

## **Ankeny United Church of Christ**

A welcoming church family

Exploring progressive Christian theology

Caring within and serving beyond

An Open And Affirming Church

February 21, 2021, 1st Sunday in Lent

The Stories We Tell

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

**1st Sunday in Lent**

**February 21, 2021**

**\*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 129 (Seedbed Psalter)**

They have oppressed me from my youth, Let Is-ra-el now say—  
They have oppressed me from my youth, But no vict'ry have they!  
Though plowmen have plowed up my back, And made their furrows long;  
The Lord, who's righteous, cut the cords, And freed me from their wrong!  
May all who view Zion with hate be turned back in great shame;  
May they be like grass on the roof that withers without name.  
They'll be like withered grass which dies before it e'en can grow;  
Which cannot fill the reaper's hands or arms for use below.  
May those who pass by never say, "The Lord's blessing on you";  
Nor say, "We bless you in the name of the Lord ever true."

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

## **Congregational Preparation: Vieni Spirito creatore**

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*First time: 3 times*

Vieni Spirito creatore (canon)

(Viens, Esprit Créateur. / Прииди, Дух Творец.)

**57**



Come and pray in us. Ho-----ly Spir-it Ho--ly Spir-----it, come and vis-it us, Ho-----ly Spir-it, Spir-it, come, Spir-it, come.

*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: 46–52 (CEB)**

Jesus and his followers came into Jericho. As Jesus was leaving Jericho, together with his disciples and a sizable crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, Timaeus' son, was sitting beside the road. When he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was there, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy!" Many scolded him, telling him to be quiet, but he shouted even louder, "Son of David, show me mercy!" Jesus stopped and said, "Call him forward." They called the blind man, "Be encouraged! Get up! He's calling you." Throwing his coat to the side, he jumped up and came to Jesus. Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said, "Teacher, I want to see." Jesus said, "Go, your faith has healed you." At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus on the way.

**\*Hymn #187 (black)**

**"Again We Keep This Solemn Fast"**

**Sermon**

**"The Meanings of Mercy"**

**-Pastor Nathan**

**Invitation to Give**

**Offertory**

**\*Congregational Response #781 (tune #7 black)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings 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 show us mercy every day. We dedicate these gifts to finding new ways to sharing that mercy in the world and to hearing when those around us cry out for it. Amen.**

**Commissioning**

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

**\*Benediction**

**\*Congregational Response: #202 (black) O God, How We Have Wandered v3**

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O God of all the liv-ing, both ban-ish-ed and re-stored,  
Com-pas-sion-ate, for-givi-ing, our peace and hope as-sured.  
Grant now that our trans-gress-ing, our faith-less-ness may cease.  
Stretch out your hand in bless-ing, in par-don, and in peace.

**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**

**6:30pm** Council  
Meeting

#### **Wednesday**

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



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**Exploring Progressive Christian Theology:**

*We Need to Listen to Care About Others, by Walt Shelton, from Progressive Christianity:*

"...Listening is a lost art. Resolve and practice make listening a habit where we pay attention to and even learn from other viewpoints in faith, political, racial, and other potentially divisive contexts. Regarding faith-related accord within my Christian tradition, the author of the Book of James wisely instructs his readers: "You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger" (Jas. 1:19).

....After listening to another, we should find commonalities. What do we both think are priorities in life? We can endeavor to discover or even create via dialogue action-based common interests. How about simply doing good for others, such as working together to help people who are suffering or in need? That is a good, healing starting point. America is polarized and in trouble. We must begin working now to peacefully transform hatred into tolerance. Starting with inclusive dialogue and moving toward practically working together to address shared concerns, we might experience the needed healing effect toward eliminating group-based hatred and judgment. Time is of the essence. Let's not wait any longer to get to work."

Click [here](#) to read the full article!

## **Caring Within:**

*New Horizons Adult Day Center is launching a three-year capital campaign to raise \$1M for their new home, shared with us by Sue Broadbooks:*

In faith, we stepped out and purchased our new home located at 718 NE Grant Street in Ankeny. Our vision is to provide a place where participants eagerly visit each morning as a place to receive security, structure, identity and belonging.

We are asking you, as a friend of New Horizons Adult Day Center, to help us make this important goal a reality. You can help by donating to this vital project and by helping us spread the word to your friends and family!

To kick things off, a group of charitable supporters have pledged \$350,000 toward a [Matching Gift Challenge](#). For every donation we receive, these supporters will match your donation dollar for dollar, up to \$350,000!

Imagine the impact your generous gift will have when you [donate now!](#)

We know you are eager to see the new facility. We're just as excited to share our new home with you. [Contact us](#) for a tour.

If you have any questions or require more information, please don't hesitate to explore [here](#) or contact me [here](#).

We believe everyone needs a place to call home. New Horizons is that home for our participants. Please support us in securing our new home.

Kind Regards,

Vicki Engh

Executive Director

New Horizons Adult Day Center

## **Serving Beyond:**

*DMARC Food Pantry's Most Needed Items:*

Non-perishables (low sugar, fat, and salt), fresh produce, formula and baby food, personal care products, feminine hygiene products, diapers, baby wipes. Please deliver donations to the DMARC Food Pantry Network warehouse, 1435 Mulberry Street, Des Moines, IA 50309. Questions? Call 515-282-2026.