

WORSHIP SERVICE
December 15, 2024
Third Week Of Advent

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship

God said through the prophet Jeremiah: "The days are coming when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people" (Jeremiah 33:14)

Jesus said "A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks." (John 4:23)

Jesus showed us a vision of what is to come, of a new heaven and new earth where He will dwell with his people and He will wipe every tear from our eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. To the thirsty He will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. (from Revelation 21 & 22)

We look forward to that time with hope and with joy. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

* Opening Song: "Angels, From the Realms of Glory"

Lift Up Your Hearts #81

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
Though an infant now we view him, he will share his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him; every knee shall then bow down:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King

Opening Prayer

Song: "How Great Our Joy" vs 1, 3, 4

Lift Up Your Hearts #90

While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright.
How great our joy! (Great our joy!)
Joy, joy, joy! (Joy, joy, joy!)
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! (Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!)
There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a child today.
How great our joy! (Great our joy!)
Joy, joy, joy! (Joy, joy, joy!)
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! (Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!)
This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill.
How great our joy! (Great our joy!)
Joy, joy, joy! (Joy, joy, joy!)
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! (Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!)

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Profession of Faith of Lauren Price
Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #1

Q. What is your only comfort
in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own,¹ but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Song: “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”

Lift Up Your Hearts #256

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
and together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us all one.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Advent Candle Lighting - our Confession and Assurance

Reader 1: The light glowing from our Advent wreath is burning brighter. This radiance warms our hearts and fills us with joy! The Lord has done great things for us.

Reader 2: "May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their harvest" (Psalm 126:5-6)

(The first three candles are lit)

Speaker 3: Light three candles, see them glow Brightly, so that all may know How three candles show the way Turning our darkness into brightest day.

All: Dear God, we carry many burdens and worry over many things. But you healed the sick, fed the hungry, and restored the hope of your people. Help us to hear your promise in this Advent season, that we too may receive the Spirit's gift of joy as we look toward the time when you will make all things new. Amen.

Song of Entrusting: "Of The Father's Love Begotten" vs 1, 4, 5

Lift Up Your Hearts #78

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega; He the source, the ending He,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore!

Let the heights of heaven adore Him, angel hosts, His praises sing,
pow'ers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to you, with God the Father and the Spirit, there shall be
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and the shout of jubilee:
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory
evermore and evermore! Amen

Children's Message
Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Revelation 22:1-5

1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light.

And they will reign for ever and ever.

Message: Bright Hope For Tomorrow - Happily Ever After

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

* Song of Response: "By The Sea Of Crystal" *Lift Up Your Hearts #489*

By the sea of crystal saints in glory stand,
myriads in number, drawn from every land.
Robed in white apparel, washed in Jesus' blood,
they now reign in heaven with the Lam of God.
Out of tribulation, death, and Satan's hand,
they have been translated at the Lord's command.
In their hands they're holding palms of victory.
Hark! The jubilant chorus shouts triumphantly:
"Unto God Almighty, sitting on the throne,
and the Lamb, victorious, be the praise alone."
God has wrought salvation; he did wondrous things.
Who shall not extol thee, holy King of kings!

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" *Lift Up Your Hearts #80*

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"
Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:

veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Laura Hufford

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Andrew Friend, Laura Hufford, Holly Raak

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The special offering this week is for Ames Ecumenical Housing. Through Keystone Apartments and Stonehaven Apartments here in Ames, Ames Ecumenical Housing provides housing for lower income older adults and those with mobility impairment.

Slides of Bethlehem: During the past year Tom Niehof has put up his slides of Biblical sites in Palestine, Greece and Turkey. Episodes 30 and 31 focus on Bethlehem, home of Ruth and Naomi, Jesse and David, and birthplace of Jesus. You can find them at <https://www.youtube.com/@travelswithdrtom>

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

From the Deacons, income for November was \$27,975. Our total income-to-date is 86.36% of our annual church budget. Expenses for November were \$44,872.49, this is higher, mostly due to increased Property and Liability insurance premiums unrelated to Ames Christian School. Special Offerings, World Renew Peter Fish \$1,934 and Helpers \$4,200. We are halfway December, and this is the time of year we ask that you prayerfully consider your year-end gift to the church.

It's that time of year, if you would like to give a gift to those who work for our church family, please place that in the collection with note/memo "For Church Staff".

Sunday school: There will be no Sunday school on Dec 15 (Christmas program instead), Dec 22, or Dec 29. Classes will resume on Jan 5.

