

WORSHIP SERVICE
November 27, 2022
First Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship

The Lord has done great things for us- Psalm 126:3

And we are filled with hope!

Our God has turned our distress into singing,

Our darkness into dawn.

This is because of the King-- who has come and is coming again!

Come, Lord Jesus. Come.

* Opening Songs: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" *Lift Up Your Hearts #56*

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne

"My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"
My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and [righteousness](#);

Lift Up Your Hearts #772

I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.
When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.
His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.
When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

*Lighting of the Advent Candles

Today, on this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope. What a wonder and a gift this is - the hope we have in Christ. Our hope is built on nothing less than Him. Because of his incarnation and the promise of his return, we have "hope as an anchor for our soul, firm and secure." Heb 6:19

"Many, O Lord, are the wonders you have done for us." Ps 40:5 Truly our hope is in you.

Amen. "Those who hope in the Lord will not be disappointed." Is 49:23 The best is yet to come.

Song of Response: "He Came Down" vs 1
He came down that we may have hope,
He came down that we may have hope,
He came down that we may have hope,
Hallelujah forever more.

Sing! A New Creation #92

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Hope of all people, come to us this season. We are surrounded by darkness and distress. Darkness of pain done to us. Darkness of pain we've done to others. Distress of a broken world. Distress of fear, guilt and loneliness. We confess our despair. Forgive us, O Lord, for not looking to you. Lift up our heads to see the dawn. May the Morning Star, Jesus Christ, rise again in our hearts.

Assurance of Pardon

"Arise, shine, for your light has come. Darkness covers the earth and thick darkness over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you." Isaiah 60:1-2
Receive the light: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! "The Lord will be our everlasting light, and our days of sorrow will end." Isaiah 60:20 Amen.

Song of Entrusting: "O Come O Come Emmanuel" vs 1, 5, 6, 7

Lift Up Your Hearts #61

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.
O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.
O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night

and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, desire of nations, bind

all peoples in one heart and mind.

Bid all our sad divisions cease

and be thyself our King of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to you, O Israel.

Children's Message-Advent Sketch: *The Wonder of His Hope*

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 8:18 - 9:7 (p:638); Revelation 21:1-5 (p:1151)

Isaiah 8:19 – 9:7 ¹⁹ When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰ Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. ²¹ Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. ²² Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.

9 ¹ Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the greatness

of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Revelations 21:1-5 ¹Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth,"^[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death'^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

⁵He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

⁶He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Message: The Wonder of Christmas - Hope

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

* Song of Response: "Imagine"

Lift Up Your Hearts #72

Who hears? Who hears the voice of the hungry, the thirsty?

Who sees? Who sees the tears of the suffering ones?

Imagine a King who would come through the darkness and walk,
where I walk, full of greatness,
and call me to his side, just like a father and child.

Who knows? Who knows the hopes that lie hidden, forgotten?

Who comes? Who comes to lead all the children home?

Imagine a King who would come through the darkness and walk,
where I walk, full of greatness,
and call me to his side, just like a father and child.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "Go, My Children, With My Blessing"

Lift Up Your Hearts #946

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing; you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you; here his tender comfort stilled you.

Go my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Candlelighters: Tom and Mary Kuyper

Advent Sketch & Children's Message: Jeff Kopaska

Congregational Prayer: Randy Raak

Message: Rev Randy Raak

Musicians: Elijah Hufford, Laura Hufford, Breanna Sternberg, Nate VanDyk, Pam Voss

Today's Activities

9:30 a.m. Morning Worship

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thank you to all who helped make our church family Thanksgiving Meal such a blessing to two dozen international student friends. Thank you to our Fellowship Committee, the food preparers, the Areopagus students for providing rides and setting up tables, and the clean up crew as well. We have received much positive feedback from students who greatly enjoyed the conversation, the hospitality and the time invested by the church in their lives. Thank you! *"For I was a stranger, and you welcomed Me."*

Next week's special offering is for **Areopagus**, a ministry to Iowa State University. Areopagus aims to reflect the relevance of the Gospel and a Reformed Christian worldview to the world of higher education, and in the lives of students and faculty. For more information, please talk with Lora Copley (Areopagus director), or visit <http://www.isu-areopagus.org/>

Communion: Next week we will gather at the Lord's Table. Come, all who are sorry for their sins, who believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, have confessed his name, and desire to live in obedience to him. Come, for Christ our risen Lord invites you to fellowship with him at his table.

The education committee invites the congregation, family and friends to our youth **Christmas Program, Dec 18th**, following the service. After the program we invite all to stay for a potluck meal of soup, sides and dessert!

Last names starting with **A-K soup, L-O sides (veggie/fruits, cheese/meat/cracker tray, etc), P-Z dessert**. Look for an upcoming announcement regarding our annual Gingerbread house building!

Council has received and accepted the membership papers and credentials of Pastor SJ Kim and chaplain Young Kim from Ames Korean CRC. Please welcome them to full communion and fellowship at TCRC.

