

WORSHIP SERVICE
December 18, 2022
Fourth 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,

And we now know His love.

Our God has turned slaves into sons, debtors into daughters, the burdened into beautiful children of grace.

Amazing love! How can it be?

Blessed be the One who was foretold by prophets and proclaimed by angels, our gracious King

who came to be our sacrificial Lamb. He has come and is coming again!

Come, Lord Jesus. Come.

* Opening Songs: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (vs. 1, 2, 4) Insert

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."

The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats

o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,

and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years

shall come the time foretold When the new heaven and earth shall own The Prince of Peace their King,

and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

*“And ye, beneath life’s crushing load, Whose forms are bending low, Who toil
allng the climbing way
With painful steps and slow Look now! For glad and golden hours Come swiftly
on the wing
Or Rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing!”*

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Grey Psalter Hymnal #353

Infant holy, Infant lowly For his bed a cattle stall
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all
Swiftly winging angels singing, Bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow
Praises voicing, greet the morrow
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

*Lighting of the Advent Candles

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

*R2: Today, as we light the fourth candle of Advent, we celebrate that He brings
the wonder of
love.*

R1: This is how we know what love is:

R2: God sent His one and only Son into the world as an atoning sacrifice for sin.

**ALL: Many, O Lord, are the wonders you have done for us. Truly, we love
because You
first loved us.**

*R1: Amen. Though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and even though you
do not see Him
now, you believe in Him and are filled with inexpressible joy. ^(1 Peter 1:8) For you
know the best is
yet to come!*

Song of Response: “He Came Down” vs 4
He came down that we may have love

Sing! A New Creation #92

He came down that we may have love
He came down that we may have love
Hallelujah forever more

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**Oh Lover of our souls, your love seeks. Your love suffers. Your love sacrifices.
Yet we have not
loved you with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. We have not loved
our neighbor as
ourselves. We deny you and ignore you, we hurt and hate. Our sin sent our
Lord to the cross.
Forgive us, O God. Change us by your love, for Jesus' sake we pray, Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon-^{Gal 4:4-5}

*"When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born
under the law, in
order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive
adoption as children."*

Song of Entrusting: "Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming" *Lift Up Your Hearts #79*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage
coming

As men of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, Amid the cold of winter
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The Rose I have in mind: With Mary we behold it, The
virgin mother kind.

To show God's love aright She bore to us a Savior When half-spent was the
night.

This Flower, so small and tender, With fragrance fills the air, His brightness ends
the darkness

that kept the earth in fear. True God and yet true man, he came to save his
people from earth's dark night of sin.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe; O savior, King of glory, who
does our weakness know:

bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven
And into endless day.

Children Message - Advent Sketch: *The Wonder of His Love*
Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 53:1-12(p:681); Rev 5:6-10(p:1140)

Isaiah 53

53 ¹Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. ⁹He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. ¹¹After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Revelation 5:6-10

⁶ Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

Message: The Wonder of Christmas: What Love Looks Like

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response: "Meekness and Majesty" *Sing! A New Creation #109*

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
O 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'

O 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

O what a mystery Meekness and majesty Bow down and worship
For this is your God

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Blessing

*Closing Song: "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen" (vs. 1, 3, 4)

Insert

God rest ye merry, gentlemen Let nothing you dismay
Remember, Christ, our Saviour Was born on Christmas day

To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy
"Fear not then," said the Angel, "Let nothing you affright,
This day is born a Saviour The true and radiant light,
To free all those who trust in Him From Satan's power and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy
Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place,
And with true love and fellowship Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas Is filled with heav'nly grace.
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Candlelighters: SJ Kim and Young Yun

Advent Sketch, Children's Message: Rev Lora Copley

Congregational Prayer: Mark Voss

Message: Rev Randy Raak

Musicians: Andrew Friend, Naomi Friend, Holly Raak

Today's Activities

9:30 a.m. Morning Worship

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

10.50 a.m. Christmas Program

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

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

Trinity would like to present the pastor and each of the other church staff members with gifts from the congregation during this advent season. Should you wish to contribute, gifts may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays, **December 18th and 25th**. Please be sure to mark your contribution as "staff gift".

The outreach committee is having a food drive for Salvation Army. . The **food drive is going thru Christmas day**. Donations can be placed in the box in the church entryway. If you have any questions feel to contact Mark Voss

Carols and Cocoa-Roots would like to invite the congregation to join them **Wednesday, Dec 21st at 7pm** for some Christmas fun as we then head out into

the neighborhood to sing carols and spread joy. We will return to the fellowship hall and warm up with cocoa afterwards. See you there!

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 your 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: 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)

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 at 6:30pm.

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 Monday December 19th at 7 p.m. at Sue Fee's home. Bring a project or craft on, or just come and enjoy the fellowship

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

Next Council meeting will be January

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Renew

Christmas Possibility - Next week we celebrate the possibility of being made right with God, starting with the birth of Jesus. He showed us the way to give to people in need. You can give a goat, a family water filter, or a tree pruning kit from World Renew's Gift Catalog at worldrenew.net/gifts, or call 800-552-7972.

ReFrame Ministries

Advent: Love as an Action - Check out the kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. People usually think of love as a feeling. Did you ever think of love as an action? Well, God's love is active! Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Groundwork: Joseph: The Virgin Birth and Prophecies Fulfilled - It isn't until Joseph receives angelic confirmation that he believes the miracle of the virgin birth. Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 1:18-25 to discuss how this fulfills Old Testament prophecies and gives us confidence to trust in God's continued presence and faithfulness in our lives as we prepare for his second coming. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

CRC Communications

Begin 2023 with Free CRC Leadership Training - Register now to take the Thriving Essentials virtual training in January at no cost (limit 25 persons). The two, 2-hour-long Zoom sessions (Jan. 11 + 18) can help get all church leaders on the same page concerning the key concepts of Mission, Discipleship, Discernment, and Leadership. Take the class for yourself, then decide if attendance would benefit your core church leadership. More info at: crcna.org/Thrive

Greeters

December 18	Friend
December 25	Voss
January 1	Hallihan
January 8	Hertz
January 15	Hobson
January 22	Hubert
January 23	Hufford

Nursery

December 18	Jessica and Cassie
December 25	No Nursery for holiday

January 1 Rachel and Kristy
January 8 Melody and Cassie
January 15 Jessica and Pam
January 22 Donna and Kenzie
January 29 Elaine and Chloe

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
Sauceda