



The Stories of Lent

Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, March 18, 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 Eric Abbot, Greg Lamont, Karen Lasche, Nancy Marks, Dale Shenefelt.

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

“Herzliebster Jesu, was hast du verbrochen” Helmut Walcha

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: O Lord, you stand unmoved by the clamor of the angry crowd. Show us how to trust your power and not those of the forces that do evil. In Jesus’ name we pray, 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 “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” (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 19:1-16a

(New Revised Standard Version with modifications for clarity of action)

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

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the (Roman) soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and striking him on the face.

Pilate went out again and said to (the local police and religious authorities), “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.” So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

When the (the local police and religious authorities) saw (Jesus), they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.” The (the local police and religious authorities) answered (Pilate), “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.”

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

From then on Pilate tried to release (Jesus), but the (the local police and religious authorities) cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.” When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in (Aramaic) Gabbatha.

Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. (Pilate) said to the (the local police and religious authorities), “Here is your King!” They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but the emperor.”

Then (Pilate) handed (Jesus) over to (the local police and religious authorities) to be crucified. So they took Jesus;

SERMON

SILENCE (three minutes)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH Paul Lasley & 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

“O Love”

Elaine Hagenberg

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

“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.

POSTLUDE

“Little Fugue in G Major” J. S. Bach

The memory of a good person is a blessing. Proverbs 10:7

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are in memory of Eleanor L. Kniker, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother. Her son Ted writes, "It was 10 years ago tomorrow that Eleanor joined her Savior and our Heavenly Father. She was a woman of grace, integrity, and unconditional love. She was such a guiding presence in all of our lives, that the emptiness we feel is still prevalent. However, we are comforted knowing that those we love don’t go away, they walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear. We love you, Eleanor, Mom, and Grandma!"

Now Hiring: Youth Director

Details available at amesucc.org/youth-director. Please share broadly.

Spring Newsletter Out Next Week

Due to our busy church life with Theologian in Residence and last month's annual meeting, as well as my illness and the failure of my computer, we delayed release of the Spring edition of the Ames UCC Courier. Look out for it in your mail next week! –Katie Tschopp, Church Office Administrator

Executive Board Meeting – 3/20

The next Executive Board meeting is on Tuesday, March 20 at 7:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Paper copies of the agenda, reports, and attachments are available today for pick up in the small kitchen window. Executive Board meetings are open to all congregants. Only voting board members may vote. Questions or comments may be submitted to Moderator Rachel Schelle (515-450-3137, rachel.l.schelle@gmail.com).

Wednesday in Lent, March – 3/21

Lenten Study of Julian of Norwich at 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 6:45-8:00 p.m.

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).

Lenten Soup Supper

Join us for the last Lenten Soup Supper from 6:00-6:45 p.m. Come to the Fellowship Hall for a simple meal of soup, bread, and vegetables. The Youth Group will be providing all of the clean up as a fund raiser for their participation in the upcoming Regional Youth Event.

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 cleaners

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.

Host Homes for UCC RAGBRAI Riders

Jo Ordway from the conference office is looking for host homes for a group of UCC RAGBRAI riders on July 24th, the night that RAGBRAI is coming through Ames. Their goal is to find a handful of homes to provide showers and beds for around a dozen people total. If you'd be willing to open your home to a few fellow UCCers, please contact Jo directly at jo@ucctcm.org.



DID YOU KNOW?



INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP SPACES AFFIRM THE VALUE OF ALL AGES AND THE CAPACITY OF EVERYONE, AT ANY AGE, TO OFFER PRAYER, SONG, AND THE GIFT OF PRESENCE TO GOD.



John Roberto, editor of "Lifelong Faith"



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 19

Pr. Hannah off through March 21
5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence
 Project (Yungclas)

Tuesday, March 20

7:15 p.m. Executive Board

Wednesday, March 21

8:30 a.m. Julian of Norwich
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
12:15 p.m. Lent and Lunch
6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper
6:45 p.m. Julian of Norwich
6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir

Sunday, March 25

Palm Sunday
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. AMOS Core Team

Be In Touch with Ames UCC
217 6th Street, Ames, IA 50010
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Mon 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Tues-Thurs 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
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