

WORSHIP SERVICE
October 31, 2021
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

- * God's Greeting:
- * We Greet One Another
- * Call to Worship

*There is one overarching commandment to live by, one debt we owe:
To love God above all, and to love one another as Christ has loved us.
Lord Jesus, be with us when it is easy, and with us when love is trying.
Give us a hand when love makes demands.*

Amen

- * Opening Song: "This the Day"

This is the day, this is the day. That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice, we will rejoice, And be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day, this is the day. That the Lord has made.

- * Opening Prayer

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Lord, you said, "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."

Forgive us our barren lives, Lord.

Lord, you said, "You must testify, for you have been with me."

We confess, Lord, that we have been too often silent.

Lord, you said, "Love each other as I have loved you."

**In this and in so many other ways, we confess our failures
and shortcomings. Amen.**

God's Assurance

*Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. In Christ we have redemption through his
blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.*

Thanks be to God!

Song of Response: "You Are My King (Amazing Love)"

Lift Up Your Hearts #360

I'm forgiven because you were forsaken. I'm accepted; you were condemned.

I'm alive and well, your Spirit is within me, because you died and rose again (x2)

Amazing love, how can it be that you, my King, would die for me?

Amazing love, I know it's true; it's my joy to honor you (x2)

In all I do, I honor You. You are my king. You are my king. Jesus, You are my King. Jesus You are my King.

I'm forgiven because you were forsaken. I'm accepted; you were condemned.

I'm alive and well, your Spirit is within me, because you died and rose again (x2)

Amazing love, how can it be that you, my King, would die for me?

Amazing love, I know it's true; it's my joy to honor you (x2)

In all I do I honor you

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 13

And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

13 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Message: "Jesus People: The Most Excellent Way"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

* Song of Response: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Lift Up Your Hearts #257 (vs 1,2,3,6)

Bless be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin, we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "My Friends, May You Grow in Grace"

Lift Up Your Hearts #938

My friends, may you grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

My friends, may you grow in grace, and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.

To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.

* Postlude

* Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Mary Saucedo

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musician: Andrew Friend

THIS WEEK

Adult Sunday School Class will meet by the fireplace to continue our study of the Book of Ruth. Tom Niehof will lead us in the study of Ruth chapter three.

Sunday Evening Bible Study will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to continue our study of Psalms. Deb Niehof will lead us in the discussion of Psalm 103. New members are welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Communion - We look forward to celebrating the Lord's Supper next Sunday morning. All who are trusting in Christ and have made a public stand for him are encouraged to join.

Church Strategic Planning Discussions - Attached to this email are the ranked results of the internal strengths/weaknesses and external opportunities/challenges. On **November 7**, there will be Sunday School for Pre-K through middle school. The high school and adult classes will discuss these results and next steps in lieu of Sunday School.

Seminar About Local Nonprofits Serving Refugees Arriving in IA - The church uses the Community Foundation of Greater Iowa to manage our Endowment Fund. On **November 16th at 11:00 a.m.**, they will have a zoom seminar called: "**DonorConnect: Finding a Home in the Heartland**", where people can hear from local nonprofit organizations that are working to ensure refugees arriving in Iowa have the support they need to successfully acclimate. Catholic Charities of Des Moines, Lutheran Services of Iowa, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Refugee Alliance of Central Iowa, and the Bureau of Refugee Services will highlight the challenges their organizations face as they seek to make Iowa a welcoming home for populations facing unique and systemic obstacles on their path to resettlement. Together, we will learn how we can support their work collectively and individually and make their experience better together. If you are interested in learning more, you can register for this event www.desmoinesfoundation.org/events.

SMALL GROUPS

New Women's Bible Study - A monthly women's Bible study will begin **Monday, November 1 at 9:30 a.m.** We will be discussing different Faith practices each month. In November, "gratitude" will be the topic. What acts of gratitude do you do daily? Are you quicker to give God thanks for big things or little things? How do you give Him gratitude in difficult times? The study will be held at Melody Franje's home. Any questions you may contact her at 233-0687.

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

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peter Fish banks and Devotionals - World Hunger 2021: Hunger for Good - Over 1 billion people around the world are hungry. In two weeks, we'll be observing World Hunger Sunday. God promises in Scripture to fill the hungry with good things and invites us to join in that holy work. Pick up your World Hunger Campaign devotionals today and spend some thinking about what it means to hunger for good in our lives, our communities, and around the world. If you have children in your household, make sure to go online and download some special activities just for them at worldrenew.net/WorldHungerChurches

ReFrame Ministries

Praise Prayers - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. What are some words that you can use to describe God? When we tell God how wonderful we think he is, it helps us remember who he is and everything he has done for us. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

GROUNDWORK: JONAH: RUNNING AWAY FROM GOD - What happens when we try to run away from God? Join Groundwork as we begin our study of Jonah. Together we'll discuss the resonance of Jonah 1 for our lives today and find assurance in God's persistent and relentless love for his people. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

At-home Faith Practice Reflection tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Gratitude: Today is “Reformation Sunday.” Read “Ten Ways My Reformed Identity Shapes My Life” (tinyurl.com/10WaysReformed) and ponder or discuss the following questions. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject) If you identify with the Reformed tradition, what difference does holding this worldview make in your daily life? What parts of the Reformed worldview especially spark gratitude in you? How might you more fully experience God's abundant grace so that you can live out of gratitude?

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