

WORSHIP SERVICE
August 15, 2021
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

- * God's Greeting
- * We Greet One Another
- * Call to Worship: (Psalm 9:1–2)

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;

I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

I will be glad and exult in you;

I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

- * Opening Song: "Forever"

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King. His love endures forever.

For He is good, He is above all things. His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise.

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm. His love endures forever.

For the life that's been reborn. His love endures forever.

Sing praise, sing praise. Sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful. Forever God is strong. Forever God is with us. Forever. Forever.

From the rising to the setting sun. His love endures forever.

By the grace of God we will carry on. His love endures forever.

Sing praise, sing praise. Sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful. Forever God is strong. Forever God is with us. Forever and ever.

Forever God is faithful. Forever God is strong. Forever God is with us

Forever. Forever.

- * Opening Prayer

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

God's Will for Our Lives

"[God's Children] are like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

Prayers of Confession and Reconciliation

Lord, I confess that I am not always good soil. Weeds may smother your good work in me, I may forget to water my actions with the wisdom in your words. Sometimes, I find myself sharp and hard, unable to listen. Lord, amend my mind with your good words, with your nourishing ways, that I too may be fruitful in my work for your kingdom.

Song of Response: "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"

Sing, A New Creation #79

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your Word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Words of Assurance: (Philippians 1:3-6)

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Update on Jeff Maskovich and God's Mercy to Haiti

Blessed be the Lord our God, who does wondrous things.

*For he will deliver the needy who cry out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.*

*He will take pity on the weak and the needy
and save the needy from death.*

*He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in his sight.*

**Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does marvelous deeds. Amen!** (Psalm 72: 8,13,14,18)

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:1-20

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. ² He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ³ "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

⁹ Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

¹⁰ When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹² so that, "they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!"

¹³ Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? ¹⁴ The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵ Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. ¹⁶ Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²⁰ Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

Message: "Stories with Intent: Hearing Is Believing"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

- * Song of Response: "Ancient Words"

Lift Up Your Hearts #762

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart, O let the ancient words impart.
Words of life, words of hope, Give us strength help us cope.
In this world where'er we roam. Ancient words will guide us home.

Ancient words ever true. Changing me changing you.
We have come with open hearts. O let the ancient words impart.

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age
Came to us through sacrifice. O heed the faithful words of Christ.
Holy words long preserved, for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart. O let the ancient words impart.

Ancient words ever true. Changing me changing you.
We have come with open hearts. O let the ancient words impart.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

- * Blessing

- * Closing Song: "Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak" (vs 1,3,4) *Lift Up Your Hearts #754*

Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.
As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflows
in kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

- * Postlude

- * Please Stand If You Are Able

Children's Message: Rex DeBruin

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Andrew & Naomi Friend

THIS WEEK

Special Offering

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.

Congregational Input to Council

Council will host two small group meetings on **August 15th and 29th** following the morning service. At their council retreat, they came up with a list of internal strengths and weaknesses of the church as well as the external opportunities and challenges. They want to receive congregational input on these lists. Please attend one of these meetings in order to help provide as much feedback as possible to Council.

Family Pictures

We'd like to update the family picture bulletin board and create a secure online photo directory. If you have your own picture that you want to use, please send it to Christina. Otherwise, she can take your picture following the service this Sunday and before the Congregational small group meeting.

Sunday Evening Book Club

This Sunday is the last book discussion meeting of J.I. Packer's book *Knowing God* at **6:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome Luncheon

Everyone is invited to the Annual Welcome Luncheon on **August 22** following the morning service. All food will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. Join us for food and fellowship!

Outreach Activity - Outreach Breakfast

Game Plan for Life Outreach Breakfast will be held on **Wednesday, August 25** from 6:30 AM - 8:05 AM, at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames. The keynote speaker is Joe Gibbs, the former head coach of the Washington Redskins and three time Super Bowl champions. He is currently the owner of Joe Gibbs Racing, which operates four NASCAR Sprint cup series teams and three NASCAR Nationwide series teams. Coach Gibbs will share his testimony and lead people back to the Bible for their Game Plan for Life. The audience is generally men over the age of 25, although women are welcome to attend. If interested, talk to Pastor Randy, Rob Hubert or Mark Voss.

