

WORSHIP SERVICE
December 11, 2022
Third Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship (from Psalm 126)

The Lord has done great things for us.

Our mouths are filled with laughter, and our tongues with songs of joy.

Our God has turned our weeping into dancing, our fasting into feasting.

Our sowing in tears into harvests of blessing.

Joy to the world! Come Lord Jesus.

We receive you, O King!

* Opening Songs: "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.

"My Soul Cries Out With A Joyful Shout" (vs 1-3) *Lift Up Your Hearts #69*

My soul cries out with a joyful shout

that the God of my heart is great,

and my spirit sings of the wondrous things

that you bring to the ones who wait.

You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,

and my weakness you did not spurn,

so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears,
for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!
Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

* Lighting of the Advent Candles

R1: This far in Advent, we've seen that King Jesus came to bring the wonder of hope and the wonder of peace.

R2: Today, as we light the third candle of Advent, we also celebrate that He brings the wonder of joy.

R1: The angel announced at Jesus' birth: "I bring you good news that causes great joy for all the people."

R2: Jesus' kingdom is a banquet, a party, a cause for celebration— because of what He has done in the manger, on the cross, through the grave and upon the throne.

ALL: Many, O Lord, are the wonders you have done for us. Truly, the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Reader 2: Amen. Let us rejoice and be glad; because of Jesus, the best is yet to come.

Song of Response: "He Came Down" (vs 3)

Sing! A New Creation #92

He came down that we may have joy,
He came down that we may have joy,
He came down that we may have joy,
Hallelujah forever more.

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

O Wellspring of Joy, we confess our joylessness. We don't delight ourselves in You. We live in parched places, trying to satisfy ourselves on what will never satisfy. Forgive us, dear Lord. Seat us again at the banquet of grace and truth. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! "Jesus, for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, scorning its shame." Because Jesus bore the punishment we deserved, our sins are forgiven. Though weeping remains for a night, joy comes in the morning.

Song of Entrusting: "Soon And Very Soon" *Lift Up Your Hearts #482*

Soon and very soon We are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon We are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon We are going to see the King.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

We are going to see the King. No more crying there,

we are going to see the King. No more crying there,

we are going to see the King. No more crying there,

we are going to see the King.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

We are going to see the King. No more dying there,

we are going to see the King. No more dying there,

we are going to see the King. No more dying there,

we are going to see the King.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

We are going to see the King. Soon and very soon

We are going to see the King. Soon and very soon

We are going to see the King. Soon and very soon

We are going to see the King.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We are going to see the King.

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

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 55:1-13 Rev 19: 6-9

55 “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. ² Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. ³ Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. ⁴ See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples. ⁵ Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor.”

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. ⁸ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. ⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. ¹² You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD’s renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever.”

Revelation 19:6-9

⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. ⁸ Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

⁹Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

Message: The Wonder of Christmas - Joy

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response: "As With Gladness Men of Old" (vs 1,2,4,5)

Lift Up Your 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.
As with joyful steps they sped
to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before
Christ whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek your mercy-seat.
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.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Blessing

*Closing Song: "Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Lift Up Your Hearts #93

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.
While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.
The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.
Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.
Down in a lowly stable
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.
Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Candle-Lighters: Mbih Family
Children's Message: Hobsons
Congregational Prayer: Randy Raak
Message: Randy Raak

Musicians: Chloe Berns-Schweingruber, Rex DeBruin, Laura Hufford, Char Verckade

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

Next Week's Special Offering is for the Building Fund.

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.

Sunday School Schedule for 2022/23: December 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 December 21 - 31. Please try to get announcements in by Tuesday 20th 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

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: God's Joy - Check out the kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. We know the words to the song well, "Joy to the World, the Lord has come..." But what exactly is the joy of Christmas all about? Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Devotions for a Blue Christmas - In the midst of hard times, find strength and encouragement through God's word. A set of fourteen encouraging Today devotions reassure you that even during the darkest of Christmas seasons, you're not alone. Receive this free email series and ebook when you subscribe to Today at todaydevotional.com/bluechristmas

Groundwork: Mary: The Angel Gabriel Foretells Jesus' Birth - Our understanding of the virgin birth begins with the story of the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Luke 1:1-4, 26-56 to learn from Mary's strong example of faith, wholly trusting God and submitting to his will in our lives as we continue to prepare our hearts for Christmas. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Faith Formation

Advent At-home Faith Formation Tip - During Advent, we light the candle of Joy. Joy is not a fleeting happiness, but an attitude of the heart that springs from gratitude. What brings you joy? How might you spread joy to others? Wonder and talk about that this week. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)

World Renew

Deep Christmas Joy - God gave us his Best Gift at Christmas, and Jesus tells us to give as we have so abundantly received. Your donation to the World Renew Gift Catalog will bring real joy to someone who is struggling to survive each day. Donate today at worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-552-7972.

Community Flourishing Cohort - Is your congregation interested in helping your neighborhood and community thrive? This year-long cohort held in partnership between World Renew US and Diaconal Ministries Canada will inspire and mobilize your congregation to love, listen to, and engage with your neighbors, neighborhoods, and local organizations as you seek to cultivate a place of flourishing. Learn and practice the basic principles of strengths based community driven engagement and take steps to live them out in the congregation's neighborhood. Starts the evening of January 19 and then monthly on every third Thursday. For more information contact jkoeman@worldrenew.net or apply for the cohort at worldrenew.net/events.

Other

Tour the Biblical Lands of Israel - March 6 – March 17, 2023. Experience a refreshing renewal of your faith, and gain a deeper understanding of the Bible, as you tour the biblical lands with teaching host, Pastor Peter Tuininga, and Sindbad Tours of Israel. See many of the biblical places (Jerusalem, Galilee, Caesarea, Jericho, and much more), and gain spiritual and historical insights which will make the Bible come alive for you. For complete information, cost, and registration, go to toursofisrael.wordpress.com or call Peter Tuininga: 1 289 877 8433 or e-mail: peter.tuininga@gmail.com

Resonate Global Mission

CRCNA Position Openings - Resonate Global Mission of the CRCNA has a full-time position opening for a Campus Ministry Coordinator anywhere in the United States or Canada. The purpose of this position is to provide

leadership through capacity-building, connecting, innovation, learning, and resourcing in the area of Campus Ministry within the Resonate system and across the denomination. For details visit www.crcna.org/jobs. Deadline is January 5, 2023.

Greeters

December 11 Copley

December 18 Friend

December 25 Voss

January 1 Hallihan

January 8 Hertz

January 15 Hobson

Nursery

December 11 Judy and Megan

December 18 Jessica and Cassie

December 25 No Nursery for holiday

January 1 Rachel and Kristy

January 8 Melody and Cassie

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