

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**March 12, 2023**  
**Third Sunday of Lent**

**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

Prelude

Welcome

\* God's Greeting

\* We Greet One Another

\* Call to Worship 2 Timothy 1:6 fan into flame

*As we follow Jesus to the cross and empty tomb this Lent, let us recognize who goes with us. Let us look to our King's passion.*

**Wake up, o sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you!**

*The prophet Daniel records, "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.*

**Blessed are those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

Wake up, o sleeper, rise from the dead.

**And Christ will shine on us!**

\* Opening Song: "O Worship The King" vs 1,2,4, 5

*Lift Up Your Hearts #2*

O worship the King all-glorious above,  
O gratefully sing his power and his love:  
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.  
O tell of his might and sing of his grace,  
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.  
Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail.  
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!  
O measureless Might, unchangeable Love,  
whom angels delight to worship above!

Your ransomed creation, with glory ablaze,  
in true adoration shall sing to your praise

“Shout To The Lord”

*Lift Up Your Hearts #603*

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you.

All of my days, I want to praise  
the wonders of your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength,  
let every breath, all that I am,  
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing  
power and majesty, praise to the King.

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands:  
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in you

\*Opening Prayer

## **WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD**

Confession:

*For the times when our reputation is better than our reality, we repent.*

***For our indifference of those you've entrusted to us, we repent.***

*For the amount of time and energy we invest in ourselves, we repent.*

***For failing to pray for others, we repent.***

*For the deeds we have left undone and the sluggishness we experience  
towards You,*

**Lord, our sins are many. In your deep mercy, forgive us! Make us dead to  
sin, and alive to you. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon:

*Hear the good news from Eph 2: because of his great love for us, God, who is  
rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in  
transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. Though our sins are  
many, His mercy is more! His mercy changes us.*

Song of Entrusting: “His Mercy Is More”

What love could remember No wrongs we have done  
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum

Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more  
Praise the Lord, His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more  
What patience would wait as we constantly roam  
What Father, so tender, is calling us home  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more  
Praise the Lord, His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more  
What riches of kindness He lavished on us  
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more  
Praise the Lord, His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more  
Praise the Lord, His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more  
Children's Message  
Congregational Prayer

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

Scripture Reading: Revelation 3:1-6 (p:1139)

3 "To the angel<sup>[a]</sup> of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits<sup>[b]</sup> of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup> Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. <sup>3</sup> Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

<sup>4</sup> Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. <sup>5</sup> The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. <sup>6</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches

Message: 7 Churches of Revelation: Sardis - Complacency

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

Prayer of Application

\* Song of Response: "My Jesus, I Love Thee"

*Lift Up Your Hearts #366*

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;  
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;  
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;  
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.  
I love thee because thou hast first loved me  
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;  
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;  
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.  
I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,  
and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,  
and say when the deathdew lies cold on my brow:  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.  
In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;  
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

## **WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\* Blessing

\* Closing Song: "God of Mercy, God of Grace"

*Lift Up Your Hearts #934*

God of mercy, God of grace, show the brightness of your face.  
Shine upon us, Savior, shine; fill your church with light divine;  
all your saving health extend unto earth's remotest end.

Let the people praise you, Lord; be by all that live adored.  
Let the nations shout and sing glory to their gracious King;  
at your feet their tribute pay, and your holy will obey.  
Let the people praise you, Lord; earth shall then its fruits afford.  
Unto us your blessing give, we to your devoted live,  
all below and all above, one in joy and light and love.

Postlude

\*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Deb Niehof

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Andrew Friend, Naomi Friend, Holly Raak

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The special offering this week is to support **Midwest B.A.S.I.C** (Brothers And Sisters In Christ) **Youth Bible Camp**, which has been such a blessing to our young people each summer. Camp this year will be Sunday August 6<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup>. Camp is open to students who have finished the 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Camp is located at 32203 230th St, Eldora, IA 50627. We are always looking for kid, as well as volunteers for camp: councilors, and speakers. Please contact Pam Whitney if you have questions or need more information.

