



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, January 14, 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 for today is Donna Starck; our greeters and ushers are Allison Anderson, Diane Birt, Mim Fritz, and Lynette Spicer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Most announcements are in your bulletin, our weekly e-newsletter, and our quarterly print newsletter. To sign up for the last two, contact Katie Tschopp at either 515-232-9323 or office@amesucc.org.

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: You cause grass to grow for the cattle,
Many: And bring forth food from the earth.

One: You give wine to gladden the human heart,
Many: And bread to strengthen it.

One: The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly,
Many: The cedars of Lebanon that God planted.

HYMN "All Are Welcome" (insert)

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: Jesus of celebration, you are our hope when disaster seems imminent.
Give us the calm confidence which your own mother showed, knowing that all things are held in God’s hands. 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. Merciful Lord,
**Many: We come before you with heavy hearts.
We do not always follow our Jesus’s lead.
We insist on our own way, putting worldly things before you.
We doubt, we discriminate;
we scatter—preferring our ignorance to the brilliance of your truth.
For all this we ask your mercy and forgiveness,
that our hearts may be awoken again. 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: As a loving shepherd gathers sheep, so God protects and cares for us. Let us rejoice that we receive forgiveness, a welcome on our return. 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.

O - pen your hearts, O faith - ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and
hear God's word. O - pen your hearts, O faith - ful peo - ple,
God has come to you. God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu -
jah! God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

GOSPEL John 2:1-11

(New Revised Standard Version with modifications for clarity and avoidance of anti-Semitism)

Gospel means “good news,” making the full title of this book of the Bible “The Good News of Jesus Christ according to John.” We will stay in this book of the Bible until after Easter.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for (handwashing), each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

SERMON

HYMN OF REFLECTION “Sing of God” (insert)

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

“Lord, Lead Me, Lord”

Gilbert M. Martin

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

“Jesus, Come! We Invite You” (insert)

BENEDICTION

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

Chili and Pie Fest – TODAY!

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for our Chili and Pie fest hosted by the Member Services Team.

Peace, Hope, Love and Joy Ornaments

If you made an ornament during Advent to hang on the sanctuary tree this year and would like to take it home, you may pick it up from the parlor. Ornaments left at the church will be used to decorate again next year. Thank you for contributing to make a beautiful Christmas Tree.

Join us for Animate: Practices – 1/21-2/25

Join us in Room 104 at 9:15 a.m. for Animate: Practices. Next Sunday, January 21, our topic is “Seeking God’s Presence” in worship, presented by Mike Slaughter. For many Christians, worship is synonymous with going to church. Mike challenges us to think about worship as a much richer practice, one we can follow on our own and in community.

Day on the Hill with the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking – 1/17

The Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery asks all allies to participate in the "Day on the Hill" on Wednesday, January 17th. Governor Kim Reynolds will be declaring January as "Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month." We invite you to attend the proclamation signing at the Governor's Formal Office at 10:30 a.m. This will be followed by several Outstanding Anti-Trafficking Service Awards, including CISN chair, Mike Ferjak and Kellie Markey, founder of Dorothy's House.

Register Now for Theologian in Residence Weekend – 1/26-28

2018 Theologian in Residence speaker David Csinos has authored several books on Christian education of children, one of which is *Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus*, David M. Csinos and Ivy Beckwith, 2013. This book and *Children's Ministry That Fits: Nurturing Children's Spirituality*, are both on display in the parlor and available for check out from the church library.

The authors argue that children's ministry must be done differently for children to become disciples and churches to become centers of lifelong discipleship. To accomplish this, local churches must move away from developing programs for children to ways of doing ministry with children. Rather than teaching children to know about God, children should be helped to know God and to have personal encounters with God. The authors provide many ideas for developing new church culture in which children are full and lively participants in Christian life and community.

Register now and learn more about the program at amesucc.org/tir and take a look at the insert in your bulletin.

Unwanted Holiday Items

While you're putting away your holiday decorations, consider donating any items you no longer need to the Holiday Hoopla Sale. Please contact Barbara Faidley (515-233-3874, barbara@faidley.org) about what you have. We have a limited amount of space now, but we can take some things and the rest we can take after Easter. The proceeds from the sale go to local charities and church projects.

Calendar for the Week

Monday, January 15

Church Office Closed for

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence
Project (Breitman)

Tuesday, January 16

5:30 p.m. Worship Staff Meeting

7:15 p.m. Executive Board

Wednesday, January 17

Spring newsletter articles due

8:30 a.m. AM Bible Study

12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing

2:00 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club

6:30 p.m. PM Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, January 21

9:15 a.m. Godly Play

9:15 a.m. Youth Coffee Talk

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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