

WORSHIP SERVICE

August 18, 2024

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship

Our Father, the fingerprints of your grace on your creation give us hope.

see goodness in the hearts of those who are made in your image.

Your restraint of humanity's worst intentions testifies to your care for us.

And you continue to provide solutions to the worst of our problems.

So we come to you this morning, to give you thanks and honor you with our praises. Amen!

* Opening Song: "Rejoice The Lord Is King" *Lift Up Your Hearts #224*

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore. Rejoice, give thanks and sing and triumph evermore. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice. Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven; the keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are given. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice.

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit, bow down at his command, and fall beneath his feet. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice.

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope; for Christ, the Judge, shall come to gather all his saints to their eternal home. We soon shall hear the archangel's voice; the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

* Opening Prayer

* Song: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" *Lift Up Your Hearts #348*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever wilt be. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and spring-time and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great

faithfulness, mercy, and love. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow – blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Lord, when our beliefs are exposed to be mere opinion or prejudice, give us the courage to question them and dig deeper into your word.

When our beliefs are challenged by questions we haven't considered, give us the patience and faith to search for your perspective.

When our circumstances cause us to doubt, help us to trust in your plans and your ability to carry us through.

And when depression may lead us toward despair, help us to hear your still, small voice, calling our hearts close to you, and giving us hope.

Amen.

Words of Assurance *Psalm 77:4-7,10-14*

"I was too troubled to speak. I thought about the former days, the years of long ago; I remembered my songs in the night. My heart meditated and my spirit asked:

"Will the Lord reject forever? Will he never show his favor again?"

Then I thought... I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds." Your ways, God, are holy... You are the God who performs miracles; with your mighty arm you redeemed your people."

Song of Entrusting: "Mighty to Save"

Lift Up Your Hearts #611

Everyone needs compassion, A love that's never failing; Let mercy fall on me. Everyone needs forgiveness, The kindness of a Savior, The hope of nations. Savior, He can move the mountains; My God is mighty to save, He is mighty to save. Forever Author of salvation, He rose and conquered the grave; Jesus conquered the grave. So take me as You find me, All my fears and failures; Fill my life again. I give my life to follow Everything I believe in. Now I surrender. Savior, He can move the mountains; My

God is mighty to save, He is mighty to save. Forever Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave; Jesus conquered the grave. Shine your
light and let the whole world see We're singing For the glory of the risen
King. Jesus! Shine your light and let the whole world see We're singing
For the glory of the risen King. Savior, He can move the mountains; My
God is mighty to save, He is mighty to save. Forever Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave; Jesus conquered the grave.

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:17-24, 1 Kings 19:1-18, Isaiah 61:1-3

Mark 9:17-24

¹⁷ A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." ¹⁹ "You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." ²⁰ So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. ²² "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." ²³ "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes." ²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

1 Kings 19:1-18

Elijah Flees to Horeb

¹⁹ Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." ³ Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no

better than my ancestors.”⁵ Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.”⁶ He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.⁷ The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.”⁸ So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.⁹ There he went into a cave and spent the night. The Lord Appears to Elijah And the word of the Lord came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?”¹⁰ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”¹¹ The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”¹⁴ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”¹⁵ The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram.¹⁶ Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.¹⁷ Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu.¹⁸ Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”

Isaiah 61:1-3

The Year of the Lord's Favor

⁶¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.
Message: Doubt, Faith and Certainty - The Natures of Doubt

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response: "Spirit of God Who Dwells Within My Heart"

Lift Up Your Hearts #618

Spirit of God, who dwells within my heart, wean it from sin, through all its pulses move. Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are, and make me love you as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies, no sudden rending of the veil of clay, no angel visitant, no opening skies; but take the dimness of my soul away.

Did you not bid us love you, God and King, love you with all our heart and strength and mind? I see the cross there teach my heart to cling. O let me seek you and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that you are always nigh; teach me the struggles of the soul to bear, to check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh; teach me the patience of unceasing prayer.

Teach me to love you as your angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame: the fullness of the heaven-descended Dove; my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Blessing

*Closing Song: "Now Thank We All Our God" vs 1, 3

Lift Up Your Hearts #543

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;

who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Jeff Kopaska

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Rex DeBruin, Andrew Friend, Maggie VanDyk

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

This week's special offering is for the **Sawyer Food Pantry**. As school is about to start again, we will be helping out our local community by buying those perishable items for the pantry each week.

Next week's special offering is for **Church Beyond Borders church** This is a cutting edge "hybrid" church with a combination of on-line worship in Korean and English, small groups, and 1-to-1 discipleship and pastoral care. The church ministers to 2nd-generation Korean Americans who have disconnected from their parents' Korean-speaking churches.

Reminder that the Ames Christian School started their lease agreement on August 1st. Please be understanding if you come to the church, as they will be using parts of it for the next 10 months. We welcome this opportunity to serve those wishing to have a Christian education for their children.

We are still trying to supply **meals for Rachel Iyare** and her family as they adjust to having to care for baby Laura.

NAMI will have a open house and silent auction on August 27th, from 5 to 7 pm. You can attend at 424 5th Street, Ames.

The Sign brick work is done, check it out. The sign will be coming from Sign Pro soon, so watch for it.

