



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, April 14, 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 the Ames UCC Youth, Greg Lamont, and Jean Watts. Leading the service today are Youth Group members Jacob Buchele, Jenna Buchele, Will Coppoc, Sarah Frank, Ace Huegerich, Rowan Huegerich, Adela Johnson, Emma Johnson, Reese Johnson, Norah Klocke, Clair Lewis, Julia Lewis, Ben McHenry, Lara Nadolny, Adeline O'Neal, Celia Schrag, Aidan ShenkCook, Ailis ShenkCook, Ella Suski, Devin Webb, and Levi Webb.

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.

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: The Lord is God and has given us love.
Many: **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

One: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you.
Many: **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

One: Give thanks to the Lord, whose steadfast love endures forever.
Many: **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

PALM PROCESSIONAL

“Pave the Way with Branches” (insert)

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: 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.

GOSPEL Matthew 21:1-17

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 they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.”

This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When he

entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer;' but you are making it a den of robbers."

The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?'" He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

SERMON "Turning the Tables" Ames UCC Youth Group

HYMN OF REFLECTION "Pave the Way with Justice" (insert)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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 "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" (insert)

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 "Here I Am, Lord" (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

Friday, April 19

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service

Monday, April 15

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

Saturday, April 20

9:30 a.m. Volunteer at Food at First

Tuesday, April 16

7:15 p.m. Executive Board

Sunday, April 21

Easter

7:00 am. Ecumenical Easter

Wednesday, April 17

12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunrise Service

9:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 a.m. Worship

Thursday, April 18

7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Maundy

Thursday Service (at FCC)

Women's Fellowship – 4/23

Join us on a different day for Women's Fellowship in April! On Tuesday, April 23, we will meet at Northcrest. Some residents there are unable to come down to the church for our meetings. They like to get together on Tuesday when Men's Fellowship is happening at church. They have invited Women's Fellowship to join them. We will meet at the regular time from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring your own lunch and meet at the front door of the main entrance to Northcrest. Barbara Yungclas will be there to direct us to the location of our meeting.

Unscripted: Calmly Connecting with God and Others – 4/24, 5/8

Feel stressed and too busy? There are 2 more opportunities to participate in group spiritual practice, share conversation, and pray. On April 24 we will introduce Finger Labyrinths and on May 8th we will explore mandalas. Join us in the church library from 6:30-7:30. Questions? Contact Nancy Dunn (515-490-2083, ndunn949@gmail.com), Andrea Klocke (515-988-9422, andreaklocke@gmail.com), or Linda Hanson (515-520-2583, linda.hanson2011@gmail.com).

Suicide Event Rescheduled – 5/1 (originally 4/10)

Soul Shop for Congregations: At any given moment, a significant percentage of people in any congregation are impacted by suicidal desperation, either in their own thinking, in the life of someone they care about, in the traumatic memory of the suicide of a friend or family member, or in their own history of a suicide attempt from which they have emerged. Faith communities can help prevent suicide and address the isolation of suicidal desperation. Soul Shop for congregations is designed to help people to learn about the impact of suicidal desperation in their congregation, practice a simple conversation that can save a life, and gain confidence in the ability to make a difference. Join The Rev. Diane McClanahan, RN, from the Des Moines Pastoral Care and Counseling Center for this important workshop in our Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, May 1 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

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.

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Church Office Administrator

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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.