Outreach Activity - Meals for the Heartland

We are organizing a team from Trinity to go to the Meals from the Heartland packaging center in West Des Moines on **Saturday, September 4**, from **9:30 until 11:30**, to participate in the 14th annual hunger event. This year they have a goal of packaging 2 million meals during the one week event. This is a wonderful intergenerational activity for our church and participants in the past have had a wonderful time!!! If you are interested please contact Mark Voss or Rob Hubert.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Sunday School Facilitators

The Ed. Committee is looking for Adult Sunday School Facilitators. The materials will come from a RightNow Media study and the facilitator will guide the group through the discussion. Most of the studies are 4-6 weeks long and the facilitator can choose a study that interests them. Please talk to Pastor Randy or Rachel DeBruin if you are interested.

Roots Leader Needed

The Ed. Committee is looking for someone to lead Roots this year. Please talk to Pastor Randy or Rachel DeBruin if you are interested.

Christina's Maternity Leave

Christina is working through 8/13. After that, Mae Whitney will fill in as bulletin editor. Please communicate with Mae about any announcements you may have. Christina will continue her role as Treasurer. If you have any reimbursements, please put the receipt in the Treasurer bin in the cabinet in the office. For both bulletin and financial matters, please use the office@amestrinity.com.

Church Fantasy Football League

Are you ready for some (fantasy) football?!? It's NFL training camp time - so it must be time to "kick-off" the fantasy football season! We had such a good turn-out for the March Madness fantasy bracket challenge that we'll have some fun with this. If you're a football fan of any kind and interested in joining the *inaugural season* of TCRC Fantasy Football League, just click/copy this link:

https://football.fantasysports.yahoo.com/f1/979220/invitation?key=5ddddd1d3d5e0cb28&soc_trk=lnk&ikey=09f3bbd9643831b7 (or send an email to Pastor Randy (rcraak@gmail.com) and he'll hook you up). Once we have a full league, we'll find a night that works for a draft party (combination in-person, on-line or autodraft) to pick the teams. If you've never played before, join us! It's very easy to learn, and we'll have cheat sheets with rankings of the best players by position for the draft, or you can just have your team auto-drafted.

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Service: Jesus is our model for true servanthood. What characteristics and practices of Jesus could each of us emulate to help us develop a servant heart?

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. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

WELCOMING THE STRANGER - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. What does welcoming someone look like? It doesn't have to be hard. Just say hello! Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

World Renew

Share God's hope with displaced families in Haiti - Haiti has been devastated by a series of natural disasters that crippled its economy. In early June 2021, the economic instability coupled with political unrest sparked gang violence in the neighborhoods of Martissant and Fontamar; houses have been burned, innocent bystanders injured and killed, and thousands have been displaced. Many of the displaced have sought refuge in overcrowded shelters with no sanitation facilities; amongst them the disabled and infirm. People are in dire need of food. World Renew is responding to this crisis and has already provided a one-month supply of food items, water, sanitary pads and COVID-prevention kits to 750 displaced individuals. Will you help provide food to 315 more vulnerable people? The goal is to provide 2 hot meals a day per person for 35 days until these families can be resettled. Through our prayers and gifts we can extend God's hope to those displaced by the violence. To donate visit: worldrenew.net/haiti

Raise Up Global Ministries

Discover Revelation Now Available - Discover Revelation from Discover Your Bible is available today for your small group! This excellent, in-depth study leads you to dig deeper into the initial chapters of Revelation where Jesus addresses the seven churches. The study questions are designed for use with visitors and seasoned believers. Purchasable now in digital format from the Global Coffee Break website. Print format is available later this month. Three digital lessons are accessible for free as you wait.

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

Elders: A-G = Tom Kuyper, H-K = Melody Franje, L-S = Mark Voss, T-Z = Paul Kleinwolterink

Deacons: A-G = Tina VanDyk, H - K = Andrew Friend, L-S = Judy Oltman, T-Z = Donna Bergman