There will be a **Christmas Eve Candle Light** service on December 24th at 6:30 pm.

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.

Worship with us at our **Blue Christmas Service on Saturday, December 21st at 7PM**, the longest night of the year. The holiday season is not always easy. Find a place to worship and pray over whatever you are experiencing with scripture, traditional carols, candle lighting, and words of hope.

The outreach committee is participating in the Angel Tree toy drive for The Salvation Army. For the toy drive you just need to bring an unwrapped toy from birth up to 12 years of age. The toy drive is thru Monday December 16. Gifts can be dropped in the box in the entryway of church. If you have any questions, contact Mark Voss

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.

Randy will be on vacation December 26 -31

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 Resume January 5th

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 January 8th

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: Advent Week 3: The Baby - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. In Luke 2:11-14, the long-awaited Messiah has come. The prophecy from the prophet Isaiah has happened. On that blessed night, the hope God promised so many years ago was born into the world. He came as a baby - not just any baby - he was the Son of God. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible Story Podcast The Journey of the Wise Men.

Groundwork: Jesus: Our Everlasting Father - Isaiah continued to reveal the nature of the Messiah when he called him the "Everlasting Father." Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 63:15-16, John 14:6-14, 1 John 1:1-4, and 1 John 3:1-3 to better understand how this revolutionary title reveals the nature of Jesus and discover the comfort and belonging offered to us in Jesus, our Everlasting Father. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - This coming week marks the winter solstice—the "longest night" of the year. For many, the Christmas season can be a particularly difficult time. How might God be calling you to minister to people who struggle? How might you remind them that the dark of night will gradually give way to the light of day? Brought to you by Thrive:

crcna.org/Thrive

World Renew

The Gift of Christmas - Next week, we celebrate the gift of Jesus, who left his heavenly home to offer us the hope of eternal life with him. Your gift for World Renew this season gives hope to people who live with poverty,

disaster, and injustice worldwide. Put families in need on your Christmas list this year by giving generously in the World Renew offering. Traveling over the holidays? You can give at worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-552-7972.

Calvin University

Visiting Grand Rapids? - The Prince Conference Center and Hotel offers guests a peaceful yet professional retreat. Whether you're looking for a wedding venue, convention space, or simply a quiet place to stay, our friendly staff and comfortable accommodations will have you coming back again and again. Come enjoy beautiful natural surroundings while being minutes from the shopping district of 28th Street, Frederik Meijer Gardens, and downtown Grand Rapids. calvin.edu/prince-conference-center

CRC Heritage Fund

Year-End Giving Reminder - Many of you will be giving a special year end gift to your church or favorite charity. If you plan to give from your IRA, remember those gifts need to be received and deposited by December 31 to count for 2024 taxes. Plan your giving ahead. To learn more about giving from your IRA or other ways to give to the CRC, please visit crcna.org/heritagefund

VOLUNTEERS

Congregational Prayer: Randy Raak
Sound: Rex De Bruin
Nursery: Jessica and Kenzie
Children's message: Laura Hufford
Greeters: Hallihan

Greeters

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| December 15 | Hallihan | February 23 | Oftedal |
| December 22 | Hertz | March 2 | Oltman |
| December 29 | Irvin | March 9 | Raak |
| January 5 | N Klemme | March 16 | Saldana |
| January 12 | Kleinwolterink | March 23 | Sanders/Bassham |
| January 19 | Kopaska | March 30 | Schweingruber/Berns |
| January 26 | Kuyper | April 6 | Sterenber |
| February 2 | Niehof | April 13 | t' Hoen |
| February 9 | Niemeyer | April 20 | VanDyk |
| February 16 | Nikkel | April 27 | Verkade |

Nursery

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|------------|--------------------|
| December 15 | Jessica and Kenzie | January 12 | Megan and Stacy |
| December 22 | Donna and Melody | January 19 | Judy and Alisabeth |
| December 29 | Elaine and Elizabeth | January 26 | Mary K and Kathlyn |
| H | | February 2 | Lyndee and Brianna |
| January 5 | Mindy and Caraline | February 9 | Rachel and Kristy |

February 16 Melody and Cassie
February 23 Jessica and Pam
March 2 Donna and Kenzie
March 9 Elaine and Sue F
March 16 Mindy and Elizabeth
March 23 Megan and
Caraline/Stacy
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 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

Congregational Prayer

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
April 20 Tom Niehof
April 27 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