



**Ames United Church of Christ
Tuesday, December 25, 2018**

Welcome to Ames UCC! 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.

ABOUT WORSHIP AT AMES UCC

Our church is the inheritor of many powerful worship traditions and the adopter of new, moving innovations. But whichever element serves the needs of the day (in terms of scripture, season, or society), each service is developed by members of the church and staff to function as a journey. A journey from the individual, toward God, into the body of Christ, and then back out to the world with the strength of the Holy Spirit. Along the way we may laugh, we may cry, we may experience deep silence. In each, we embody and come to know more deeply what it means to be a Christian in such a time as this: a servant of 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.

Our deacon, greeters, and ushers for today are the Flora family, Barbara Faidley, LeVern Faidley, and Steve Rogers-Smith.

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

GREETINGS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Passing the Peace is an ancient Christian tradition in which we show we carry no weapons, only love.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: Let us go now to Bethlehem and see.

Many: Let us see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us! Amen.

HYMN “Joy to the World”

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.
Christ rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of God’s righteousness,
And wonders of God’s love,
And wonders of God’s love,
And wonders, wonders, of God’s love.**

HEBREW BIBLE Psalm 95:6-7 (Robert Alter translation)

We use “Hebrew Bible” instead of “Old Testament” out of respect for our Jewish sisters and brothers (it isn’t old to them) and acknowledgement of the living voice still found in these ancient stories.

Come, let us bow and kneel,
 bend the knee before the LORD our maker.
For the LORD is our God
 and we are the people God tends
 and the flock of God’s hands.

GOSPEL Luke 2:15-20 (New Revised Version)

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

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN “Adeste Fideles,” verses 1, 3, and 4

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, o come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;**

**O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God, glory in the highest!**

**O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesu, to Thee be glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;**

**O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!**

HOMILY

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.**

HYMN “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now give heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now we hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
God has opened heaven's door,
And we are blest forever more.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now we need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**

BENEDICTION

From the Latin of “well” and “to speak,” this is one final good word to send us off.

OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

The church office will continue to be closed through Tuesday, January 1.
Normal business hours resume on Wednesday, January 2: 9a-1p, 2p-5p Monday through Thursday.

Be In Touch with Ames UCC Staff	
217 6th Street, Ames, IA 50010	Megan Henson, Youth Director
515-232-9323	megan@amesucc.org
Mon 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.	David Sheridan, Seminary Intern
Tues-Thurs 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.	limnolaw@aol.com
David Cook, Sexton	Lesley Lackore, Chancel Choir Director
cookdavi@gmail.com	llackore@gmail.com
Eileen Gebbie, Senior Minister	Karen “Sunny” Stewart, Instrumentalist
eileen@amesucc.org	sunny@amesucc.org
Hannah Hannover,	Katie Tschopp,
Minister to Children & Families	Church Office Administrator
hannah@amesucc.org	office@amesucc.org

Ames UCC Team Leadership

Rachel Schelle, Moderator	Financial Stewardship
Allen Trenkle, Interim Moderator	Bradley Duckstein, Joel Johnson
Lynette Spicer, Clerk	
Diana McHenry, Church Representative	Social Justice and Outreach
	Anna Johnson, Linda Best
Building Relationships	
Ben Schrag, Nancy Dunn	Property
	Jan Bauer, Laurie Olk
Christian Education	
Allen Trenkle	Worship and Music
	Barbara Faidley, Tom Meyer

Get in touch with a team leader with the information in your church directory.
Contact Katie Tschopp (515-232-9323, office@amesucc.org) if you need a copy.