

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, April 7, 2019**

Welcome to Ames UCC! 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.

ABOUT WORSHIP AT AMES UCC

Our church is the inheritor of many powerful worship traditions and the adopter of new, moving innovations. But whichever element serves the needs of the day (in terms of scripture, season, or society), each service is developed by members of the church and staff to function as a journey. Our journey takes the individual toward God, into the body of Christ, and then back out to the world with the strength of the Holy Spirit. Along the way we may laugh, we may cry, we may experience deep silence. In each, we embody and come to know more deeply what it means to be a Christian in such a time as this: a servant of 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.

Our deacon, ushers, and greeters for today are Rich Fellingham, Sue Lamont, Nancy Marks, and Steve Rogers-Smith.

ABOUT THE CROSS & HOLY COMMUNION

Regular worshippers will notice that our memorial cross and Communion table are missing from the chancel (the front of the sanctuary). They will not return until their time in the story of Holy Week: Maundy Thursday (April 18) for Communion and Good Friday (April 19) for the cross. In the meantime, you will see leafless branches (on the chancel and elsewhere on campus). Throughout Lent we will each have the opportunity to decorate eggs to hang on those branches. On Good Friday, when we commemorate Jesus' death, they will be broken. On Easter Sunday (April 21) they will return to the space on vases filled with flowers, an evocation of the power of the cycle of life.

ORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SUSPENDED FOR LENT

During Advent and Lent we suspend oral announcements as a way to mark these seasons of contemplation and preparation. Please refer to your bulletin and the weekly e-news for updates. If you are not subscribed to the latter, e-mail Katie Tschopp (office@amesucc.org). Oral announcements before worship will resume on the second Sunday of Easter (April 28).

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

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 15) 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.

SILENCE

For many of us, nothing is more challenging than silence. During Lent, we will have three moments of silence, each longer than the next. 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.
(three times)**

INVOKING THE HOLY Sharron Slinger

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 long for your people to care for one another with the same compassion you show to them. Move our hearts in love wherever we encounter need and make us more like you with each day. We pray this in the name of Jesus. 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: Though Lent is a season of returning, as in turning back, to God, we know God has never turned from us. Confident in that enduring love, we confess our misdirection and forgetfulness before God and one another. Faithful God,

**Many: Jesus was obedient to love in every way,
even when that obedience led to death.
As we walk this preparative season with him,
fill us with awareness of all the ways we have fallen short
of being faithful, loving servants ourselves.
Forgive us our shortsightedness, our waste,
and our criticism of ourselves and others.
We long for Jesus' strengths and rely on his loving kindness.
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.

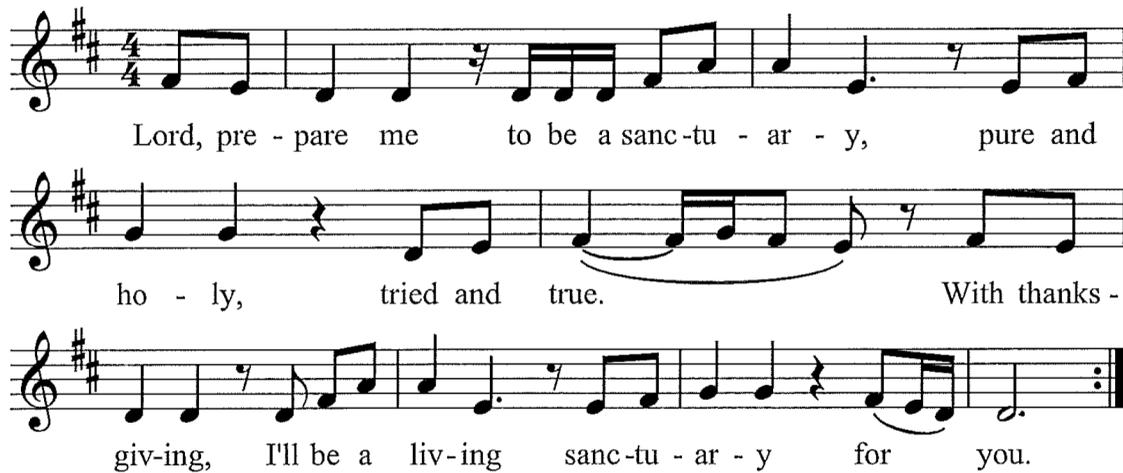
One: Our God is abounding in steadfast love. You have been reminded of that love and so have another chance to turn away from all which does not give life. Be assured and recognize your God-given wholeness again. Amen.

