



Ripley United Church of Christ Celebration of Worship



February 2nd, 2025
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany



Meetings:

- Board of Deacons: Monday Feb. 10th @ 7:00 pm - Fellowship Hall
- Board of Trustees: Tuesday Feb. 18th @ 5:30 pm - Fellowship Hall
- Mission Committee: Wednesday March 26th @ 6:30 - Office

Mission/Church/Community Involvement:

- Quilting - Thursday Feb. 6th @ 9:00 am
 - Soul Stitching is Feb. 8th @ 9:00 am
- Noisy Offering-Feb. 23rd - Storks Nest - Lent Offering for 2025

Annual Meeting & Luncheon - Please Join us in person or online:

- RUCC Annual Meeting: Feb. 9th after Worship - Sanctuary 9:45 am
 - Bill Douglas *The People Are Kind: A Religious History of Iowa* 10:00 am
 - Baked Potato luncheon to follow 10:45ish in the Fellowship Hall
 - Weather Make Up Date: Feb. 16th after Worship

Announcing/Notice:

- Worship Feb. 16th will be **AT the United Methodist Church** across the street!
 - UMC has a special worship hosted by the Gideons. Worship starts at 9:30 am with Fellowship to follow.
 - Calling all Singers! We are invited to join their Choir for the workshop. They will be singing familiar hymns, no advanced practice. For more information contact Linda Lyons @ 319-404-2900.

Religious Education

- After the annual meeting on **February 9**, Ripley will host a special event to celebrate Bill Douglas, a friend and attender of our church, as he reads from his new book, *The People Are Kind: A Religious History of Iowa*.
 - "Jesus Said What?" series continues the afternoon of **March 2** (time and location TBD) with a discussion of Jesus' message and promise at the Last Supper.
 - Confirmation will be scheduled Spring/Summer 2025 for youth aged 13 and up. Please see Jim if you know a young person who might be interested.
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Welcome and Announcements Prelude and Candle Lighting

Call to Worship (excerpted from Psalm 71:1-6):

One: In you, O LORD, I take refuge

Many: In your righteousness deliver me

One: Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

Many: For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust

One: Let us worship in the presence of a just and loving God.

Many: Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "Sanctuary" (insert)

Confession:

One: Our scripture calls us to love without condition.

Many: We fail to love others as ourselves.

One: Our faith is one of grace, justice and inclusion.

Many: We have unfairly judged others, and failed to love them as they are.

One: Forgive us, God, our failings.

Many: Teach us to love as we are called.

Silent Prayer

Assurance:

One: Hear the Gospel! Our God is a gracious and loving God.

Many: By His grace, we are forgiven

One: By His love, we are set free

All: Amen

Passing the Peace/ Children's Procession

Our scripture teaches that the Kingdom of God belongs to those who enter it like a child. As our children come forward, it is our custom to greet each other from our places, then sing the children to the front with the traditional song "This Little Light of Mine." If you are worshiping with us online, please feel free to say hello in the comments, so we know you are here.

Children's Celebration - "Love"

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Homily: "Paul Was Human (and that's okay)"

***Hymn:** "Blessed Be The Tie That Binds" (black hymnal #393)

Offertory

***Presentation of our Offerings:** Doxology (black hymnal #780)

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Prayers of the People

Communion

Invitation

One: Our faith is one of extravagant welcome. We honor God's table, open to all.

Many: We gather with all Creation.

One: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.

Many: Amen!

***Closing Hymn:** "Take My Life, God, Let It Be" (black hymnal #448)

*Benediction Postlude

* Please stand, in body or spirit



Thank you for attending Ripley United Church of Christ.
We're glad you came.

Reader today was Lindsey Christie
CE helper was Josh Youel

Find us online at www.ripleyucc.org, or connect to us in person over refreshments downstairs after the service.

Prayer requests can be submitted in person to Jim or any Deacon, or by following this QR code:

Prayer requests can be submitted online at
<https://tinyurl.com/3n324nvk>, in person to Jim or any Deacon

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Prayer

One: God be with you

Many: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts

Many: We lift them up to God

One: Let us give thanks to God

Many: It is right to give thanks and praise

One: God of all creation, we give thanks for your continuous care. We praise the living, mortal example of your son, Jesus Christ, who offers a path to salvation. We honor the Holy Spirit, who reminds us of your truth, your presence and your promise.

Many: God of Love and Grace, the whole Universe speaks to your Glory. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God. Hosanna!

Setting the Table

One: We remember that on the night of his betrayal and desertion, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "this is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup, saying, "Drink this, all of you. This is the blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

One: This table is God's table, open to all creation. These elements are the body and blood of Christ, broken and poured for you. This faith we share is the Spirit, which unites us in Holy Communion. For this, we give thanks.

Many: We proclaim our continuing faith in the Good News of Jesus Christ, and offer our lives in service.

One: Let us pray the words Jesus taught us:

Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Call to the Supper

One: The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

One: The cup is the communion of the blood of Christ.

One: Jesus, Lamb of God

Many: have mercy on us.

One: Jesus, bearer of our sins

Many: have mercy on us

One: Jesus, redeemer of the world

Many: give us your peace

One: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Sharing the Elements

One: Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, broken for you.

Many: Amen!

