

## **Ankeny United Church of Christ**

A welcoming church family

Exploring progressive Christian theology

Caring within and serving beyond

An Open And Affirming Church

October 18, 2020 20th Sunday after Pentecost

**No matter who you are,  
no matter where you are on life's journey,  
you are invited and welcome here!**

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2020

*\*Signifies the request to rise in body or spirit*

**Gathering** *(As we arrive to worship God, we greet new and old friends)*

*Children are invited to participate in our worship and welcome as loved, squirmy, laughing, crying, children of God. A staffed nursery is also always available.*

**Words of Welcome and Sung Call to Worship**

**\*Psalm #537 (black)**

**"Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed" (1-3)**

**\*Passing of the Peace** *(We share the hope for peace with one another)*

**Congregational Preparation: O Give Thanks for the Goodness of the Lord**

©Les Presses de Taizé Reprinted with permission with OneLicense.net license A-726589

*First time: Refrain, v. 1, Refrain, v 2, Refrain*

103 Rendez grâce au Seigneur

Al - lé - lu - ia, al - lé - lu - ia, al - - - lé - lu - ia.

1. O give thanks for the good ness of the Lord For God's Love will nev - er end, al - lé - lu - ia!

2. O give thanks for the ris - en Christ the Lord For God's Love will nev - er end, al - lé - lu - ia!

3. O give thanks for the Spir - it of Life For God's Love will nev - er end, al - lé - lu - ia!

*Following the silent prayer, we will sing again, Refrain, v 3, Refrain.*

**Prayers of the People**

**Silent Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

### **Children's Sermon**

*As they gather, the congregation sings our welcoming song (tune 182)*

**Gath-er with us chil-dren e-v-ery-where, in homes where'er you be.  
We will wel-come you, and show you hope God brings from se-a to sea.**

### **Scripture**

#### **Exodus 4:1-17 (CEB)**

Then Moses replied, "But what if they don't believe me or pay attention to me? They might say to me, 'The Lord didn't appear to you!'" The Lord said to him, "What's that in your hand?" Moses replied, "A shepherd's rod." The Lord said, "Throw it down on the ground." So Moses threw it on the ground, and it turned into a snake. Moses jumped back from it. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Reach out and grab the snake by the tail." So Moses reached out and grabbed it, and it turned back into a rod in his hand. "Do this so that they will believe that the Lord, the God of their ancestors, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God has in fact appeared to you." Again, the Lord said to Moses, "Put your hand inside your coat." So Moses put his hand inside his coat. When he took his hand out, his hand had a skin disease flaky like snow. Then God said, "Put your hand back inside your coat." So Moses put his hand back inside his coat. When he took it back out again, the skin of his hand had returned to normal. "If they won't believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second sign. If they won't believe even these two signs or pay attention to you, then take some water from the Nile River and pour it out on dry ground. The water that you take from the Nile will turn into blood on the dry ground." But Moses said to the Lord, "My Lord, I've never been able to speak well, not yesterday, not the day before, and certainly not now since you've been talking to your servant. I have a slow mouth and a thick tongue." Then the Lord said to him, "Who gives people the ability to speak? Who's responsible for making them unable to speak or hard of hearing, sighted or blind? Isn't it I, the Lord? Now go! I'll help you speak, and I'll teach you what you should say."

But Moses said, "Please, my Lord, just send someone else." Then the Lord got angry at Moses and said, "What about your brother Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak very well. He's on his way out to meet you now, and he's looking forward to seeing you. Speak to him and tell him what he's supposed to say. I'll help both of you speak, and I'll teach both of you what to do. Aaron will speak for you to the people. He'll be a spokesperson for you, and you will be like God for him. Take this shepherd's rod with you too so that you can do the signs."