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. Today the kids will help us celebrate the baptism of Liberato Silva Dos Santos



Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar - y, pure and
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks -
giv-ing, I'll be a liv-ing sanc-tu - ar - y for you.

PSALM Psalm 98 Rich Fellingham

Robert Alter translation, modified for inclusive language

Translator Robert Alter describes the psalms as "the most urgently, personally present of all the books of the Bible...(u)ntold numbers have repeatedly turned to Psalms for encouragement and comfort in moments of crisis and despair," despite having been composed long ago (1600 and 1200 BCE) for and by a community in the ancient Near East.

Sing to the LORD a new song.

For wonders God has done.

God's right hand gave victory,
and God's holy arm.

The LORD made know that victory,
before the nations' eyes God revealed all God's bounty.

The LORD recalled kindness and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

Shout out to the LORD, all the earth.

Burst forth in glad song and hymn,
Hymn to the LORD on the lyre,
on the lyre with the sound of hymning.

With trumpets and the sound of ram's horn,
sound loud before the king, the Lord.

Let the sea and its fullness thunder,
the world and those dwelling in it.

Let the rivers clap hands,
let the mountains together sing gladly
before the LORD, for God come
to judge the earth.

God judges the world in justice
and people righteously.

GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46

New Revised Standard Version, modified for clarity

Gospel means "good news," making the full title of this book of the Bible "The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew." We will study Matthew through Easter.

"When the Son of Humanity comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me

something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?'

Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

SERMON

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Meaning

One: Dear friends, as we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism. Baptism is a visible manifestation of the invisible grace of God. By taking part in the waters, as Jesus once did, we die to our self and rise up to a life of discipleship and praise.

We embrace the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as in a rushing stream. Baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of our acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of our participation in God's co-creation, and the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**All: This is the water of baptism.
Out of this water we rise into a new life,
marked as beloved members of Christ's body.**

Questions

Affirmation of Faith

One: Do you have faith in God?

All: I have faith in God.

One: Do you have faith in Jesus Christ?

All: I have faith in Jesus Christ.

One: Do you have faith in the Holy Spirit?

All: I have faith in the Holy Spirit.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Prayer

**All: Give to Liberato strength for life's journey,
courage in time of suffering,
the joy of faith,
the freedom of love,
and the hope of new life;
through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

SILENCE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH Pr. Eileen

Please share your prayer needs as you are so moved.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 "I Will Sing to the Lord a New Song" Joseph Martin
Chancel Choir

In 2019, nine percent of our total budget helps 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, which goes to rental, medical, and similar direct assistance. You can also designate your gift to the Pastoral Emergency Fund directly at any time. 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 "Down to the River to Pray" (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.

Calendar for the Week

Monday, April 8

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence
Project (Hannover)
5:30 p.m. Worship Staff Meeting
7:15 p.m. Financial Stewardship

Tuesday, April 9

Pastoral Study Day
12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship

Wednesday, April 10

10:45 a.m. Risking
with Amy-Jill Levine
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
12:15 p.m. Lent & Lunch

2:00 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club
5:00 p.m. Youth Group
5:15 p.m. Soup Supper
6:30 p.m. Centering Prayer
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 14

Palm Sunday

9:15 a.m. Godly Play
9:15 a.m. Youth Group
9:15 a.m. Learning Center
10:30 a.m. Worship

Happy Baptismal Anniversary!

