



Ripley United Church of Christ Celebration of Worship



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday of Lent



Ripley Church Meetings:

- Board of Deacons: Sunday - March 8th @ 10:00 am - Office
- Board of Trustees: Thursday - March 19th @ 5:30 pm - Office

Ripley Mission/Church/Community Involvement:

- Quilting: Wed - March 4th Afternoon until the Lenten Meal
Thur. March 5th @ 9:00 am
 - Saturday Soul Stitching - Saturday March 14th @ 9:00 am
- Noisy Offering - Feb. 22nd: Project to be Announced
- Ripley Quilt Show - March 21st
- The Congregation's help is requested Sunday the 22nd after church to help take down the Quilt Displays after this event.

Lenten Plans 2026 - More details to come:

- Lenten Project: Maternal Health - Tama County
- Wednesday Night Meal and Reflections - Fellowship Hall
 - March 4, 11, 18 and 25
 - 6:00 meal followed by 6:30 devotion
 - Sign up for meal prep in the kitchen.
- Men's Lenten Breakfasts:
 - March 4: St. Luke's Lutheran
 - March 11: St. Paul Catholic
 - March 18: United Presbyterian
 - March 25: RUCC - (David Calderwood is Organizing)
 - April 1: Clutier Community
- Maundy Thursday April 2nd - TBD
- Good Friday April 3rd - TBD
- Easter: April 5th - Details TBD
 - Breakfast at 8:00 am followed by worship at 9:00 am

Welcome and Announcements Prelude and Candle Lighting

Praise and Invocation (excerpted from Psalm 121)

One: I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

Many: My help comes from the LORD, who made Heaven and Earth.

One: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Many: The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

One: The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

Call to Worship

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

Many: Amen

*Opening Hymn: "Sanctuary" (insert)

Confession:

One: Our Gospel calls us to "lift up" the Lord in our lives and in our doings.

Many: We fail to rise to the call.

One: The path to the Holy Spirit begins and ends in love of God and love of neighbor.

Many: We say we love, but our actions do not follow.

One: Forgive us, Lord, our failings.

Many: Teach us to see, serve and 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: "The Sharing Song"

Reading: John 3:1-17

Message: "20/20 Vision"

***Response:** "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant" (black hymnal #539)

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.

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!

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

Many: Amen!

***Closing Hymn:** “Lord, Make Me More Holy” (black hymnal #75)

***Benediction Postlude**

* Please stand, in body or spirit
CCLI license number: 22384815, Size A; 22384822, Size A



Thank you for attending Ripley UCC. We’re glad you came.

“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

*CE helper today was Dalton Hulme

*Reader was

Find us online at www.ripleyucc.org, or by searching “Ripley United Church of Christ” on Facebook. Or join us for refreshments downstairs after the service. An elevator is available by the south door for those who need it.

Pr. Jim is available to the community at 515-708-4343 (text is best) or jimatripley@gmail.com



Sanctuary

by John Thompson and Randy Scruggs (CCLI #24140)

Chorus:

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you

Verse 1:

It is you, Lord, who came to save
The heart and soul of every man
It is you, Lord, who knows my weakness
Who gives me strength with thine own hand

(chorus)

Verse 2:

Lead me on, Lord, from temptation
Purify me from within
Fill my heart with your Holy Spirit
Take away all my sin

(chorus x2)



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