



**The Stories of Lent**  
Ames United Church of Christ  
Sunday, March 11, 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 Kermit Dirks, Trudy Dirks, Bonnie Hawbaker, Tom Meyer, Diane Northington, and Ben Schrag.*

**No Holy Communion until Holy Week**

We typically take part in the sacrament of Holy Communion on the third Sunday of each month (next week). This month, however, we will wait to come to the feasting table on Maundy Thursday (March, 29 at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist, along with First Christian) and Easter Sunday (April 1 at 7 a.m. at Reiman Garden with First Methodist and First Christian and 10:30 a.m. here at our own church). We will also hold a service on Good Friday at 7 p.m., though it will not include Holy Communion.

**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: God of all truth, your thoughts are well beyond our own. Challenge us to look beyond our narrow assumptions, into a wider vision of how the world could be. For the sake of Jesus Christ, 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** “Lead on Eternal Jesus” (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 18:28-40

(New Revised Standard Version with modifications to limit the potential for anti-Semitic interpretation as well as translations from Dr. Amy-Jill Levine)

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

Then (the local police) took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate’s headquarters. It was early in the morning...Pilate went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” (The local police) answered, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.”

Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.” The (local police) replied, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death.” (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over...But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”

Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

Pilate asked him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, (Pilate) went out to the (local police) again and told them, “I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” They shouted in reply, “Not Jesus, but Barabbas (which means son of a father)!” Now Barabbas was a (revolutionary).

## **SERMON**

**SILENCE** (three minutes)

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** Liz Kolbe & 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

"Lancashire" Mark Kretsinger-Harries

*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](mailto:office@amesucc.org).*

*Today, Ames UCC takes 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.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**HYMN OF SENDING** "Shall We Gather at the River" (insert)

## 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

3/14 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** will not meet on March 14 due to Spring Break, but resumes March 21 at 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 6:45-8:00 p.m.

### Chancel Choir Rehearsal (with Easter Choir)

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

### **Now Hiring: Youth Director**

Details available at [amesucc.org/youth-director](http://amesucc.org/youth-director). Please share broadly.

### **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

### **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](mailto:jean@amesucc.org)) with any questions. Learn more about Reggie's Sleepout at [reggiessleepout.org](http://reggiessleepout.org).

### **Women of Ames UCC**

We have some incredible women in our congregation. Thank you to all the women who participated in the International Women's Day game so we could get to know each other better:

Ellen Barnhart, Carla Barnwell, Linda Best, Diane Birt, Judy Blair, Laura Deal, Irene Dohrmann, Barbara Faidley, Cornelia Flora, Mim Fritz, Eileen Gebbie, Jennifer Gelwick-Luecke, Hannah Hannover, Linda Hanson, Barbara Hauerrberg, Elaine Heiber, Anna Johnson, Lesley Lackore, Sue Lamont, Liz Mendez-Shannon, Laurie Olk, Bernie Pohm, Ann Reinhart, Ginny Shenk, Linda Shenk, Kristen Shields, Pat Spangler, Katie Tschopp, Marge Uitermarkt, Barbara Yungclas.

### **Help to set up disabled parking spaces on 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 <http://bit.ly/2Fslmzs>

## Holy Week & Easter with Ames UCC

### ***Palm Sunday***

March 25 at 10:30 a.m. at Ames UCC

We begin worship with the waving of palm fronds and end in silence with the changing of our banners.

### ***Maundy Thursday***

March 29 at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist

Ecumenical service at First United Methodist with First Christian Church and Ames UCC. Pr. Eileen will be preaching.

### ***Grief of Good Friday***

March 30 at 7 p.m. at Ames UCC

The story of Good Friday is so horrible, so sorrowful, that many (most?) of us skip it, looking the other way until Easter's sunrise. ("Good" came into use over time through jumbled translations of "holy" and "God.") This year, with an all-new order of worship, we are going to tap into the sorrow as it connects to the sorrow in our own lives via Mary the Mother of Jesus. Ours is not a god that wants suffering but one who knows it intimately yet still offers hope. Childcare will be provided.

### ***Dawn Easter Worship***

April 1 at 7 a.m. at Reiman Gardens

Ecumenical service at Reiman Gardens (1407 S University Blvd) with First United Methodist, First Christian Church, and Ames UCC. Pr. Fred Lewis will be preaching and this will be his final ecumenical service before retiring in June.

### ***Regular Easter Worship***

April 1 at 10:30 a.m. at Ames UCC

Our regular service of celebration and proclamation at Ames UCC: He is Risen! He is still Rising, Indeed! Alleluia!

## Calendar for the Week

### Monday, March 12

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence  
Project  
(Beason/Goedeken)  
5:30 p.m. Pastor Parish Relations  
7:15 p.m. Financial Stewardship

### Tuesday, March 13

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship

### Wednesday, March 14

*Pr. Hannah off through March 21*

12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing  
12:15 p.m. Lent and Lunch  
6 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper  
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

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