



The Stories of Lent
Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, February 25, 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 Janet Binder, Brett Brinkmeyer, Jerry Chase, Sally Chase, Barbara Faidley, Liberato Silva Dos Santos

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

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 (February 15) to Holy Saturday (March 31), 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. Oral announcements before worship will resume on the second Sunday of Easter (April 8).

SILENCE (one minute)

For many of us, nothing is more challenging than silence. During Lent, we will have three moments of silence, each longer than the next, as a means to practice what we just sang. If you feel squirmy or uncomfortable or distracted, that is normal. Try paying attention to the breath moving in and out of your nose and mouth or repeating one or two words as a meditative prayer.

*"For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from the LORD."
—Psalm 62:5*

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.

**All: Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.
(4x)**

INVOKING THE HOLY Pr. Eileen Gebbie

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: Almighty God, you took on the role of a servant when you gave everything for our sake. Teach us to humble ourselves for the honorable work of serving others. In Jesus’ name, 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. Throughout this season of Lent we will use a classic prayer of confession from the Book of Common Prayer. You will see that the prayer has us confess sin and then defines that sin: failure to love.

One: Let us confess our brokenness before God and each other. Merciful Lord,

**Many: We confess that we are in bondage to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and follow in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION (two minutes)

Time 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: In Jesus Christ—born an outcast, grown to a lover of all, and a liberator in life beyond death—God knows and receives us as we are. Listen, give thanks, and live.

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 Pr. Hannah Hannover

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.

**All: Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true
and with thanksgiving, I'll be a living,
sanctuary, oh for you.**

HYMN “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love,” Hymn 498

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.”

GOSPEL

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

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to (God). Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The (forces of non-being) had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that (God) had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” For (Jesus) knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.” After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, (Jesus) said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

SERMON “Love’s Example,” David Sheridan, Master of Divinity student at Chicago Theological Seminary

SILENCE (three minutes)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH WITH COMMISSIONING OF NEW TEAMS

Pr. Eileen & Brett Brinkmeyer

Please share your prayer needs as you are so moved. Throughout Lent, Pr. Eileen will be joined by different congregants in leading the pastoral prayer.

Building Relationships

Ben Schrag
Nancy Dunn
Karen Lasche
Bill Yungclas
Diana McHenry
Jim Coppoc
Allison Anderson
Peg Powell
Sue Jones
Kristin Shields

Caring Network

Kristin Shields
Christa Andersen

Christian Ed

Allen Trenkle
Linda Hanson
Emily Kenneke

Financial Secretary

Nancy Heathman

Financial Stewardship

Bradley Duckstein
Joel Johnson
Jim Peake
Sue Lamont

Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Bill Yungclas
Amanda Petefish-Schrag
Keith Knapp
Ed Goedeken
Rachel Schelle

Property

Jan Bauer
Laurie Olk
Steve Rogers-Smith
Kevin Binder
Dinah & Bob Kerksieck

Social Justice & Outreach

Anna Johnson
Linda Best
Matthew Ellinwood
Christy Oxendine
Katie Seifert
Diane Birt
George Belitsos

Treasurer

Catherine DeLong

Worship & Music

Barbara Faidley
Tom Meyer
Dale Shenefelt
Tom Meyer
Pat Spangler
Kim Spangler
Steve Rogers-Smith

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

"You Are Mine"

David Haas

Chancel Choir

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

"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant," Hymn 539

BENEDICTION

From the Latin of "well" and "to speak," this is one final good word to send us off. Please join us next door in the parlor for coffee, tea, treats, and community.

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

2/28, 3/7, 3/14, and 3/21

Ringing the Memorial Bell for Peace

A weekly, uninterrupted tradition since Lent 1986. 12:00 p.m. in the bell tower.

Lent and Lunch

Gather in the sanctuary at 12:15 p.m. for worship (peace bell, song, prayer) followed by lunch in the Fellowship Hall (bring your own). Last year we usually wrapped up at 1 p.m., but come and go as your work schedule allows.