A group of women from Trinity have volunteered to offer a Bible study for the women at The Bridge Home on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

Looking for some Volunteers to help Rachel Lyare with rides to and from Waukee and Des Moines for her nursing classes. for the month of December. If you think you can help please contact Mary Saucedo. 856-776-6636(call or text) or maryhsauceda@gmail.com.

Reminder as we move to winter, please make sure to wipe you feet, as we had someone track mud from the front door to the fellowship hall and then to the bathrooms last week. Thanks for your attention to keeping our church home clean.

The **first Sunday of Advent is Nov. 27** this year, the Sunday following Thanksgiving. Please sign up on the signup sheet located on the table by the office if you would like to sponsor a plant.. The plants will be \$10 each this year, and the order cut off date will be November 27th. Please contact Pam Voss (515)708-2676 with any questions

The Fellowship committee would like to invite you to sign up for treats. Serving treats to our church family is a great way to show your love for them and to help the fellowship committee out. You can serve your own treats or they will do the work of serving and clean up. Please consider signing up for a Sunday that works for you and let them know if you want to serve or let them do the work.

Sunday School Schedule for 2022/23: November (No class 27th due to Thanksgiving), December 4, 11 (probable Christmas program practice) **Christmas Program Dec 18**, January 8,15,22,29, February 5,12,19,26, March 5,19,26 (12th Spring Break)' April 2,16,23,30 (Easter 9th), May 7 (last day of class)

First Adult Sunday school class: Visual Arts in the Worshiping Church. Will be led by Naomi Friend and Tom Niehof.

Second Adult Sunday school class: Vanishing Grace: Elaine Oftedal and Nancy Berns will facilitate. All ages welcome!

Pam Whitney will be gone from November 30th till December 12th. Please try to get announcements in by Tuesday November 29th in the AM that week so the bulletin and announcements can get sent out and printed.

Christmas Eve Service - The Candlelight Christmas Eve service will be on the 24th.

Small Groups, Committees, & Sunday School Updates

Sunday School Classes meet at 10:50 am on Sunday

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

UFO Will meet the 3rd Monday of the Month

Women's Bible Study – Meets the first Monday of the month.

Next Council meeting will be December 14th

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Renew

A Message of Gratitude from World Renew - Thank you for your gifts of gratitude on Thanksgiving Day! World Renew is so grateful for your church and your support for Free A Family®. Through your generosity, you are sharing Christ's hope with families who are struggling with poverty and hunger. Your gifts help hungry families thrive spiritually, physically, and economically. To learn more about how compassion like yours contributes to World Renew's ministry of justice and mercy, please visit worldrenew.net. Thank you.

Share the Light of Advent - As we begin the Advent season, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world. Will you share God's light of hope with those who live in poverty by adding an item from World Renew's Gift Catalog to your Christmas list? Give at worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-552-7972.

World Renew Giving Tree - Help people who live in poverty experience more of God's love for them by participating in our Christmas Giving Tree! Through the World Renew Gift Catalog, each ornament on the tree is a giving suggestion for people living in poverty worldwide. Just choose an ornament and bring it, along with your donation, to put in our World Renew offering on Christmas Day. If you're not attending services this Christmas, you can also go to worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-552-7972 to give instead!

Safe Church

Safe Church 2022 Webinar Series: Safe Church Basics - Webinar 5: Responding to Abuse with Compassion and Justice - This webinar will feature Rev. Amanda Benckhuysen and Rev. Eric Kas as they walk through the basics of responding to an abuse allegation. This fifth step will premiere November 30th at 12 pm ET as a pre-recorded video resource on our YouTube Channel:

[Youtube.com/SafeChurchMinistry](https://www.youtube.com/SafeChurchMinistry). We will also be hosting a watch party with many Safe Church Coordinators of Classes - all are invited as well to share via chat, ask questions, and connect briefly together at 1 pm ET (10am PT). You may register for this Collective Zoom Watch Meeting here: <https://bit.ly/SCwebinar5>

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.

Advent: Our Great Hope - Check out the kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. We know God always loves us and is kind to us and that he sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins and give us eternal life. This is our great hope! Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Groundwork: The Magi: A Reminder that Jesus Came for All Nations - The Magi may not be present at Christ's birth like most nativity sets would suggest, but the inclusion of the Magi in the gospel of Matthew is strategic and intentional. Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 2:1-12 to hear the gospel writer's message and prepare our hearts to once again celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Listen

now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Greeters

November 27 De Bruin
December 4 Copley
December 11 Franje
December 18 Friend
December 25 Voss

Nursery

November 27 Kristy and Jayden
December 4 Elaine and Kathlyn
December 11 Judy and Megan
December 18 Jessica and Cassie
December 25 No Nursery for holiday
January 1 Rachel and Kristy

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

Elders: A-G=Brian Sterenberg: H-K = Melody Franje: L-S = Mark Voss: T-Z=Jeff Kopaska

Deacons: A-G =Tina VanDyk: H - K =Pam Niemeyer: L-S =Judy Oltman: T-Z Mary Saucedo