

# WORSHIP SERVICE & CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

December 4, 2022

Second 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 at peace.**

Our God has turned our swords into plowshares,

**fighting to friendship, harm to harmony.**

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

**We make way for Him!**

\* Opening Songs: "Make Way"

*Sing! A New Creation #98*

Make way, make way, for Christ the King in splendor arrives.

Fling wide the gates and welcome him into your lives.

**Women (Men)**

Make way (make way)

Make way (make way)

For the King of kings. (For the King of kings.)

Make way (make way)

Make way! (make way!)

And let his kingdom in.

He comes the broken hearts to heal, the prisoners to free.

The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance, the blind shall see.

**Women (Men)**

Make way (make way)

Make way (make way)

For the King of kings. (For the King of kings.)

Make way (make way)

Make way! (make way!)

And let his kingdom in.

"Away In A Manger"

*Lift Up Your Hearts #86*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head:  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.  
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus: look down from the sky  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.  
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care;  
prepare us for heaven to live with you there.

\* Lighting of the Advent Candles

Reader 1: Last Sunday, we remembered that King Jesus came to bring the wonder of hope.

Reader 2: Today, this second Sunday of Advent, we also celebrate that He brings the wonder of peace.

Reader 1: "How beautiful are the feet of Him who brings good news, who proclaims peace." (Isa 52:7)

Reader 2: "Jesus Christ proclaims peace to you who are far off and peace to you who are near." (Ephesians 2:17)

**ALL: Many, O Lord, are the wonders you have done for us. Truly our peace is in you.**

Reader 2: Amen. We will not fear. Because you will return, we know the best is yet to come.

Song of Response: "He Came Down" vs 2

*Sing! A New Creation 92*

He came down that we may have peace,  
He came down that we may have peace,  
He came down that we may have peace,  
Hallelujah forever more

**WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD**

Prayer of Confession

**Prince of Peace, come to us. You told us “In this world, you’ll have trouble.” And it’s true. There is trouble in the world. Trouble between nations. Trouble in our homes. Trouble in our hearts. We are hurt by the trouble and we cause the trouble. We confess our sin. There is no health in us. Thank you that you say, “take heart, I have overcome the world.” Overcome our hearts too. And make us new. In your name, Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*Hear the good news! Jesus promises: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27) Because Jesus bore the wrath we deserved, our sins are completely forgiven. We have peace with God and with our neighbor.*

Song of Entrusting: “Dona Nobis Pacem”

*Lift Up Your Hearts #73*

Dona nobis pacem, pacem Dona Nobis pacem

Dona nobis pacem Dona Nobis Pacem

Dona Nobis pacem Dona Nobis Pacem

Dona nobis pacem, pacem Dona nobis pacem

Dona nobis pacem Dona Nobis Pacem

Dona Nobis pacem Dona Nobis Pacem

Children Message - Advent Sketch: *The Wonder of His Peace*

Congregational Prayer

## **WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5 Rev 21:23-22:1-5 (p: 632, 1152)

<sup>1</sup>This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

<sup>2</sup>In the last days the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

<sup>5</sup> Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

### **5 Rev 21:23-22:1-5**

<sup>23</sup> The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. <sup>25</sup> On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. <sup>27</sup> Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

**22** <sup>1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Message: The Wonder of Christmas - Peace

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

Prayer of Application

\* Song of Response: "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" *Lift Up Your Hearts* #88

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.  
For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.  
How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

## **WE CELEBRATE GOD'S COVENANT WITH US**

\*The Lord's Supper

Communion song: "What Feast Of Love"

*Lift Up Your Hearts #96*

vs 1,2 sung during passing of the bread, vs 3 during passing of the wine

What feast of love is offered here,  
what banquet come from heaven?  
What food of everlasting life,  
what gracious gift is given?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
the bread come down from heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing!  
How sweet the manna given!  
What light of truth is offered here,  
What covenant from heaven?  
What hope of everlasting life,  
what wondrous word is given?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
the sun come down from heaven.  
Oh, see and hear and sing!  
The Word of God is given!