**Rehoboth Christian School Choir Tour 2023** will be at Des Moines Christian School Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> @ 9:30 am and at Lutheran Church of Hope @ 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm. There will be a Navajo Taco Dinner and Program included with the Church of Hope concert. Please RSVP for this at [www.lutheranchurchofhope.org/west-des-moines/calendar/eid/784720/](http://www.lutheranchurchofhope.org/west-des-moines/calendar/eid/784720/) There is a flier in the office window showing all concerts for this tour.

**The Adult Sunday School class** will be led by the Council. It will center around the book *Growing Young* (which council has been reading). The book focuses on six strategies to help the church connect with and embrace young people, and has been useful in shaping some of Trinity's strategic plan goals. Please contact a council member if you are interested in attending, so they can order the books. The first chapter is accessible free, if you would like to check it out at

this web address: [https://d36s6f2n3iyjqc.cloudfront.net/fyi-files/Growing\\_Young\\_Chapter\\_1\\_Powell\\_Mulder\\_Griffin.pdf](https://d36s6f2n3iyjqc.cloudfront.net/fyi-files/Growing_Young_Chapter_1_Powell_Mulder_Griffin.pdf)

**Outreach committee** has planned the date for the Spring **Family2Family sale, March 25<sup>th</sup>**. The sign up should be up soon. Please share this date with your friends and family. It will be the same setup as last time, Large booths (8 x10.5) will be \$12, small booths (6 x 8) will be \$7. We will be offering tables as well for \$2 each.

**THIS SUMMER** we have the opportunity to do an intergenerational mission trip to Flagstaff, Arizona! We can stay for free @ Hope Community CRC (and there are hotels within walking distance). We have a variety of possible work projects identified at Hope Church, the Indian Bible College, and the Sunshine Rescue Mission. Work options include things like gardening, painting, repairs, light construction, and serving meals to the homeless. Our "day-away" could be a trip to the Grand Canyon. Other nearby possibilities for the day-away or afternoon/evening trips could include Slide Rock State Park (natural waterslide); Walnut Canyon National Monument (Native American cliff dwellings) or the Eldon Pueblo ruins; rock-climbing & rappelling on nearby mountains (with a guide); mountain hiking on Mt Eldon or the San Francisco peaks; Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument (learn about volcanoes); and the Flagstaff Aquaplex indoor waterpark. There will be a questionnaire sent out to the mailing list. Please fill it out asap so planning can begin.

**Sunday School Schedule for 2022/23** March 19,26 (**12th Spring Break**)' April 2,16,23,30 (Easter 9th), May 7 (last day of class)

**Special family & friends invite opportunity:** For our Maundy Thursday (**April 6**) evening service this year, TCRC will be hosting a Seder meal. The Seder is the traditional Jewish Passover meal, perhaps close to what Jesus would have celebrated with his disciples in the Upper Room on that Thursday evening before his crucifixion. We will be celebrating a Christian version of the meal based on information from the Jews For Jesus organization. It highlights the many ways in which Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament promises of God and the expectations of the Jews in their celebration of the Passover. The meal involves participation by all who attend, with roles for men women and children.

**Here's the INVITATION part:** This will be a full meal provided by our Fellowship Committee and Smokin' Big Dawg's BBQ. We'll have room, and food, for over

100 people, which is quite a bit more than our typical worship service attendance. The meal will provide insight into the Jewish cultural observance of the Passover and the gospel message of Jesus's sacrifice for us. So we'll have a good meal, cultural enrichment, and spiritual insight all in one event :) Please invite any family or friends who might be interested. We'll have a sign-up sheet in the lobby to help the Fellowship Committee have an idea of how many people to prepare for, but even if you don't sign up, please come anyway – you'll be glad you did!

**Passion Week services at TCRC:** Looking ahead to our observances of Jesus' Passion week, we'll have our regular service at 9:30 am on April 2 to observe Palm Sunday. On **April 6** we'll have our Seder meal observance of Maundy Thursday (probably at 6:00 pm). Then on Easter Sunday, we'll have our Sunrise Service at 6:30 am by the fire pit on the church lawn, and then our regular Easter service at 9:30. There will be a small breakfast provide at the church for those who are staying at the church between the services.

