

Worship Service
December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

- * God's Greeting
- * We Greet One Another
- * Call to Worship (Inspired by 2 Samuel 23:1-5)

Lord, we are here to worship you today!

You are the true king.

Your rule is like the light of morning at sunrise

on a cloudless morning,

like the brightness after rain

that brings grass from the earth.'

We love you!

We praise you.

- * Opening Song: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" *Lift Up Your Hearts #821*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
set your minds on things eternal, for with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descended, came our full homage to command.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, once upon the earth he stood;
Lord of lords, we now perceive him in the body and the blood.
He had given to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Stream before him on the way,
as the Light of light, descending from the realms of endless day,
comes, the powers of hell to vanquish clears the gloom of hell away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to his presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord most high!"

- * Opening Prayer

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Reader 1: When Israel wanted a king for its leader, the Lord directed the prophet Samuel to the house of Jesse to anoint a son, saying, "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

Reader 2: When David had ruled as king and followed God faithfully in years of trials and successes, the Lord said to him, "I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom.... Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever." (2 Samuel 7:12,16)

Reader 1: In Israel's dark times, centuries later, the prophet Isaiah prophesied that the people would see a great light: "A shoot will come from the stump of Jesse. The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him - the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge, and the fear of the Lord. With righteousness, justice and faithfulness he will judge the peoples, and the nations will rally to him." (Isaiah 11:1-10)

Reader 2: Much later still, the angel Gabriel appeared to a young man and a young woman, both from the line of David, and said, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:30-33)

Reader 1: Today we light the candle of love, remembering God's faithful love through many generations and thousands of years to his people, fulfilled in his Son Jesus.

Song of Response: "Angels, From the Realms of Glory" (Vs. 1-3, 6)

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.

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Scripture: 2 Samuel 23:1-5

These are the last words of David:

"The inspired utterance of David son of Jesse,
the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High,
the man anointed by the God of Jacob,
the hero of Israel's songs:

² "The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me;
his word was on my tongue.

³ The God of Israel spoke,
the Rock of Israel said to me:

'When one rules over people in righteousness,
when he rules in the fear of God,

⁴ he is like the light of morning at sunrise
on a cloudless morning,
like the brightness after rain
that brings grass from the earth.'

⁵ "If my house were not right with God,
surely he would not have made with me an everlasting covenant,
arranged and secured in every part;
surely he would not bring to fruition my salvation
and grant me my every desire.

Message: "Pointing to Christ: David - A King After God's Heart"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

- * Song of Response: "Once in Royal David's City, When the King Was in Distress" (Vs. 1, 3, 5)

Once in royal David's city when the king was in distress,
God redeemed his shepherd servant through a covenant to bless:
"I have made this realm your home- yours, and children yet to come."

Mighty Lord, by prophets promised, come and reign in righteousness;
let your people shout salvation, justice show, and love confess.
May our songs with joy proclaim boundless blessings in your name.

Faithful to your ancient promise, Lord of present, future, past;
flesh and Spirit dwell among us, face to face with God at last!
Born to show each child the way to your resurrection day.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

- * Blessing

- * Closing Song: "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" *Lift Up Your Hearts #944*

God be with you till we meet again,
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you,
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again,
'Neath His wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you,
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again,
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put His arms unfailing round you,
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again,
Keep love's banner floating over you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you,
God be with you till we meet again.

- * Postlude

- * Please stand if you are able

Children's Message: Stacy Hertz

Message: Pastor Randy Raak

Musicians: Tara Tilstra and Naomi Friend

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Offering - This week's special offering is for the TCRC Building Fund.

Christmas Eve Service - The Candlelight Christmas Eve service will be on the 24th at 6:30 PM.

REVISION to the Gingerbread Building Fun! - The gingerbread supplies are available in the Fellowship Hall. After the service, we invite you to stay at church to work on these houses; otherwise, you can take supplies home. If you want to have your house on display, please bring entries back to the church on 1/2/2022 or 1/9/2022. You may also post a picture by January 9th on our private church Facebook page (Trinity CRC Attenders) or you may email pictures to: office@amestrinity.org to be posted. No actual prizes, besides bragging rights, will be awarded :)

From the Deacons (Offering for tornado relief)- The deacons have decided to collect money for the devastating tornadoes that hit the southern US on 12/11. If you want to give towards this cause, you may put a check in the offering with the note on the **memo line "Storm Response"**. We will then send this money to World Renew, who is working with partners and other disaster organizations in the area. Please pray for those who have lost loved ones and possessions.

Endowment Requests

The Endowment Committee anticipates that there will be funds available for distribution in the coming year. Per the Endowment Policy, these requests are limited to the following:

- Special expenses associated with initiating new ministries or expanding existing ministries.
- Investments in leadership development.
- Purchase of new equipment designed to enhance the ministries of the Church.
- Projects necessary to improve or preserve the building and grounds of the Church.
- Support participation by congregants in events that will enhance the vitality of the Church. (e.g., the annual Day of Encouragement at Dordt College, the annual Symposium on Worship at Calvin College, mission trips, etc.)

Requests for these funds can be made by individuals or committees, but all requests shall be submitted to the Endowment Committee either through Council or a Committee for consideration. **Requests shall preferably be made by December 31, 2021**, but no later than January 31, 2022. Fund Request forms can be found on the bulletin table, or you may contact Christina Helfers for a copy.

Save the Date- The progress of the strategic planning process was reviewed at December's Council meeting. A summary will be presented at the congregational meeting in January. A draft of the 2022 budget was discussed. **The annual TCRC congregational business meeting is planned for Thursday, January 27.**

SMALL GROUPS & SUNDAY SCHOOL

Breakfast Club will NOT meet on December 22nd.

Sunday School - All Sunday School Classes are on break until **January 9th**. Please stick around to enjoy this extended fellowship time.

Sunday Evening Bible Study - The Sunday Evening Bible Study has entered its winter break. We will meet again on **January 30** to choose a topic for the spring season. Thanks to all who participated this fall.

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ReFrame Ministries

Advent: A Time of Love - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Angels are cool. Did you ever wonder about angels? As you read the Christmas story, listen to the angels. Each time an angel speaks, notice that the angel describes Jesus and tells how God will change the world. Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content, including The Gifts of Kindness Advent Calendar and the KC parent blog too.

Groundwork: Christmas Hope: Bathsheba - Our stories are filled with mistakes, missteps, and moments when our best simply is not enough. Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 1:5-7 and 2 Samuel 11:1-12:25 to take an honest look at our brokenness, see the truth of God's abundant forgiveness, and celebrate Jesus' coming at Christmas, through the story of Bathsheba. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Faith Formation Ministries

Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Hospitality: Read Luke 14:12-14 and ponder or discuss the following questions. In this story, Jesus encourages us to offer hospitality to people who cannot repay us. In your unique context, who might that be? How might you offer food, shelter, and protection to them?

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