The United Church of Christ celebrates two sacraments, rituals of the invisible grace of God made visible: Baptism and Holy Communion. Our church celebrates Holy Communion about once per month, but baptism only once in our lives. So as not to lose touch with those waters of life, we remember baptismal anniversaries here. We also remember the promises we have all made to those who have been baptized in our presence, here or elsewhere. To have your baptism lifted up, whenever and wherever it was, simply send the date to Pr. Eileen.

This week we celebrate the baptismal anniversary of Fionn Coppoc. May you feel the renewal of the promises you made (or your parents made on your behalf) and the responsive care of this congregation in upholding them.

Make Sure Love Wins – 4/8

Westboro Baptist, a well-recognized hate group, will be in Ames on Monday, April 8. Please join me, other churches, and Ames Pride, in silent witness to love at Ames High School in the grassy areas across the street from Ames High School at 6:30 a.m. that morning. If you are interested in making signs, Collegiate UMC and Ames Pride will have supplies at The Annex (130 S. Sheldon) at 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 7. -Pr. Eileen

Last Wednesday in Lent – 4/10

During the season of Lent, we have shared in many opportunities for study and community. Join us this Wednesday at 10:45 a.m. for the final Wednesday study of Risking with Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, “Gethsemane: Risking Temptation.” Gather in the sanctuary at 12:15 p.m. for a worship service of silence, song, and prayer followed by lunch in the Fellowship Hall (bring your own). Finally, come to the Lenten Soup Supper from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. and follow it up with Centering Prayer, choir rehearsal, or youth group.

Come see the musical Godspell with us! – 4/14

An outing! An outing! On Sunday, April 14th, come to see ISU’s production of Godspell and then meet up for post-show conversation and social time with a fun group (hint: it’s us)! This year plan on purchasing your own ticket for the 2:00 p.m. show on 4/14, and then we will meet up for some group social time afterward. Discussion location TBA. Email Ben Schrag at mr.half@gmail.com if you are interested!

Thank You for Your Extravagant Welcome

The Worship and Music team wish to thank the people in the church that provided an extravagant welcome to members and visitors during the month of March. These following served as greeters, ushers and deacons: Eric Abbott, Allison Anderson, Diane Birt, Ken Birt, Jim Coppoc, Barbara Faidley, Nick Howell, Bob Kerksieck, Greg Lamont, Karen Lasche, Nick Lyon, Tom Meyer, Laurie Olk, Art Pohm, Bernie Pohm, Leah Reeve, Steve Rogers-Smith, Dale Shenefelt, Donna Shenefelt, Galina Spike, and Phil Spike.

Be In Touch with Ames UCC Staff

217 6th Street, Ames, IA 50010
515-232-9323
Mon-Thurs 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

David Cook, Sexton
cookdavi@gmail.com

Eileen Gebbie (*she/her/hers*)
Senior Minister
eileen@amesucc.org

Hannah Hannover (*she/her/hers*)
Minister to Children & Families
hannah@amesucc.org

Megan Henson (*she/her/hers*)
Youth Director
megan@amesucc.org

David Sheridan (*he/him/his*)
Seminary Intern
limnolaw@aol.com

Lesley Lackore (*she/her/hers*)
Chancel Choir Director
llackore@gmail.com

Karen “Sunny” Stewart, Instrumentalist
sunny@amesucc.org

Katie Tschopp
(*they/them/their or she/her/hers*)
Church Office Administrator

Ames UCC Team Leadership

Allen Trenkle, Moderator
Lynette Spicer, Clerk
Diana McHenry, Church Representative
Eric Abbott, Church Representative

Building Relationships

Ben Schrag, Nancy Dunn

Christian Education

Allison Anderson

Financial Stewardship

Bradley Duckstein

Social Justice and Outreach

Linda Best, George Belitsos

Property

Jan Bauer, Laurie Olk

Worship and Music

Barbara Faidley, Steve Rogers-Smith

Get in touch with a team leader with the information in your church directory. Contact Katie Tschopp (515-232-9323, office@amesucc.org) if you need a copy.