



The Stories of Lent
Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, March 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 Catherine DeLong, Cornelia Flora, Erin Frank, Sarah Frank, Liz Kolbe, Art Pohm, Bernie Pohm, and Kim Spangler.

PALM SUNDAY

Today's story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem is an essential, and joyful, part of the Christian experience. We rejoice in Jesus' show of solidarity with the downtrodden and his public rejection of the power of colonial Rome. We then, at the very end of the service, turn our attention to what comes next: the Last Supper, betrayal, execution, and vigil. Each will be marked this week through our partnership with our neighbor churches (see the announcements section). Then, on Easter Sunday, our alleluias will return as we celebrate the mystery and marvel of the empty tomb.

PRELUDE "Trumpet Tune in C" David N. Johnson

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP FOR PALM SUNDAY
"Hosanna to the Son" Ed Harris

CALL TO WORSHIP FOR PALM SUNDAY

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

One: We praise you, O God, for your deeds of power!

Many: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!

Many: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: If we were silent, the stones would shout out!

Many: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Amen!

PALM PROCESSIONAL “All Glory, Laud, and Honor,” Hymn 216

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. As the children gather, the congregation will be invited to sing the hymn. When the kids are ready, they will process down the center aisle, under the palm fronds.

CHILDREN’S CELEBRATION

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

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: 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.

GOSPEL John 12:12-27 (New Revised Standard Version)

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

The next day the great crowd that had come to the (Passover) festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him.

The Pharisees then said to one another, “You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!”

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some (Gentiles, people who were not Jewish). They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

SERMON

HYMN OF REFLECTION “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” (insert)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH Jim Coppoc & 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 Fughetta on “Valet will ich der geben Austin C. Lovelace Mark Kretsinger-Harries, organ

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 “Journey to Gethsemane,” Hymn 219, verses 1 & 2

LITURGICAL ART

During our final hymn, our Palm Sunday banner will be exchanged for that of Holy Week. Please remain standing and silent. Thank you to Dinah Kerksieck, Lori Peake, and the rest of the fabric arts team for these beautiful creations.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE WEEK’S FLAME & 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 “Herzlich tut mich verlangen” Johannes Brahms

You are welcome to sit for the postlude or stay and talk or head out for coffee. Mark will not be in the least bit offended, either way. “It’s sending music!,” as he likes to say.

Now Hiring: Youth Director

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

Pick Up Furniture – TODAY!

If you would like any of the furniture from our parlor that is being replaced, and is now in the Fellowship Hall, the last day to take it home is today, Sunday, March 25. Everything, even if claimed with a label, that is still in the Fellowship Hall Monday morning will go the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. Thank you for helping to recycle and to manage the limited storage we have on campus.

Painting Help Needed

Volunteers are needed to paint the hallway between the parlor and east entryway and adjacent rooms. There will be scheduled painting times during the day, evenings, and possibly on Saturdays. If you can help, please let Ken Birt know when you can be available at ken.birt.118@gmail.com.

Last Chance to Give to WAM Team’s Non-Food Drive for Lent

The last day to donate personal care and cleaning products to the MICA Food Pantry for Lent is Easter Sunday, April 1. We have been able to fill the shopping cart several times! Items needed are listed below, and are also available at the shopping cart in the parlor. 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

Music Walk at Ames UCC – 4/6

Melodies fill the air in downtown Ames as local businesses host musicians of all genres on Friday, April 6, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Stroll from business to business throughout downtown and enjoy the variety of talent Ames has to offer. There will also be food trucks, and children's activities. This is a family-friendly event for the young, the old, and everyone in between. As a member of the Main Street Cultural District, our church will be a hosting venue featuring Ben Schrag.

Host Homes for UCC RAGBRAI Riders – 7/24

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.

Library News

As work progresses in the parlor, things are changing. The main library door is blocked off now, but the side door, off the hallway by the stairs is still available to use. The library is still open! All books are available for check out. The books in the back of the sanctuary are also available for check out. Remember to sign your name on the card and leave the card on the low shelf in the library. You can also hear the worship service from the speaker in the library. Since there are no chairs in the parlor during renovation, you can sit in the library and listen there.

Holy Week & Easter with Ames UCC

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 in the Hughes Conservatory. 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!



**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO THE WEDDING OF**

*Angel Hubbard
& Joshua Pepe*

*Easter Sunday, April 1
at 9 a.m. in our Sanctuary,
just before the 9:30 a.m. Egg Hunt
and 10:30 a.m. worship.*

ALL ARE WELCOME.



Easter will be the last Sunday with us for Angel Hubbard, Joshua Pepe, Persephone, Galahad, and wee Raxus before their move to Moline, so they are going out in style: with a wedding! Please join us in the sanctuary at 9 a.m. for a simple exchange of vows and affirmation of love before the egg hunt and worship service. —Pr. Eileen

Calendar for the Week

Monday, March 26

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence
Project (Dohrmann)

Tuesday, March 27

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship

Wednesday, March 28

12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 29

7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Maundy
Thursday Service at
First United Methodist Church

Friday, March 30

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service of
Grief at Ames UCC

Sunday, April 1

Easter Sunday with Holy Communion

7:00 a.m. Ecumenical Easter
Service at Reiman Gardens
9:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt
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

David Cook, Sexton
cookdavi@gmail.com

Eileen Gebbie, Senior Minister
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