha Farmer and Gaylord and Leona Faidley.

Cornelia and Jan Flora in memory of May and Carroll Butler.

The Geist family in memory of Maury Geist.

Elaine Hieber in memory of Harriet Hieber Gorman.

Karen Lasche in memory of her husband Larry Lasche.

Nancy Marks in memory of her mother.

Ruth Mortimer in memory of Randall Mortimer.

Charles and Mary Mulford in memory of Floyd and Hazel Uitermarkt and Arthur and Esther Mulford.

Elaine O'Neal in memory of Joyce Noreen Gauthier Aubin.

Doug and Peg Powell in memory of their parents, grandparents, and their dear friend Susan Doyle.

Kristin Shields in memory of Michael J. Klein Sr. and Florence Dahlberg.

Allen Trenkle and family in memory of Donna Trenkle and Ann Stark.

John and Marge Uitermarkt in memory of Laura, Wayne, and Nicolas Morgan.

The Watts family in memory of Steven Watts.

The Ames UCC staff in honor of Eileen Gebbie and Carla Barnwell.

Calendar for the Week

Monday, April 2

Church Office Closed

Pr. Eileen off

Tuesday, April 3

Pr. Eileen off

5:30 p.m. ERP (Alt)

Wednesday, April 4

Pr. Eileen off

8:30 a.m. Early Jesus Movement

12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing

2:00 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club

6:30 p.m. Absent Spouses

Social Club

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Thursday, April 5

Pr. Eileen off

Friday, April 6

5:00 p.m. Music Walk

Sunday, April 8

9:30 a.m. Godly Play

9:30 a.m. Youth Coffee Talk

9:30 a.m. Learning Center

10:30 a.m. Worship

12:00 p.m. Absent Spouses

Social Club

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

David Cook, Sexton

cookdavi@gmail.com

Eileen Gebbie, Senior Minister

eileen@amesucc.org

Hannah Hannover,

Minister to Children & Families

hannah@amesucc.org

Mark Kretsinger-Harries,

Substitute Instrumentalist

m.kretsinger.harries@gmail.com

Lesley Lackore, Chancel Choir Director

llackore@gmail.com

Katie Tschopp,

Church Office Administrator

office@amesucc.org

Jean Watts, Youth Director

jean@amesucc.org