Midwest Basic Bible Camper would like to thank you for all your support. A great time was had by all who attended. From the free car wash to the amazing race. The week was spent learning “HIS”tory, from the prophets to the resurrection. Thirty plus kids learned, laughed, and came closer to God in a busy yet friendly setting. Many already wishing it could be at camp again. And plans for next year have started....so if you are going to be graduated from the 6th grade to graduated from 12th grade, keep the first week of August open.

The Student Welcome back will be on August 25th Tom Whitney will be cooking dogs and hamburgers for all to enjoy. Salads will also be provided, if you would like to bring a desert, please let the fellowship committee know by signing up on the sheet by the office. Hope to see you all there.

There is printout of Birthdays, Greeters, Congregational Prayer, Nursery, and Children’s message on the table outside the office. I will print this out at the beginning of each month.

The directory with the newest updates. Is on the table outside the office. Please review your changes if you made any. If you have changes or need to add info, please do it on this sheet. Thanks Pam

Small Groups, Committees, & Sunday School Updates

Sunday School Classes will resume this fall

Children and Worship – will resume this fall.

Breakfast Club meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the Lincoln Center Hy-Vee at 8:30 AM.

UFO will meet on Monday August 19th @ 6:30pm at Kelly Hobson's home. If you have any questions, please call/text Kelly.

Women’s Bible Study meets on Monday once a month.

Pub Theology will meet the Sunday August 25th at Mucky Duck at 7 pm.

Next Council meeting is September 11th

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resonate Global Mission

Moving to campus this fall? - We’d love to help you get connected to a campus ministry community! There are 32 CRC ministries on 40 university

and college campuses across North America, gathering students, faculty, and staff to grow together in faith as they engage God's world. To find out if there's a CRC ministry at your campus, please check

<https://www.resonateglobalmission.org/campus-ministry/partner-campus-ministries>. If there isn't a Christian Reformed ministry at your school, you can locate a nearby CRC here: crcna.org/church-finder. For more information about our ministries, or other info about how to grow in faith while you're on campus, please contact us at campusministry@crcna.org
ReFrame Ministries

Groundwork: God Makes All Things New - The fourth major theme of the Bible is that of consummation, the time when God will complete his redemptive plan and make all creation new. Join Groundwork as we study Revelation 21:1-5, Matthew 19:28, Romans 8:18-21, and Ephesians 2:19-22 to see a future where God's presence eradicates suffering and evil, and brings justice and eternal joy and to discuss what it means for us now. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thriving Essentials Overview - Online August 22 - Thriving Essentials is a training course for elders, deacons, church staff, and any volunteer ministry leader. This one-hour webinar will give you an overview of what the full course involves including discussions on four key concepts of Mission, Discipleship, Discernment, and Leadership. Sign up to attend this preview on August 22 (3PM EDT) and discern if the full course is right for your church: crcna.org/Essentials

Loan Fund

August is National Make-A-Will Month - You don't have to be wealthy to establish an estate plan. If you own a house, have any investments or special collections, you should have a plan. August is National "Make A Will" Month and a great annual reminder to set up a trust or gift a charity in your will. The CRC has resources to help. Learn more by visiting the CRC Heritage website at crcna.org/foundation

VOLUNTEERS

Congregational	Prayer: Tom Kuyper
Sound:	Tom Whitney
Nursery	Mindy and Alisabeth
Children's message:	Jeff Kopaska

Greeters: Sterenberg

Greeters

August 18 Sterenberg

August 25 t' Hoen

September 1 VanDyk

September 8 Verkade

September 15 Voss

September 22 Whitney

September 29 Yoder

October 6 Bakker

October 13 Bergman

October 20 De Bruin

October 27 Franje

Nursery

August 18 Mindy and Alisabeth

August 25 Megan and Kathlyn

September 1 Judy and Brianna

September 8 Lyndee and Kristy

September 15 Mary K and Cassie

September 22 Rachel and Pam N

September 29 Melody and Kenzie

October 6 Jessica and Sue F

October 13 Donna and Elizabeth
H

October 20 Elaine and Caraline

October 27 Mindy and Stacy

Children's Message

August 18 Jeff Kopaska

August 25 Deb Niehof

September 1 Stacey Hertz

September 8 Rex DeBruin

September 15 Laura Hufford

September 22 Lora Copley

September 29 Jeff Kopaska

October 6 Deb Niehof

October 13 Stacy Hertz

October 20 Rex De Bruin

October 27 Randy Raak

Congregational Prayer

August 18 Tom Kuyper

August 25 Tom Niehof

September 1 Randy Raak

September 8 Tom Kuyper

September 15 Randy Raak

September 22 Mark Voss

September 29 Rex DeBruin

October 6 Paul Kleinwolterink

October 13 Randy Raak

October 20 Jeff Kopaska

October 27 Tom Kuyper

Pastor Randy Raak: pastor@amestrinity.org or 928-699-9329

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

Elders: A-G = Tom Kuyper; H-K = Rex De Bruin; L-S = Joel Copley; T-Z
= Naomi Friend

Deacons: A-G = Joseph Yoder; H-K = Christopher 't Hoen; L-S = Tom Whitney; T-Z = Donna Bergman