

WORSHIP SERVICE
December 26, 2021
First Sunday of Christmas

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

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

O Emmanuel

O Wisdom from on high

O Lord of might,

O branch of Jesse's stem,

O key of David

O bright and morning star,

O King of nations,

We rejoice and are glad on this bright morning, for truly you have come, full of grace and truth.

Come into our hearts again. Show us the path of knowledge. Comfort us in our mourning.

Save us from our sin. Open wide our way to heaven. Turn our darkness into light.

End our sad divisions and be our King of Peace, so that every creature in heaven and on earth will join in a chorus of praise, and shout with joy to you, our Lord. Amen.

- * Opening 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"

- * Opening Prayer

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

O God we need Christ to renew our commitment.

We confess that our lack of faith has made us fearful.

May your angels sing again to us of peace for body and soul.

We acknowledge that we have foolishly let our desires lead us astray.

May your star once more set our course firmly in your direction.

We have turned our faith into a meaningless ritual.

May your manger call us again to expressions of love and devotion.

We have carefully kept our gifts and have not freely given them and our hearts to you.

Forgive us, generous God, for the casual way we treat your gift of love.

Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

Song of Response: "Meekness and Majesty"

Lift Up Your Hearts #157

Meekness and majesty, manhood and Deity
in perfect harmony, the Man who is God.

Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility, and washes our feet.

Oh, what a mystery meekness and majesty;
bow down and worship, for this is your God!

Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence,
yet learns obedience to death on a cross,
suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice,
and, as they crucify, prays, "Father forgive."

Oh, what a mystery meekness and majesty;
bow down and worship, for this is your God!

Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,
Love indestructible in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,
lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne.

Oh, what a mystery meekness and majesty;
bow down and worship, for this is your God!

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Message: "How Great Our Joy"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

- * Song of Response: "How Great Our Joy"

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!)

There shall the child lie in a stall,
this child who shall redeem us all.

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 DEPART TO SERVE

- * Blessing

- * Closing Song: "Joy to the World"

Lift Up Your Hearts #92

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

- * Postlude

- * Please stand if you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communion - Next week, January 2nd, we will have the opportunity to celebrate the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is the family table at which we eat together and are nourished with Christ's sacrifice for us. Here (as in Baptism) we celebrate who we are - children of God – and are reminded of God's promises to be our God, to care for us, love us, and be faithful to us. All who are baptized into Christ and have made a public stand for him are welcome to the Lord's Table.

REVISION to the Gingerbread Building Fun! - There are gingerbread supplies available in the Fellowship Hall to take 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.

From the Deacons - 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.

Tax Reminder - For a contribution to be considered a 2021 donation, it needs to be: 1) in a Sunday offering plate before December 31; 2) left in the church office the last week of December; or 3) mailed to the church such that the postmark is in 2021.

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.

SMALL GROUPS & SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

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

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.

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.

Christmas: Jesus Has Changed Everything! - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Advent is about waiting for the Messiah to come. Do you ever wonder if Jesus eagerly awaited his appointed time to arrive? Did our rescuer see the hurt in the world and long to save us? 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: Mary and Christ's Birth - Discover a God and a Savior who does not move away from our sin and pain, but draws close and redefines righteousness. Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 1:15-25, Galatians 4:4-7, and Ephesians 3:17b-19 to study the true wonder of Christmas and find comfort in God's grace and great love through Mary's story. 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 can not repay us. In your unique context, who might that be? How might you offer food, shelter, and protection to them? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 29 Mark Irvin

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