

## **Ankeny United Church of Christ**

A welcoming church family

Exploring progressive Christian theology

Caring within and serving beyond

An Open And Affirming Church

February 14, 2021, 6th 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!**

## 6th Sunday after Epiphany

February 14, 2021

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

### Words of Welcome and Sung Call to Worship

#### \*Psalm 128

Bless'd are all those who fear the Lord, Who walk within God's ways.

You'll eat the fruit of all your work, And bless'd will be your days.

Your spouse will be a fruitful vine in your home, full of peace;

Your children round your table will be like young olive trees.

For thus the one shall bless-ed be who fears the Lord indeed.

Jerusalem's prosperity, May God bless you to see.

From Zion may the Lord bless you; May all your days be well;

And may you see your children's seed—Peace be to Is-ra-el!

*\*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 music. The first system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and contains the lyrics: "See, I am near, says the Lord. - See, I make all things new." The piano accompaniment starts with a bass clef and provides harmonic support. The second system begins with a measure rest (marked '5') and continues with the piano accompaniment, which concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots. The copyright notice "© Les Ateliers de Taizé" is located in the upper right corner of the page.

*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, near and far, where'er you be.  
We will wel-come you, and show you hope God brings from se-a to sea.**

### **Scripture**

**Mark 10:13-16 (CEB)**

People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them. When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them, "Allow the children to come to me. Don't forbid them, because God's kingdom belongs to people like these children. I assure you that whoever doesn't welcome God's kingdom like a child will never enter it." Then he hugged the children and blessed them.

**\*Hymn #323 (black)**

**"Little Children, Welcome"**

**Sermon**

**"The Eyes of a Child"**

**-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, thank you for sharing the different visions of your world with us. We give these gifts hoping to change our minds, that we may experience trust, and hope, and naive love in our lives. 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, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Sing to God with joy-ful hearts! Praise the Lord for ev--er----more. Praise the Lord for-e--ev-er-more! O". The first system ends with a "Fine" marking and a fermata over the final note. The second system begins with a fermata over the first note and ends with a double bar line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

## 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**

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

#### **Monday**

7:15am Trustees  
Meeting

#### **Wednesday**

6:00pm Drive-through  
imposition of ashes  
7:30pm Confirmation

#### **Sunday**

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

**Choir Director**

Laura Beckwith

**Accompanist**

Paige Wonderly

**Organist**

Nancy Pingel

**Pastor**

Nathan Willard

**Office Manager**

Gemmy Sigma

[office@ankenyucc.org](mailto:office@ankenyucc.org)[pastor@ankenyucc.org](mailto:pastor@ankenyucc.org)

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[ankenyucc](https://www.facebook.com/ankenyucc)[@ankenyucc](https://twitter.com/ankenyucc)**Exploring Progressive Christian Theology:**

*Where "The hill we climb" can take us, by Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Frantz of Progressive Christianity.org :*

"The inaugural poem of Amanda Gorman – at 22, the youngest inaugural poet laureate in U.S. history – lifted our spirits as it dazzled our imagination. Indeed, as her lofty words filled the air at our nation's capital, hope was given a new face. With the violent insurrection of January 6th still striking horror in our memory, the January 20th Inauguration was a wonderful, reassuring celebration.

...Into this context comes a young, Harvard graduate, confident and poised in her excellent delivery, as she challenges us to look up and outward as we embrace the future. In her "The Hill We Climb," there's a "doing" together and the trajectory, unmistakably, is upward. In this upward journey, the poet prompts us: "where can we find light in this never ending shade?"

In recent times, the shade has been everywhere. It's been in the denial of science with climate change. It's been in the cruel, immoral separation of children from their parents at our southern border. It's been in the degradation of international alliances. It's been in the toxic racism and white supremacy that has been given license, in the shade, to raise its ugly head.

...The dawn comes with the morning sun, but it does not delay the truth that must be told and the accountability that must be rendered. And where can we find the light? We find it is our collective selves... and that's where "The Hill We Climb" can take us.

*if only we're brave enough to see it.*

*If only we're brave enough to be it."*

To read the whole article, click [here!](#)

### **Caring Within:**

*Help combat food insecurity with Des Moines Hunger Hike by joining their board:*

The historic Des Moines Area Hunger Hike has been around for over 50 years. Their board members meet on the third Monday of each month (on Zoom) for about an hour. Monthly time commitment for board members is around 2-3 hours max per month, with an increase in time commitment in October for the Hike. Meetings include preparing for the annual Hike, hosted every year in October, which raises funds to be allocated among organizations both locally and globally. This is a perfect opportunity for those who have never served on a board or are looking for a way to increase their involvement in our community.

To apply, please allow us to get to know you better, by filling out our application form [HERE](#). We ask that you apply, no later than **April 1**.

### **Serving Beyond:**

*Make a Camper Your Valentine!*

Camp Courageous has a Campership Fund for campers who would like to attend a camp session but need financial assistance to do so. Camp's philosophy has always been that no individual is turned away due to the inability to pay, thus the Campership Fund was established.

The Campership Fund also helps to cover other expenses of keeping involved with campers, especially during the COVID pandemic. From sending staff with Diamond, camp's social dog, to visit with campers and group homes, to obtaining supplies for online camper interactions. When it's not possible to safely gather, Camp Courageous is trying to take special experiences to these special individuals.

Get more details about the Campership Fund [here](#).