



The Stories of Lent
Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, March 4, 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, Andrea Buchele, Mim Fritz, and Barbara Hauerrberg.

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 14) 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

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

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 “She Flies On” (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.”

GOSPEL John 18:12-27

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

So the soldiers, their officer, and the (local) police arrested Jesus and bound him.

First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the (local religious leaders) that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in.

The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews (my people) come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.”

When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

SERMON

SILENCE (three minutes)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH Barbara Faidley & Pr. Eileen Gebbie

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.

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

“Blessed Shall They Be”

Natalie Sleeth

Women’s 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**

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service,” Hymn 495

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

3/7, 3/14, and 3/21

Ring 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.

Breaking news: Construction has begun!

Or, more accurately, demolition.

This week Dave Cook and Ken Birt started the dismantling in the parlor necessary for our new lighting, possible removal of the wall between the parlor and library, painting, new flooring, and all new furniture.

All of the old furniture is going to the Fellowship Hall (west end perimeter) and will be free to anyone, provided it is out of the building by noon on March 25 (Palm Sunday).

Future work includes replacing of the flooring from the east entrance to the parlor, the exterior of the east entrance and its ramp, and lighting in the sanctuary. Stay tuned for more details, including shifts in where we fellowship and worship.

And thank you for not only pardoning, but generously facilitating, all of our dust!
—Pr. Eileen

International Women's Day Brochure and Activity

Today in worship we are celebrating International Women's Day. Learn about International Women's Day and the experiences of women in the US and developing countries, including how you can get involved.

Check out the insert in your bulletin to learn about the women of Ames UCC! The women of our church have had many exciting and unusual experiences. Take the opportunity before or after church to talk to one of the incredible women in our church. We can all get to know each other better!

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

One Great Hour of Sharing – 3/11

On Sunday, March 11 Ames UCC will take part with churches across eight Christian denominations in the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. 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.

The national United Church of Christ holds five special offerings throughout the year to support specific ministries. To learn more about One Great Hour of Sharing, check out ucc.org/oghs.

Easter Egg Goodies

It's time to start collecting Easter egg goodies! Easter morning the children will be invited to join in on an Easter egg hunt around the church yard and we need items to fill the eggs! If you would like to donate something to be used for the eggs please leave your donation in the marked box in the parlor or in the church office. Some items to consider include small tokens, stickers, or individually wrapped candy.

Cardboard for Reggie's Sleepout

The youth group is participating in Reggie's Sleepout on March 24th. Part of the experience is constructing a cardboard house and sleeping in it overnight. If you have any extra cardboard boxes you would like to get rid of we will gladly take them. We are also looking for several rolls of duct tape, any color. You can drop off supplies outside the youth room. Please contact Jean Watts (jean@amesucc.org) with any questions. Learn more about Reggie's Sleepout at reggiessleepout.org.

Help Set Up Disabled Parking for Sunday Morning

Ames UCC has been working with the city and is excited to offer at least four more disabled parking spaces along Kellogg Avenue for Sunday morning services as well as a drop-off area between the curb-cut on the corner and the permanent disabled parking space. We need your help to make this new parking system work. Here's how you can help, volunteer to:

1. Roll the signs out of storage in the elevator entrance and place them on the curb along Kellogg Avenue on Saturday nights or early Sunday mornings
2. Remove the parking signs from the curb after worship service, and then roll them back into storage.

To volunteer, please sign up at bit.ly/2CeM5BN

Thank You for Providing Our Extravagant Welcome

The Worship and Music team recruits members of the congregation to take part in our EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME. We appreciate everyone who have volunteered to be greeters, ushers and deacons. Thank you to those who volunteered in the month of February:

Allison Anderson, Linda Best, Janet Binder, Brett Brinkmeyer, Jerry Chase, Sally Chase, Jim Coppoc and Will, Fionn and Jazz, Gary Deal, Laura Deal, Barbara Faidley, Cornelia Flora, Mim Fritz, Martha Geist, Barbara Hauerrberg, Anna Johnson, Susan Jones, Liberato Santos, Steve Rogers-Smith, Rachel Schelle, Kristen Shields, Dale Shenefelt, Ginny Shenk, Linda Shenk, Kim Spangler, Phil Spike. Thank you all for making our church a great place to be on Sunday morning.

Calendar for the Week

Monday, March 5

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

Tuesday, March 6

5:30 p.m. Worship Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 7

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

Sunday, March 11

9:15 a.m. Godly Play
9:15 a.m. Youth Coffee Fellowship
9:15 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
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Eileen Gebbie, Senior Minister
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