

# SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

**Ames United Church of Christ  
Sunday, March 17, 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 Tom Corrieri, Nick Howell, Karen Lasche, Steve Rogers-Smith, Dale Shenefeld, and Donna Shenefeld.*

## **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](mailto:office@amesucc.org)). Oral announcements before worship will resume on the second Sunday of Easter (April 28).*

## **SOUND UPGRADE COMPLETE!**

*Our sound system upgrade was completed this week, including improvements to our hearing assist system. We have both headset and loop units at the deacon cart in the back if you would like to try them out. Mike Maly of Iowa Audio Video is in worship today to make sure everything still sounds good, even with our absorbent bodies in the room. You will likely notice two things: It is much clearer, but not as loud. With our previous set up, as we lost clarity (and the southern speaker died each service), I would boost the volume. This made for a noisy but distorted experience. With the greatly improved clarity this is no longer necessary. -Pr. Eileen*

## 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 (two minutes)

*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 Kevin Binder

*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 God, you are merciful, just, and gracious. Make us grateful recipients of your generosity and joyful dispensers of the same lavish benefits to those who depend upon us. In Jesus' name. 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 (three minutes)

*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.*

## **PSALM 16** David Sheridan

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.*

*Today’s psalm includes a critique of religious practices outside of the ancient Hebrew norm: “I will not pour their libations of blood.” It may sound startling, but how does it compare with the understanding of many Christians that Holy Communion includes the blood of Christ? That is not what we profess here, but it remains a powerful understanding for many of our fellow faithful.*

Guard me, O God,  
for I shelter in You.

I said to the LORD,  
“My Master You are.

My good is only through You.”

As to holy ones in the land  
and the mighty who were all my desire,  
let their sorrows abound—  
another did they betroth.

I will not pour their libations of blood,  
I will not bear their names on my lips.

The LORD is my portion and lot,  
it is You Who sustain my fate.

An inheritance fell to me with delight,  
my estate, too, is lovely to me.

I shall bless the LORD Who gave me counsel  
through the nights that my conscience would lash me.

I set the LORD always before me,  
on my right hand, that I not stumble.

So my heart rejoices and my pulse beats with joy,  
my whole body abides secure.

For You will not forsake my life to Sheol,  
You won't let Your faithful one see the Pit.  
Make me know the path of life.  
Joys overflow in Your presence,  
delights in Your right hand forever.

**GOSPEL** Matthew 20:1-16

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.*

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When the landowner went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When the landowner went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock the landowner went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

## SERMON

**SILENCE** (four minutes)

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** Jan Flora & Pr. Eileen

*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.*

## 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** "How Deep the Silence of the Soul" Sylvia Dunstan/Thomas Tallis  
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](mailto:office@amesucc.org).*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**HYMN OF SENDING** "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" (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, March 18

*Pr. Eileen away through Monday, March 25*

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

### Wednesday, March 20

10:45 a.m. Risking  
with Amy-Jill Levine

12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing

12:15 p.m. Lent & Lunch

5:15 p.m. Soup Supper

6:30 p.m. Centering Prayer

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Sunday, March 24

9:15 a.m. Godly Play

9:15 a.m. Youth Group

9:15 a.m. Learning Center

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. U-Turn Movie Showing  
& Pizza Party

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### **Lenten Preparation with Megan Henson**

Lent is a time of preparation. For forty days we are called to enter into the broken places in our lives and in our world to consider how we might need to change. What is holding us up? What is encouraging transformation? What will allow us to live into the power of a love that transcends death?

At stations around the church, pick an egg that speaks to you, grab a slip of paper, and write down something in your life that needs transformation. Roll it up, slide it in the egg, and hang the egg on a branch.

Together, we will let go of the things holding us up and embrace the powerful love that transcends death. By Good Friday all of our eggs will be in the sanctuary, and by Easter morning they will be transformed and made anew. Change is possible. There is nothing that can separate us from the sustaining love of God.

### **Lenten "Give to Someone" Non-Food Drive**

During the six weeks of Lent, join the Worship and Music Team in a service project. We would like people to bring in NON-FOOD ITEMS to give to MICA's food pantry. Instead of giving up something, try giving to someone! Find the shopping cart in the parlor for a list of needed items. Be generous and help someone during the season of Lent.

### **Pr. Eileen on vacation – 3/18-25**

I will be on vacation from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>. Pr. Hannah Hannover is available for pastoral emergencies. Questions about worship go to David Sheridan, our seminary intern. Contact information for them both is in the bulletin and directory. If you need a new directory, contact Katie Tschopp (office@amesucc.org, 515-232-9323). -Pr. Eileen

### **Risking with Amy-Jill Levine**

During the regular 10:45 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study for Sunday classes during Lent, we will prepare for Holy Week with Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's new course, "Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week." Dr. Levine is an acclaimed New Testament scholar and past Ames UCC Theologian in Residence. Upcoming topics include: 3/20 Teachings: Risking Challenge, 3/27 The First Dinner: Risking Rejection, 4/3 The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends, 4/10 Gethsemane: Risking Temptation.

### **Lent and Lunch – 3/20, 27 and 4/3, 10**

Each Wednesday through April 10 we will gather in the sanctuary at 12:15 p.m. for worship (silence, song, prayer) followed by lunch in the Fellowship Hall (bring your own). We usually wrap up at 1 p.m., but come and go as your work schedule allows.

### **Lenten Soup Suppers (& PB&Js, too) – 3/20, 27 and 4/3, 10**

Hot soup, tasty bread, fun friends...what's not to like? Our annual Lenten Soup Suppers (March 20, 27, and April 3, 10) are an opportunity to share a simple meal and rich fellowship. Each week from 5:15-6:15 p.m. we will have 5-6 soups

(3 vegetarian), as well as bread, vegetables, milk, and PB&Js. Childcare for children through 5th grade will be available from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. each week so parents can go on to attend one of our other offerings.

### **Become More Centered during Lent – 3/20, 27 and 4/3, 10**

After our shared meal, join me on Wednesday evenings during Lent for a time of fellowship, centering prayer, and song. With a prayer time of 20 minutes, we will likely be together for no more than 45 minutes total. We will meet in the parlor. -Pr. Eileen

### **U-Turn Movie Showing & Pizza Party – 3/24**

Following worship on Sunday, March 24, the Social Justice and Outreach Team invites everyone to join us in the Fellowship Hall for pizza and a showing of the Luis Argueta film *The U-Turn*. The story starts with the Postville immigration raid and brings us up-to-date with the story of how legal and community volunteers and groups rallied to help the traumatized families.

### **Community ID drive at St. Cecilia Catholic Church – 3/30**

How do others know who you are, those beyond your circle of friends and work? It's a daily problem for Iowans who lack a driver's license or State ID. That problem comes up when they deal with businesses, service providers, and law enforcement, among others. To more fully knit every person into the fabric of our community, some congregations in Story County are launching the Central Iowa Community ID card, a photo ID that is reliable proof of the holder's identity and residence.

If you are 16 or older, you can get a card of your own and demonstrate your support. The first ID card drive is Saturday, March 30, at St. Cecilia Catholic Church, 2900 Hoover Ave., Ames. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. and orientation from Ames Police and other community leaders begins at 10:00. Plan to devote several hours between orientation, paperwork, and photos. The card costs \$8 (cash only) and has a life of two years. Call (515) 599-8149 or go to <https://sites.google.com/view/communityid/home> for information about what forms of proof you will need and what to expect.

### **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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Eileen Gebbie, Senior Minister  
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### **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](mailto:office@amesucc.org)) if you need a copy.