

## **Ankeny United Church of Christ**

A welcoming church family

Exploring progressive Christian theology

Caring within and serving beyond

An Open And Affirming Church

September 12, 2021, 16th Sunday after Pentecost

*Inspired*

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

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 16, 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 Responsive Call to Worship**

**\*Psalm 148**

ONE: Alleluia! Praise God from the heavens; sing praise in the heights.

**ALL: Praise God, all you angels; sing praise, all the heavenly host.**

ONE: Praise God, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

**ALL: Praise God, heaven of heavens and you waters above the heavens.**

ONE: Let them praise the Name of God, by whose command they were created.

**ALL: God made them stand fast for ever and ever, and gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

ONE: Praise God from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

**ALL: Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

ONE: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;

**ALL: Sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, leaders and all rulers of the world; Young men and maidens, old and young together.**

ONE: Let them praise your Name, O God, for your Name only is exalted; your splendor is over earth and heaven.

**ALL: You have raised up strength for your people and praise for all your loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near you. Alleluia!**

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

# Congregational Preparation: Nothing Can Ever Come Between Us

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## NOTHING CAN EVER

Refrain **A**

Noth - ing can ev - er come be - tween us and the love of God, the  
love of God re - vealed to us in Christ Je - sus.

Verses **B**

O O

Text: The Taizé Community  
Tune: The Taizé Community  
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*Following the silent prayer, we will sing 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.**

**This is you-r own place of wel-l-come, it is you we lo-ng to see.**

### Scripture

**Luke 24:13–32 (CEB)**

On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. They were prevented from recognizing him. He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” They stopped, their faces downcast. The one named Cleopas replied, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?” He said to them, “What things?” They said to him, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. But there’s more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning and didn’t find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn’t see him.” Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. Wasn’t it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets. When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. But they urged him, saying, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening, and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?”

Sermon

"Inspired, And Then...."

-Pastor Nathan

Hymn #525 (black)

"This Little Light of Mine"

Commissioning

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

\*Benediction

**\*Benediction Response: #80 (black) Savior, Again to Your Dear Name (v2)**

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### 49 Surrexit Dominus vere (canon)

Je - sus, the Lord,---- is ris- en! Al - le - lu - ia! Al- le- lu- ia.

Je-sus, the Lord, is ris-en to-- day! Al - le - lu - ia! Al- le- lu- ia.

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

9:30 am Christian Ed  
10:30am Worship

### Monday

6:30pm Deacons  
7:15pm Trustees

### Sunday

9:30am Christian Ed  
10:30am Worship



### Choir Director

Laura Beckwith

### Accompanist

Paige Wonderly

### Organist

Nancy Pingel

### Cantor

Brad Church



### Pastor

Nathan Willard

### Office Manager

Gemmy Sigma



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*@ankenyuucc*

## Exploring Progressive Christian Theology:

*Where are They Now: Amanda and Mavis, a story shared with us by LSI:*

Amanda has lived with her Host Homes mentor, Mavis, for three years and continues to gain more independence through the program. When Amanda first entered Host Homes, she required multiple psychiatric hospital visits throughout the year. She had been living in a busy home with roommates, and she needed a new environment to thrive.

When she moved in with Mavis, the two worked together to build important life skills for Amanda and find ways for her to cultivate her creative mind. Amanda loves listening to Elvis music, sewing, and ceramics, so Mavis helped Amanda enroll in art classes.

When she was no longer able to attend during the pandemic, Mavis ensured she had space at home to continue creating art.

Amanda recently finished a major ceramics project: a replica of Elvis she has been working on for three years. Amanda continues to work on her goals, including personal hygiene, exercise, medication management, and cooking. Throughout the pandemic, Mavis and Amanda spent lots of time in the kitchen, and Amanda is now able to cook independently. She loves trying new dishes, and her favorite foods are pasta recipes. And instead of several emergency calls and hospital visits each year, Amanda has not needed mental health hospitalization in more than a year and a half.

“I think I’m doing really well, I’ve been doing lots of things,” Amanda says. “I want to do even more amazing things too. I really like it here.”

### **Caring Within:**

#### *Sunday School's Update:*

After much thought and looking at COVID data for our area, we have decided to start Sunday school online with the hope of moving to in person when numbers go down.

The student materials were delivered to your homes on Friday.

Online Zoom classes will begin at 9:30 and last 30-45 minutes. While online we will have two classes, Elementary and Junior Youth. Please find links to join your class in the email that was sent out on Thursday's night.- Pastor Nathan, Brandon, Anneke, and Peg

### **Serving Beyond:**

#### *New Horizons Adults Day Center's Update:*

Join the “New Horizons Kickin’ Alzheimer’s Disease team”! Now through September 25th, New Horizons staff and participants have a big goal of 1,040 MILES! We will be walking daily and clocking our steps! Encourage us by stopping by our website AND keeping track of your miles! Fundraising goal of \$200 to help support Alzheimer’s nationwide. Thank you for your support!

#### *Annual Camp Courageous Pancakes Breakfast:*

Enjoy a start to your day at the the annual [Camp Courageous Pancake Breakfast and Open House](#) being held on Sunday, September 26, 2021. Cakes start flipping at 8:00 AM until Noon. Enjoy pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee, and more. Adults \$10.00 and children 12 and under \$5.00.

## **A note on our worship:**

In Ankeny UCC, we encourage the **Holy Spirit** to flow in our service to all who are called to be in this place. As we get our feet under us in our return to in-person worship, we have changed some of our practices for the time being.

First, we have limited our sanctuary capacity somewhat, and **we invite you and whoever you are worshiping with to space yourselves around our pews**. Due to the ongoing pandemic, please wear a mask during the service.

Second, **we are distributing communion on the way into the sanctuary**, rather than circulating and serving communion during the liturgy. Know that no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, the table is set for you. Likewise, **we invite you to share any offerings you may have in the plates outside the doors to the sanctuary** as you exit.

Third, **we are holding off on a return to congregational singing** during the service. We miss it, too!

Finally, it's not yet time to return to our indoor fellowship time, but invite you to socialize out of doors. **Pastor Nathan would be delighted to see you there following the service.**