

WORSHIP SERVICE
December 1, 2024
First Week Of Advent

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

*Call to Worship - from Psalm 27, of David

The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart, and wait upon the Lord.

*Opening Song: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" *LUYH #56*

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;

from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;

dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,

born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;

by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Opening Prayer

Song: "Imagine

Lift Up Your Hearts #72

Who hears? Who hears the voice of the hungry, the thirsty?

Who sees? Who sees the tears of the suffering ones?

Imagine a King who would come through the darkness and walk,
where I walk, full of greatness,

and call me to his side, just like a father and child.

Who knows? Who knows the hopes that lie hidden, forgotten?

Who comes? Who comes to lead all the children home?

Imagine a King who would come through the darkness and walk,
where I walk, full of greatness,
and call me to his side, just like a father and child.

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Advent candle lighting - our confession and assurance

Reader 1: Fire burns. It can destroy; but it also gives warmth and light. The coming of Christ will be both a day of judgment and a day of great promise.

Reader 2: Lighting a candle in the darkness helps us find our way. In darkness we can lose direction, not recognizing where we have been, or seeing where we are going. But a single light can point us forward to a radiant future.

All: “Stir up your might, and come to save us. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved” (Psalm 80:2b-3).

(The first candle is lit.)

Reader 1: Light one candle; see it glow brightly, so that all may know How God’s grace shows the way Turning our darkness into brightest day.

All: Dear God, let this light shine brightly as the days grow shorter, so that we will be ready for your face to shine upon us. In our Savior’s name we pray. Amen.

Song of Entrusting: “O Little Town Of Bethlehem” *Lift Up Your Hearts #88*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering
love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Children's Message
Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 1:13-23

¹³ Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."^[17] Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. ²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.^[b] ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Message: Bright Hope for Tomorrow: Anticipation

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

* Song of Response: "How Great Thou Art" *Lift Up Your Hearts* 553

vs 1&4, with the Christmas verses in place of verses 2&3
O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder Consider all the
worlds Thy Hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder Thy power throughout
the universe displayed
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee How great Thou
art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee How great Thou
art, how great Thou art
Angelic hosts proclaim the joyful tidings When thou did come
from heav'n in lowly birth
To manger bare, yet glory there abiding The Son of God, to dwell
with those on earth.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee How great Thou
art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee How great Thou
art, how great Thou art
Thy gift of love, beyond all understanding O'erwhelms my soul
and fills my heart with song
In thankful praise, for matchless grace abounding Revealed in
Christ, Thine own beloved Son.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee How great Thou
art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee How great Thou
art, how great Thou art
When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation And take me
home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow in humble adoration And then proclaim, my
God, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee How great Thou
art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee How great Thou
art, how great Thou art

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S COVENANT WITH US

The Lord's Supper

Communion song: "What Feast Of Love" *Lift Up Your Hearts* #96

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?

What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?

This, this is Christ the King, the bread come down from heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

What light of truth is offered here, What covenant from heaven?

What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?

This, this is Christ the King, the sun come down from heaven.

Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!

What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?

What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?

This, this is Christ the King, the sweetest wine of heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "Soon And Very Soon" *Lift Up Your Hearts #482*

Soon and very soon We are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon We are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon We are going to see the King.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We are going to see the King.

No more crying there, we are going to see the King.

No more crying there, we are going to see the King.

No more crying there, we are going to see the King.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We are going to see the King.

No more dying there, we are going to see the King.

No more dying there, we are going to see the King.

No more dying there, we are going to see the King.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We are going to see the King.

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Deb Niehof

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Elizabeth Hobson, Char Verkade, Mark Voss, Pam Voss

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Communion: Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for believers. If you are sorry for your sins and follow Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, you are invited to come to his table. Through this celebration, we remember that:

- a. The Lord's Supper is a thanksgiving to God.
- b. The Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ.
- c. The Lord's Supper is a participation in the body and the blood of Christ.
- d. The Lord's Supper signifies the work of the Spirit.
- e. The Lord's Supper seals the present and coming kingdom of God.

This 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. Church Beyond Borders is off to a good start and growing

Committee Chairs – endowment request forms have been sent out, please have them completed by the end of the year if possible.

