

Ankeny United Church of Christ

A welcoming church family

Exploring progressive Christian theology

Caring within and serving beyond

An Open And Affirming Church

January 17, 2021, 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Come and Follow Me

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

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

January 17, 2021

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

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

Words of Welcome and Sung Call to Worship

***Psalm 124**

“If the Lord had not been with us,” O let Is-ra-el now say: “If the Lord had not been with us, when we were amidst the fray; When attackers in their anger would have put us in the grave; Torrents would have there engulfed us, raging floods swept us away.”

Bless-ed be the Lord who has not let us be torn from His care. Like a bird, we have escaped from out of the cruel fowler’s snare. For the snare has now been broken; we’ve escaped as in new birth; Our help’s ever in the Lord’s name, who made heaven and the earth.

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

Congregational Preparation: See, I am near

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First time: 3 times

See, I am near

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The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line begins with the lyrics 'See, I am near, says the Lord.' followed by a long dash and 'See, I make all things new.' The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands. The second system starts with a measure number '5' and continues the piano accompaniment with a double bar line at the end of each system.

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**Mark 1:29–39 (CEB)**

After leaving the synagogue, Jesus, James, and John went home with Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed, sick with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. He went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she served them. That evening, at sunset, people brought to Jesus those who were sick or demon-possessed. The whole town gathered near the door. He healed many who were sick with all kinds of diseases, and he threw out many demons. But he didn't let the demons speak, because they recognized him. Early in the morning, well before sunrise, Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer. Simon and those with him tracked him down. When they found him, they told him, "Everyone's looking for you!" He replied, "Let's head in the other direction, to the nearby villages, so that I can preach there too. That's why I've come." He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and throwing out demons.

Hymn #594 (black)*"How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies"****Sermon****"Christ Beyond Our Walls"****-Pastor Nathan****Invitation to Give****Offertory*****Congregational Response #781 (tune #7 black)****Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow;****Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;****Praise Holy Spirit, evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore.*****Prayer of Dedication****ALL: God, you blessed us to go and serve the world beyond our walls. With these gifts, help us to do it. Amen.****Commissioning***(We share the church's actions in the world)****Benediction**

*Congregational Response: Sing to God with joyful hearts

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24 Singt dem Herrn

Musical score for "Singt dem Herrn" in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Sing to God with joy-ful hearts! Praise the Lord for ev--er----more. Praise the". The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Lord for-e--ev-er-more! O". The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand. The score ends with a double bar line.

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

9:45am Junior Youth
10:00am Multiage
10:30am Worship
11:30am Zoom
Fellowship



Choir Director

Laura Beckwith

Accompanist

Paige Wonderly

Organist

Nancy Pingel

Monday

7:00pm Council Meeting

Pastor

Nathan Willard

Office Manager

Gemmy Sigma

Sunday

9:45am Junior Youth
10:00am Multiage
10:30am Worship
11:30am Zoom
Fellowship

(515) 964-4647



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Exploring Progressive Christian Theology:

Building a Bond, a story shared with us from Lutheran Services:

Julie had made a promise years ago: If anything happened to her friend, Julie would take care of her son, Jacob.

When Jacob's mom passed away and he had no place to go, Julie stepped up. Her six children had grown up and moved out of her home, and she had the resources and space needed to care for Jacob. She became a mentor through LSI's Host Homes program. The service enables lowans with disabilities to move into a private family home and live with a specially-selected mentor instead of living in a shared space with roommates and several staff members.

Jacob moved into Julie's home last December and now, the two are thriving. Jacob is learning to take care of himself and build the life skills he needs to feel more confident and independent. He is learning to cook and enjoys looking up new recipes to try, especially meatloaf.

"It's a great opportunity. You're changing their lives," Julie says. "You get to know each other more personally. We have a lot of discussions and heart-to-hearts."

Jacob is finishing his senior year of high school. He enjoys learning new things and visiting new places, and he dreams of the day when he and Julie can go on more trips. Once it is safe to do so, Jacob is determined to visit more zoos and take a trip to Canada.

"It's good," Jacob says of his Host Homes match with Julie. "She makes me laugh."

Caring Within:

Thank You!

We would like to thank Joan, Tom, Marlis, and Paul for their help with the Recording and Streaming of the Church Services.

Children and Families of Iowa Conference on Domestic Violence:

The virtual 2021 CFI Conference on Domestic Violence will feature the documentary film *Finding Jenn's Voice* with a panel discussion featuring the film director, local experts and a domestic violence survivor from the film. Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) (2.25 contact hours) available.

Finding Jenn's Voice examines homicide as a leading cause of death during pregnancy and the nature of abusive relationships. The documentary was inspired by the murder of Jennifer Snyder at the hands of her married boyfriend after he learned she was pregnant. The film includes interviews with leading researchers across the country and features the voices of survivors of intimate partner homicide attempts.

A panel discussion will follow facilitated by Tracy Schott.

To register for this virtual event visit <http://bit.ly/2WNFJBI>

Serving Beyond:

Advocacy- Fighting Hunger and Food Insecurity in Iowa Training:

The number of people experiencing food insecurity across Iowa has increased dramatically due to the COVID-19 pandemic. And while federal and state responses have proven effective at increasing access to food for many in our state, there is still work to be done.

Join DMARC and other partners on Friday, January 22, from 12:00pm-1:00pm for an online advocacy training to get involved in the fight to end food insecurity in Iowa!

[Register here.](#)

Learn from groups working to address hunger and food insecurity in Iowa about:

- the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on hunger and food insecurity in our state
- federal and state responses to food insecurity during the pandemic
- basic information on nutrition programs such as Food Assistance (SNAP)
- current legislative opportunities to address hunger and food insecurity in Iowa
- how you can be an effective anti-hunger advocate

We hope you can join us in our fight to end hunger and food insecurity in Iowa. For more information about DMARC's advocacy efforts contact Luke Elzinga

lelzinga@dmarcunited.org or sign up for our [advocacy newsletter here.](#)