What wine of love is offered here,  
what crimson drink from heaven?  
What stream of everlasting life,  
what precious blood is given?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
the sweetest wine of heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
The Son of God is given!

## **WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\*Blessing

\*Closing Song: "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace" *Lift Up Your Hearts# 97*

Lord, bid your servant go in peace;  
your word is now fulfilled.  
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,  
this child so long foretold.  
This is the Savior of the world,  
the Gentiles' promised light,  
God's glory dwelling in our midst,  
the joy of Israel.

## Postlude

\*Please stand if you are able.

Candle-Lighters: Rebekah DePenning, Halle Nanniga, Ben Marcus, Lauren Price

Children's Message: Derek Ten Pas

Congregational Prayer: Rev Lora Copley

Message: Rev Randy Raak

Musicians: Andrew Friend, Nancy Berns, Chloe Berns-Schweingruber, Elijah Hufford

## Today's Activities

9:30 a.m. Morning Worship

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:50 a.m. Sunday School

## ANNOUNCEMENTS :

This 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:** Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for believers. If you are sorry for your sins and follow Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, you are invited to come to his table. Through this celebration, we remember that:

- a. The Lord's Supper is a thanksgiving to God.
- b. The Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ.

- c. The Lord's Supper is a participation in the body and the blood of Christ.
- d. The Lord's Supper signifies the work of the Spirit.
- e. The Lord's Supper seals the present and coming kingdom of God.

**The outreach committee** is having a toy and food for Salvation Army. The toy drive you just need to bring a unwrapped toy from birth up to 12 years of age. **The toy drive is thru Monday December 12.** The **food drive is going thru Christmas day.** Both donations can be placed in the box in the church entryway. If you have any questions feel to contact Mark Voss

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!

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 maryhsaucedo@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 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:** 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 30<sup>th</sup> till December 12<sup>th</sup>. Please try to get announcements in by Tuesday November 29<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month

**Women's Bible Study** – Meets the Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, 9am. We will be discussing the faith practice of Service. What is the difference between service and volunteering? What is the difference between self righteous service and true service? What is often your first reaction when you are asked to serve in some way? We will be reflecting on Deut 10:12-13. Study questions are one the table by the office for anyone to take. Questions to Melody.

**Next Council meeting** will be December 14th

### **DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

ReFrame Ministries

**Advent: God Brings Peace** - Check out the kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Look for ways you can be a peacemaker this Advent season. If you have any friends or family members who haven't trusted Jesus, tell them about how he came to earth to bring peace between us and God. You can also find ways to make things easier, less worrisome, or less lonely for people in need. Listen now at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) and check out all the new content.

Faith Formation

**Advent At-home Faith Formation Tip** - During Advent, we light the candle of Love. Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection were all characterized by love. In return, we are to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and



with all your soul, and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” Consider how your family or household might do those things more fully in the coming year. (Tip from Faith Formation; [bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation](http://bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation))

### World Renew

**Become a Lead Cook with World Renew DRS!** - Do you enjoy caring for others by cooking for them? Consider a ministry opportunity by becoming a Lead Cook DRS volunteer! While volunteers are working hard on reconstruction sites, there are others working hard in the kitchen, cooking to nourish bodies which are rebuilding hope for disaster survivors! If interested, email Diana at [dmarquez@worldrenew.net](mailto:dmarquez@worldrenew.net) with questions.

**God’s Love at Christmas** - Share the warmth of God’s love with a person living in poverty through your donation for World Renew’s Gift Catalog this Christmas. Give a life-changing gift to a family that is facing hardship and hunger in the year ahead. Donate today at [worldrenew.net/gifts](http://worldrenew.net/gifts) or call 800-552-7972.

### Greeters

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| December 4  | Franje |
| December 11 | Copley |
| December 18 | Friend |
| December 25 | Voss   |

### **Nursery**

|             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 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](mailto: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