

WORSHIP SERVICE
January 9, 2022
First Sunday of Epiphany

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

- * God's Greeting
- * We Greet One Another
- * Call to Worship: (Based on Matthew 2:1-12, Isaiah 60:1-6)

Light! Light, light and more light!
Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of God has risen upon you.

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem,
wise men came from the East, saying:
Where is he who is born king of the Jews?

For we have seen his star in the East,
and have come to worship him.

- * Opening Song: "Lord of the Universe"

Lord of the universe, hope of the world, Lord of the limitless reaches of space,
here on this planet you put on our flesh, vastness confined in the womb of a maid;
born in our likeness you ransomed our race:

Refrain:

Savior, we worship you, praise and adore; help us to honor you more and yet more,
help us to honor you more and yet more!

Lord of the universe, hope of the world, Lord of the infinite eons of time,
you came among us, you lived our brief years, tasted our griefs, our aloneness, our fears,
conquered our death, made eternity ours: **Refrain**

Lord of the universe, hope of the world, send out your light to the ends of the earth.
May we who know you obey your command, go with the grace of your gospel to all,
bringing salvation and freedom and joy: **Refrain**

Lord of the universe, hope of the world, how your creation cries out for release!
looks for you, longs for you, watches and waits, prays for your kingdom of justice and peace!
Maker, Redeemer, triumphant One, come! **Refrain**

- * Opening Prayer

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

God, we confess our temptation to let our hearts grow cold and dark
to match the weather, rather than face our transgressions.

In the cold, dim winter, Your light is hard to see.

We long to hear Your message to unburden our hearts.

Lord, we repent. We pray for the light of Christ in our lives.

Words of Assurance (Inspired by Psalm 139:11-12, Isaiah 60:1)

Hear the good news of the psalmist's proclamation:
If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,

*And the light around me will be night,"
Even the darkness is not dark to God,
and the night is as bright as the day.
The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us
HAS come to us in Jesus Christ
who binds up the brokenhearted,
heals all our infirmities,
and relieves our burden of sin.
So arise, shine; for your light has come,
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Thanks be to God!*

Song of Response: "Have No Fear, Little Flock"

Have no fear, little flock, have no fear, little flock,
for the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom;
have no fear, little flock!

Have good cheer, little flock, have good cheer, little flock,
for the Father will keep you in his love forever;
have good cheer, little flock!

Thankful hearts raise to God, thankful hearts raise to God,
for he stays close beside you, in all things works with you;
thankful hearts raise to God!

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 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: "Without Love Redefined"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

* Song of Response: "Lord Make Us Servants"

Lift Up Our Hearts #904

Lord, make us servants of your peace: where there is hate, may we sow love;
where there is hurt, may we forgive; where there is strife, may we make one.

Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
where all is night, may we sow light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.

Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek to be consoled, but to console,
nor look to understanding hearts, but look for hearts to understand.

May we not look for love's return but seek to love unselfishly,
for in our giving we receive, and in forgiving are forgiven.

Dying, we live, and are reborn through death's dark night to endless day;
Lord, make us servants of your peace to wake at last in heaven's light.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "As with Gladness Men of Old" (Vs. 1,4,5) *Lift Up Our Hearts* #105

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore your splendor see.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
and, when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed lives at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.

In that glorious city bright none shall need created light;
you its Light, its Joy, its Crown, you its Sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

* Postlude

Children's Message: Rex DeBruin

Message: Rev. Tyler Helfers

Musician: Andrew Friend

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communion - Tomorrow we celebrate the Lord's Supper. All who are baptized into Christ and have made a public stand for him are welcome to the Lord's Table, to receive the nourishment and refreshment of the bread and cup of the Lord "as sure signs" in remembrance of Christ's body and blood poured out for us in his once-for-all sacrifice on the cross.

Council will meet on **Wednesday, January 12th.**

Open Job Positions - The Church is looking to fill the following 3 positions- Office Coordinator and Finance Clerk and a new position of a Worship Coordinator. Depending on the applicant's skill set, we are looking for 1-3 people. Job descriptions are attached to this email. If you are interested, please send a cover letter and resume to Christina or Pastor Randy. You may also share this information with others who may be interested.

Annual Congregational Meeting - Everyone is encouraged to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting on **January 27, 2022 at 7:00 PM.** Committees are asked to submit a written report and present it at the meeting. Reports are to be emailed to Christina Helfers at office@amestrinity.org by **January 20th.**

Endowment Requests - Please submit requests to Christina by **January 31, 2022.**

SMALL GROUPS & SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

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.

UFOs will meet on **Tuesday, January 11th** at **7:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall.

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ReFrame Ministries

Show the World - Check out the new kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Have you ever grumbled? Say the word "grumble" a couple of times. Most likely, it will make your eyebrows crease and your mouth turn to a frown. In Philippians 2, Paul wrote to a church telling them to do everything without grumbling or arguing. How do we do that? Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

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.

Groundwork: Life and Reconciliation in Christ - Injustice and sin are rampant in humanity. But the Apostle Paul seeks to energize our faith when everything around us says we should be discouraged. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Ephesians 2 to hear Paul's assurance that, in Jesus Christ, God's grace is abundant and we find justice, reconciliation, and belonging in God's family. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Faith Formation Ministries

Faith Practices Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Engaging Scripture: Read Deuteronomy 11:18-20 and ponder or discuss the following questions. This passage envisions a community that is shaped and guided by God's Word—one in which God's people keep God's Word continually in front of themselves and pass it on to others. How do the Christian communities you are a part of (such as family, friends, church, other groups) live out God's commands in this passage?

Calvin University

January Series 2022 - Coming this January for the 35th year, Calvin University presents the January Series 2022 – the award winning free liberal arts education delivered in 15 weekly, lunchtime lectures. This year the series begins on January 10 and continues weekdays through January 28 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Viewing options include attending the live presentations on Calvin's campus, attending simulcast presentations at over 50 remote sites across the continent, or watching digitally on demand each day until midnight on your own device. For all the details visit www.calvin.edu/january

Advance Your Career with a Graduate MBA Certificate - Are you looking to gain skills and knowledge in 2022 to advance your career? Are you looking to position yourself for professional success? Are you considering a full MBA yet not sure if you have the time? Explore Calvin University's MBA Certificates designed just for you. Earn a graduate certificate completely online and on your schedule. Learn more at online.calvin.edu

CRC Communications

Launch of Thriving Essentials - Thriving Essentials is a new course for elders, deacons, church staff, and any volunteer ministry leader. These four, one-hour sessions are offered on Zoom and cover key ideas about mission, discipleship, discernment, and leadership. New groups start every month. Learn more and register now at crcna.org/Thrive

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