Thanks

Hymn Sing: Join Andrew Friend and Elijah Goossen for an Advent hymn sing at Trinity on **December 1 at 5:00** pm! Bring ideas for hymns and songs and we can sing them and talk about them together. Please let us know ahead of time for songs not in the red *Lift Up Your Hearts* or green *Sing! A New Creation* hymnals so we can make sure everyone will have music.

Children's Christmas Program will be December 15th more information to come.

After the Christmas Program there will be a Soup Potluck in the fellowship hall. We will also be honoring those who will be graduating in December. Please see the sign up sheet on the table

by the office if you would like to bring a soup, bread, or a side. Dessert will be provided.

Bethesda Lutheran Church would like to invite you to Denver Bierman and the CJC Big Band. Free concert on December 3rd at 6:30pm. Denver is an energetic, Big Band leader (also the lead vocalist and music arranger) whose music praises the Lord and will have you singing and dancing along (yes, you can get up and dance in the aisle if the spirit moves you)! High energy, big band arrangements of Christmas songs you know and love will be included in this fantastic event. Again, there is NO ADMISSION charge, but a free will offering will be collected. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this amazing event!

Please think about our church family that can't get out and about, especially as the weather gets colder. If you or your family would like to create homemade cards or buy some to send. Let them know as the weather gets colder that our hearts are warm with thoughts of them. Send an email to office@amestrinity.org if you need addresses or check out the address list on the table outside the office.

There will be no Sunday School on Dec 1, due to Thanksgiving break, classes will resume on December 8th.

Randy will be on vacation December 26 -31

Pam will be on vacation November 29 – December 13

Reminder as we come upon the winter season, please be sure to wipe your shoes before you come into the church to help with keeping our church home clean.

There is printout of Birthdays, Greeters, Congregational Prayer, Nursery, and Children's message on the table outside the office. This has been updated into early 2025. 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.

Children and Worship - During our morning worship service, immediately following the children's message, ages three through third grade are invited to attend, meeting in room 3, located to the south of the sanctuary. Children experience worship in the same order as in the sanctuary: we approach God in reverence, hear His Word proclaimed, respond in praise, and go forth in peace and love to serve in God's name. Visitors are welcome to attend. Please pick up your child(ren) at the end of the service



Small Groups, Committees, & Sunday School Updates

Sunday School Classes 10:50 am, after church and fellowship time

Children and Worship – Happening after the children's message

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

UFO meets the 3rd Monday of the month

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

Pub Theology meets the last Sunday of the month, Dec 29th 7 pm
Mucky Duck.

Next Council meeting is December 11th

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: Beatitude 8: Following God (Even When It's Hard) - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.ki ReFrame Ministries Kids Corner: Advent Week 1: The Prophecy - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. During this Advent season, we can remember God's faithfulness and our hope in Jesus, our Lord. Think of the names of Jesus in Isaiah 9:6: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. How do these names bring us hope? How do they express God's faithfulness? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible Story Podcast The Story of the Prophets.

Groundwork: Jesus: Our Wonderful Counselor - The prophet Isaiah calls the coming Messiah a "Wonderful Counselor." Join Groundwork as we explore Isaiah 9:6, Proverbs 1:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:18-24, and Colossians 1:15-19 to discover what this title communicates to us about Jesus and its connection to the biblical

wisdom tradition. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Advent is a season of waiting. We wait expectantly for the birth of Christ, and we wait with hope for his coming again. Yet this season is often marked by hurried consumerism and overfilled calendars. How might you practice “waiting” in new ways this Advent season? Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrivedscorner.net. In Matthew 5:10, Jesus explained that his friends would be persecuted or punished for following him. Today, people will make fun of us, be mean, or even hurt us, and there are many countries in the world where being a Christian is tough. Jesus told us we would face problems because of our faith, but we can stay joyful because Jesus is king over everything. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible Story Podcast The Story of Paul’s Conversion.