### **\*Hymn Psalm 116**

**Now be at rest a-gain once more my soul; Our God has been good to you in all things. For God, you have de-liv-red me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stum-bl-ing.**

**Thus, I shall walk be-fore the Lord my God, in the land of the liv-ing, bright as day. I be-lieved e'en when I said, "I'm dis-tressed." "O Lord, come re-scue and de-liv-er me!"**

**What shall I ren-der, then, un-to the Lord, for all God's good-ness, and God's love to me? I will lift up the cup of sal-va-tion, And call up-on my God's name earn-est-ly.**

**Sermon                      "Go Grab the Snake by the Tail"                      -Pastor Nathan**

**Invitation to Give**

**Offertory**

**\*Congregational Response #779 (tune #7 black)**

**Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow;**

**Praise Christ, all crea-tures here be-low;**

**Praise God for all that Love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**ALL: Thank you for all the gifts you have given us. We dedicate these offerings to using them in ways we never imagined we could. Amen.**

**Commissioning**

*(We share the church's actions in the world)*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Congregational Response: # 79 (black) May the Sending One Defend You**

©1989 Hope Publishing Company, By Brian Wren, OneLicense song 26712, License A-726589

**May the Send-ing One de-fend you, may the Seek-ing One a-mend you,  
May the Keep-ing one be-friend you, in your glad-ness and in your grief-ing.**

**Postlude**

*You are a valued part of the family of God just as you are. We at Ankeny United Church of Christ celebrate the diversity our Creator has given all people. Our community is incomplete and broken when our siblings in Christ are excluded because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, physical ability, mental ability, race, age, nationality, faith background, relationship status, family structure, economic situation, or any of the numerous other aspects of identity that make us each who we are. Your differences make you unique and should be celebrated in God's family. You are wonderfully and purposefully made in the image of our Creator, and you have a place here in fellowship with other members of God's Church. This is a place where you can praise, question, worship, laugh, mourn, doubt, wonder, celebrate, and otherwise live as part of a community with other people seeking God and loving their neighbors. We the members of Ankeny UCC promise to affirm your worth as an individual and your place in our community. You are joyously welcomed to join us just as you are.*

## **Church Activities:**

Our full calendar is online at <http://www.ankenyuucc.org/anken-yucc-google-calendar>

### **Sunday**

9:45am or 10:00am

Sunday School

10.30am Online Worship

11:30am Zoom Fellowship

### **Sunday**

9:45am Junior Youth

Sunday School

10.30am Online Worship

11:30am Zoom Fellowship

**Red friendship pads are in each pew, please sign the sheet and pass on!**

## **Exploring Progressive Christian Theology:**

*Annual Meeting of the Iowa Conference*

Was yesterday! Pastor Nathan was there (virtually) and we look forward to a year as part of Tri-Conference Ministries and the Iowa Conference's joint mission to bring brave spaces into our churches. We also heard that the search committee for Jonna Jensen's replacement as Associate Conference Minister has gotten all of its applications and hopes to move forward quickly.

## **Caring Within:**

*Garden Update from Trina on 10/16:*

“I went to check on the garden around 12:30 and picked out about 6-8 pounds of tomatoes, peppers, and cherry tomatoes. I took them around to 6 of the little pantries. I was pleased to find the pantries with more selections than recent visits. The fresh produce will be a nice organic vitamin boost for our neighbors.”

*Ankeny UCC Fall Clean Up:*

Thanks to Tom Rupp, Tom Broadbooks, Joan, Marlis, Bruce for participating in our church clean up on 10/17.

Here is a list of things they did:

- Trim branches (Tom Rupp)
- Curb stops – relocate
- Curb stops – repaint (yellow)
- Handicap symbols – repaint (blue)
- Outdoor faucet (SW corner) – assess the damage and see if we can access the backside plumbing from chair & table closet area
- Install snow markers
- Kitchen island repair (tighten it up)
- Kitchen – strip and wax floor (Joan and Marlis)
- Clean windows
- Sweep out cobwebs
- Fix door latch rod