**Have you been heard?** Our congregation has a once-in-five-year opportunity to participate in the 2023 CRC denominational survey. This survey helps denominational leadership understand the concerns and needs of local congregations like ours. It is crucial that as many people from our congregation as possible participate. Please visit [crcna.org/survey/7210](https://crcna.org/survey/7210) to answer the survey questions by **March 31**.

If you don't get the weekly Service and Bulletin email, please send a request to [office@amestrinity.org](mailto:office@amestrinity.org) and let Pam know so you can be added to the list. This is sent out as a blind copy, so email addresses are not shared. Also there is a copy of the directory on the table by the office, please update or add information. This allows us to have contact information for our Deacons and Elders.

### **Small Groups, Committees, & Sunday School Updates**

**Sunday School Classes** meet at 10:50 am on Sunday

**Breakfast Club** meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the Lincoln Center HyVee at 8:30 AM.

**UFO** Will meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month

**Women's Bible Study** Will meet first Monday of the month

**Next Council meeting** will be March 8<sup>th</sup>

## **DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Faith Formation

**Lent At-home Faith Formation Tip** - During Lent, many Christians try to become more aware of the suffering of others as we remember Jesus' suffering and sacrifice. How might you do this? Consider volunteering as a family, with friends, or on your own at a ministry of mercy, or visiting members of your congregation who can't physically join you in worship on Sundays. (Tip from Faith Formation; [bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation](http://bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation))

Calvin University

**The Architecture of Prayer** - The Center Art Gallery at Calvin University presents The Architecture of Prayer, a survey of church architecture exploring a selection of the most thoughtful liturgical projects of the 21st century. On display until April 7th, the exhibition showcases drawings and travel photography of historic church buildings in dialogue with new projects built after 1999—contributed by 40+ internationally-recognized practices and local firms. To explore the exhibition virtually, visit: [https://bit.ly/arch\\_pray](https://bit.ly/arch_pray)

ReFrame Ministries

**Family Fire** - is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at [familyfire.com](http://familyfire.com). Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

**Kids Corner: I'm Worried!** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). It's natural to feel worried now and then, but God helps us turn worry into excitement for the awesome things he has planned for us. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) like the Preparing for Easter: A Family Lenten Devotional eBook.

**Groundwork: A Look at the New Heaven and Earth** - In this life, we often find hope and encouragement to endure by thinking about what we have to look forward to. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study John's visions of the new heaven and earth in Revelation 21. We'll discuss the meaning of his visions and the comfort these images continue to provide us today. Listen now at [Groundworkonline.com](http://Groundworkonline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Congregational Prayer: Randy Raak  
Sound : Tom Whitney



Nursery: Pam W and Stacy  
Children's message: Deb Niehof  
Greeters: Niehof

### **Greeters**

March 12 Niehof  
March 19 Niemeyer  
March 26 M Nikkel  
April 2 Oftendal  
April 9 Oltman  
April 16 Raak  
April 23 Saldana  
April 30 Sanders/Bassham

### **Nursery**

March 12 Pam W and Stacy  
March 19 Melody and Kristy  
March 26 Jessica and Cassie  
April 2 Donna and Pam N  
April 9 Elaine and McKenzie  
April 16 Mindy and Chloe  
April 23 Megan and Jayden  
April 30 Judy and Caraline

**Pastor Randy Raak:** [pastor@amestrinity.org](mailto:pastor@amestrinity.org) or 928-699-9329

**Lora Copley:** [director@isu-areopagus.org](mailto:director@isu-areopagus.org) or 505-387-6861 (Areopagus Campus Ministry)

**Elders:** A-G=Brian Sterenberg: H-K = Melody Franje: L-S = Mark Voss: T-Z=Jeff Kopaska

**Deacons:** A-G =Tina VanDyk: H - K =Pam Niemeyer: L-S =Judy Oltman: T-Z Mary Saucedo