Groundwork: Your Questions about Christmas - Did the Christmas story really happen? Wasn’t Christmas originally a pagan holiday? Why do some churches celebrate Advent? Join Groundwork as we study Luke 2:1-7, John 1:5, Isaiah 53:4-6, and Psalm 78:1-6 to let Scripture guide our discussion answering questions we’ve received about Christmas and Advent. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - This week try playing the alphabet game using the topic “Things I’m grateful for.” Prayers can take many forms, and naming things A-Z is a great way to remember that “every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” (James 1:17, NIV). Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

VOLUNTEERS

Congregational Prayer: Randy Raak
Sound: Bryan Van Belle
Nursery: Rachel and Elaine

Children's message: Deb Niehof

Greeters: Hufford

Greeters

December 1	Hufford	March 23	Sanders/Bassham
December 8	Friend	Mar 30	Schweingruber/Berns
December 15	Hallihan	April 6	Sterenber
December 22	Hertz	April 13	t' Hoen
December 29	Irvin	April 20	VanDyk
January 5	N Klemme	April 27	Verkade
January 12	Kleinwolterink	May 4	Whitney
January 19	Kopaska	May 11	Bakker
January 26	Kuyper	May 18	Bergman
February 2	Niehof	May 25	De Bruin
February 9	Niemeyer	June 1	Franje
February 16	Nikkel	June 8	Copley
February 23	Oftedal	June 15	Hobson
March 2	Oltman	June 22	Voss
March 9	Raak	June 29	Hubert
March 16	Saldana		

Nursery

December 1	Rachel and Elaine	February 2	Lyndee and Brianna
December 8	Sue F and Pam N	February 9	Rachel and Kristy
December 15	Jessica and Kenzie	February 16	Melody and Cassie
December 22	Donna and Melody	February 23	Jessica and Pam
December 29	Elaine and Elizabeth H	March 2	Donna and Kenzie
January 5	Mindy and Caraline	March 9	Elaine and Sue F
January 12	Megan and Stacy	March 16	Mindy and Elizabeth
January 19	Judy and Alisabeth	March 23	Megan and Caraline/Stacy
January 26	Mary K and Kathlyn	March 30	Judy and Brianna
		April 6	Mary and Alisabeth
		April 13	Lyndee and Kathlyn
		April 20	Rachel and Sue F
		April 27	Melody and Kristy

May 4 Jessica and Cassie
May 11 Donna and Pam
May 18 Elaine and Kenzie
May 25 Mindy and Sue F
June 1 Megan and Elizabeth

June 8 Judy and
Caraline/Stacy
June 15 Mary and Brianna
June 22 Lyndee and
Alisabeth
June 29 Rachel and Kathlyn

Children's Message

December 1 Deb Niehof
December 8 Rex De Bruin
December 15 Randy Raak
December 22 Donna and Sue F
December 29 Lora Copley
January 5 Laura Hufford
January 12 Jeff Kopaska
January 19 Deb Niehof
January 26 Rex De Bruin
February 2 Laura Hufford
February 9 Lora Copley
February 16 Jeff Kopaska
February 23 Stacy Hertz
March 2 Rex De Bruin
March 9 Randy Raak
March 16 Laura Hufford

March 23 Lora Copley
March 30 Jeff Kopaska
April 6 Stacy Hertz
April 13 Rex De Bruin
April 20 Randy Raak
April 27 Laura Hufford
May 4 Lora Copley
May 11 Jeff Kopaska
May 18 Stacy Hertz
May 25 Rex De Bruin
June 1 Randy Raak
June 8 Laura Hufford
June 15 Lora Copley
June 22 Jeff Kopaska
June 29 Stacy Hertz

Congregational Prayer

December 1 Randy Raak
December 8 Tom Kuyper
December 15 Randy Raak
December 22 Mark Voss
December 29 Rex De Bruin
January 5 Randy Raak
January 12 Jeff Kopaska
January 19 Tom Kuyper
January 26 Lora Copley
January 5 Randy Raak
January 12 Jeff Kopaska
January 19 Tom Kuyper

January 26 Lora Copley
February 2 Paul
Kleinwolterink
February 9 Randy Raak
February 16 Jeff Kopaska
February 23 Tom Niehof
March 2 Randy Raak
March 9 Lora Copley
March 16 Tom Kuyper
March 23 Randy Raak
March 30 Tom Niehof
April 6 Rex De Bruin

April 13	Randy Raak	May 25	Jeff Kopaska
April 20	Tom Niehof	June 1	Tom Niehof
April 27	Randy Raak	June 8	Randy Raak
May 4	Mark Voss	June 15	Lora Copley
May 11	Paul Kleinwolterink	June 22	Tom Kuyper
May 18	Randy Raak	June 29	Randy Raak

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

Lora Copley: director@isu-areopagus.org or 505-387-6861

(Areopagus Campus Ministry)

Laura Hufford Worship Coordinator: worship@amestrinity.org

Pam Whitney Office Administrator: office@amestrinity.org

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