

Ankeny United Church of Christ

A welcoming church family

Exploring progressive Christian theology

Caring within and serving beyond

An Open And Affirming Church

November 22, 2020 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Reign of Christ Sunday

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

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 22, 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 118:10-16**

(tune 12 black)

The nations have surrounded me; they compass me about; But in the Lord's most holy name, I shall them all root out. They came around on every side; they compassed me about; But in the Lord's most holy name, I shall them all root out.

They swarmed around me like fierce bees, like dry thorns set aflame; They quickly died out, for I cut them off in the Lord's name. They pushed me back so that I fell, then they the Lord did stay. The Lord is both my strength and song; and my salvation They.

In dwellings of the righteous ones is heard the joyous shout: The Lord's right hand does mighty things, salvation brings about. The right hand of the mighty God is lifted up on high; The Lord's right hand does mighty things, and so I shall not die.

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

Congregational Preparation: Gloria

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First time: 3 times

25 Gloria, gloria (canon)



Glo - ri-a, glo - ri-a, in ex-cel - sis De - o! Glo - ri-a, glo - ri-a, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

(Gloire à Dieu au plus haut des cieux. / Gloria a Dios en el cielo. / Glory to God in the highest. / Ehre sei Gott in der Höhe. / Chwała na wysokości Boga. / Слава в вышних Богу. Lc 2, 14)

Following the silent prayer, we will sing 3x again

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

Joshua 1:1-9 (CEB)

After Moses the LORD's servant died, the LORD spoke to Joshua, Nun's son. He had been Moses' helper. "My servant Moses is dead. Now get ready to cross over the Jordan with this entire people to the land that I am going to give to the Israelites. I am giving you every place where you set foot, exactly as I promised Moses. Your territory will stretch from the desert and the Lebanon as far as the great Euphrates River, including all Hittite land, up to the Mediterranean Sea on the west. No one will be able to stand up against you during your lifetime. I will be with you in the same way I was with Moses. I won't desert you or leave you. Be brave and strong, because you are the one who will help this people take possession of the land, which I pledged to give to their ancestors. "Be very brave and strong as you carefully obey all of the Instruction that Moses my servant commanded you. Don't deviate even a bit from it, either to the right or left. Then you will have success wherever you go. Never stop speaking about this Instruction scroll. Recite it day and night so you can carefully obey everything written in it. Then you will accomplish your objectives and you will succeed. I've commanded you to be brave and strong, haven't I? Don't be alarmed or terrified, because the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

***Hymn #420 (black)**

"We Praise You, O God"

Sermon "Thanks, in the Midst of Uncomfortable Parallels" -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: God, we know our history is complicated. We know that the stories we learn and tell are bigger than our perspectives. Thank you for bringing us more storytellers, different stories, and opportunities to grow in faith and service. To this goal, and in thanks for all you have done for us, we dedicate these gifts. Amen.

Commissioning

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

***Benediction**

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

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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.ankenyucc.org/ankeny-ucc-google-calendar>

Sunday

10:30am Worship
11:30am Zoom
Fellowship

Monday

7:00pm Church Council
Meeting

Sunday

10:30am Worship
11:30am Zoom
Fellowship

**Choir Director**

Laura Beckwith

Accompanist

Paige Wonderly

Organist

Nancy Pingel

**Pastor**

Nathan Willard

Office Manager

Gemmy Sigma



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ankenyucc



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A Welcoming Church:*Prairie Update on 11/20:*

I dropped into the prairie today to scope out the dandelion situation. I pulled a few, and my assessment is: they're fairly hard to spot, and they're not running rampant. Since they're not actively growing, and are pretty sparse, I don't see a need to take further action this fall. We can resume the fight next spring, when they rear their ugly heads again.- Tom Broadbooks.

Exploring Progressive Christian Theology:

Gratitude for the Great Fullness of Life Is Only the Beginning – Thanksgiving by Rev. Dawn Hutchings:

"...But I never fully understood the blessing until the moment I realized that I wasn't about to die. So much of our lives fly by without us really being alive. So much of our lives are lived on autopilot. Our imaginations, our hopes and dreams are dulled into submission by the day to day tasks of getting by. But we are indeed all going to die!.."

[Read the full article and watch the sermon here.](#)

Caring Within:

Our Financial Update:

October General Fund Income was \$12,880.36 October General Fund Expenses were \$11,294.89. October GF Expenses exceeded GF Income by \$1,585.47. October General Fund Expenses were \$2,537.00 below monthly budgeted amount. YTD GF expenses over GF income is \$18,382.69. Amount donated to Missions in October was \$3,212.08 including \$1,665.00 for Hunger Hike.

Thank You:

Thanks to Peggy and Beth for the Virtual Pie Making/ Baking. Thanks to Marlis for her continued leading of the Sunday School. Thanks to the Deacons for the Hanging of the Greens. Thanks to our Treasurer Sally for our Financial Updates.

Serving Beyond:

Help make Iowa a safer place- Volunteers needed:

YESS is a Safe Place shelter, and accordingly we need to check in annually with all Safe Place locations in the Des Moines metro. There are more than 120 sites we need to monitor before December 31, 2020, and we want your help! Sign up to be a volunteer during our Blitz Week (December 7th-11th). Fun contests and prizes are included! Contact Brette Puhl at puhl@yessiowa.org for more details and to sign up.