Wednesday Afternoon Club (WAC)

WAC will meet in February, be off for all of March, and resume in April.

Lenten Soup Suppers

From 6:00-6:45 p.m. come to the Fellowship Hall for a simple meal of soup, bread, and vegetables. Sign up to bring elements of the meal at <http://bit.ly/2CeM5BN>. If you are not able to bring food, that is just fine. Please come. The Youth Group will be providing all of the clean up as a fund raiser for their participation in the upcoming Regional Youth Event.

Lenten Study of Julian of Norwich

From 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 6:45-8:00 p.m. (the same content, but more prayer time in the evenings). Julian of Norwich lived in England from 1342-1416, witnessing the Hundred Years War and the era's mass deaths from plague (and the stench and horror that came with it). With limited religious training and no status in the world, Julian experienced visions of God's love that so resonated with people that she was not executed for writing them down (religious teaching being forbidden to women). Hers is a faith, confidence, and leadership that continues to inspire. No book purchase is required. We will not meet on 3/14 (during spring break). Childcare is available for both Bible studies.
—Pr. Eileen

Chancel Choir Rehearsal (with Easter Choir)

From 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All voices are welcome.

LENT: Instead of Giving Up SOMETHING try Giving to SOMEONE.

The Worship and Music Team of the church is sponsoring a non-food drive for the MICA Food Pantry during Lent. There are many items people in need use regularly which they cannot afford. A shopping cart will be in the parlor of the church for all of the donations. Items needed are listed below. And will also be available at the shopping cart. Please give as generously as you are able.

Personal Care Items: bar and liquid soap, body wash, toothbrushes and paste, shampoo/conditioner, men's & women's deodorant, feminine products

Cleaning products: paper towels, laundry soap, dishwashing soap, kitchen cleaner

General items: Kleenex, toilet paper, diapers-size 4, 5, 6, pull-ups, wipes

Lenten Peace Cranes

Throughout the Lenten season we will have the opportunity to fold peace cranes, which will then be part of our Easter and Eastertide worship services. You don't have to be good with your hands—trust me—just desirous of finding peace in your heart and our world. –Pr. Eileen

Seminary Sunday – TODAY

Today our church is participating in an event called Seminary Sunday. Across the UCC, churches will host current students from one of the 14 UCC-affiliated seminaries to hear a good word. This year we will welcome David R. Sheridan. David is currently a student at Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS) seeking a Master of Divinity Degree. He and his wife, Leslie (who grew up in Ames), are longtime and active members of the Urbandale United Church of Christ. In 2015, David retired from the Iowa Attorney General's Office where he served as an Assistant Attorney General, and Environmental Law Division Director. He then responded to a higher calling and entered seminary! Our church also supports theological education through annual financial support to CTS, Eden Theological (St. Louis), and United Theological (Twin Cities).

Animate: Practices – 3/4

The last session of Animate: Practices is next Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in Room 104. Bring your coffee or tea and join in talking about community as Doug Pagitt invites us to remake our communities by bringing our gifts, our talents, and our ideas with us wherever we go.

Upcoming Learning Center Topic – 3/4

Sundays 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. There's coffee and tea and good discussion. Everyone is invited.

March 4, The Religion and Imagery in Spain and Cambodia: God is still speaking
Cornelia Flora will share pictures of religious symbols and celebrations in Spain (focusing on Holy Week over several years) and Cambodia (focusing on the ancient cities of Angkor Wat and its present day implications).

Calendar for the Week

Monday, February 26

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence
Project (Dorhmann)
6:00 p.m. Worship Team

Tuesday, February 27

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship

Wednesday, February 28

8:30 a.m. Julian of Norwich
12:05 p.m. Bell Ringing
12:15 p.m. Lent and Lunch
2-5 p.m. WAC
6 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper
6:45 p.m. Julian of Norwich
6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir

Sunday, March 4

9:15 a.m. Godly Play
9:15 a.m. Youth Coffee Fellowship
9:15 a.m. Learning Center
9:15 a.m. Animate: Practices
10:30 a.m. Worship

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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