

WORSHIP SERVICE
February 12, 2023
Seventh Sunday of Epiphany

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship

Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, yet comes low to raise the needy from the ash heap. You give the barren woman a family, making her the joyful mother of children.

O wellspring of joy, those who hope in You will not be disappointed.

* Opening Song: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" *Lift Up Your Hearts #581*

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!
All Thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in thee!
Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.

* Opening Prayer: "His Eye Is On The Sparrow" *Lift Up Your Hearts #441*

Why should I feel discouraged Why should the shadows come
Why should my heart be lonely And long for heaven and home
When Jesus is my portion my constant friend is he His eye is on the sparrow
And I know he watches me His eye is on the sparrow
And I know he watches me I sing because I'm happy
I sing because I'm free For His eye is on the sparrow
And I know He watches me Let not your heart be troubled
His tender words I hear And resting on his goodness

I lose my doubt and fear Though by the path he leadeth
But one step I may see His eye is on the sparrow
And I know he watches me His eye is on the sparrow
And I know he watches me I sing because I'm happy
I sing because I'm free For His eye is on the sparrow
And I know He watches me Whenever I am tempted
Whenever clouds arise When songs give place to sighing
When hope within me dies I draw the closer to him
From care he sets me free His eye is on the sparrow
And I know he watches me His eye is on the sparrow
And I know he watches me I sing because I'm happy
I sing because I'm free For His eye is on the sparrow
And I know He watches me

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on us, Lord, for the sadness and disappointments of life seek to harden us in cynicism and stone. Break our hearts and soften us again! Give us the gift of tears to weep over our faithless sins and over this hurting world. Forgive us, merciful God, so we may know the fullness of life with You and with each other. In Jesus name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Scripture says, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and repentant heart God will not despise." Indeed, because of Jesus' cross and empty tomb, "weeping may remain for a night, but joy comes in the morning." Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Song of Entrusting: "They That Sow In Tears"

Though it seems that your prayers Have been in vain
Though your faith the world would destroy Though your heart should ache
'Til it breaks in two They that sow in tears shall reap in joy
They that sow in tears shall reap in joy For God is on His throne
Though you've prayed 'til it seems That your heart would break
They that sow in tears shall reap in joy They that sow in tears shall reap in joy
For God is on His throne Though you've prayed 'til it seems
That your heart would break They that sow in tears shall reap in joy

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy For God is on His throne
Though you've prayed 'til it seems That your heart would break
They that sow in tears shall reap in joy They that sow in tears shall reap in joy
For God is on His throne Though you've prayed 'til it seems
That your heart would break They that sow in tears shall reap in joy
They that sow in tears shall reap in joy For God is on His throne
Though you've prayed 'til it seems That your heart would break
They that sow in tears shall reap in joy

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Gen 18:9-15; 21:1-7

⁹ "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he said.

¹⁰ Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son." ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

¹³ Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁵ Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

Genesis 21:1-7

21 Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. ² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac^[a] to the son Sarah bore him. ⁴ When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Message: Encountering God: When Prayers Wither

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response: "My Soul Cries Out"

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.

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!

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on
stone.

Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more for the food they can never earn;

There are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is 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!

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Blessing

*Closing Song: "To God Be The Glory"

Lift Up Your Hearts #604

To God be the glory, great things he has done;
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,

who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he has done.
O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he has done.
Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be our wonder,
our transport, when Jesus we see.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he has done.
Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be our wonder,
our transport, when Jesus we see.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Rev. Lora Copley

Message: Rev. Lora Copley

Musicians: Laura Hufford, Maggie VanDyk, Char Verkade

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

This week's special offering will be for the **Christian Education Tuition Assistance Fund**. Please consider giving to this fund as one of the ways in which we can support families and children of Trinity and as an action following from the promises we make at baptism to nurture the faith of the children of our congregation.

The Adult Sunday School class will be led by the Council . It will center around the book *Growing Young* (which council has been reading). The book focuses on six strategies to help the church connect with and embrace young people, and has been useful in shaping some of Trinity's strategic plan goals. Please contact a council member if you are interested in attending, so they can order the books. The first chapter is accessible free, if you would like to check it out at this web address:

https://d36s6f2n3iyjqc.cloudfront.net/fyi-files/Growing_Young_Chapter_1_Powell_Mulder_Griffin.pdf

Outreach committee has planned the date for the Spring Family2Family sale, March 25th. More to come soon.

Synod has designated the second Wednesday in March (March 8, 2023) as the Annual Day of Prayer. On this date each year, all CRC congregations are requested to take time to ask for God's blessing upon the world, our nations and communities, crops and industry, and the church worldwide.

Pam Whitney will be gone until February 12. Please have any announcements and bulleting needs in to her by Tuesday 10am, or sooner for Sunday the to follow. Thanks for your help with this.

Sunday School Schedule for 2022/23: February 12,19,26, March 5,19,26 (12th Spring Break)' April 2,16,23,30 (Easter 9th), May 7 (last day of class)

Biblical Study Tour to Italy (May 22 - June 2, 2023): Visit the Vatican with its Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Cathedral; the impressive monuments of ancient

Rome; Pompeii and Mt. Vesuvius; Assisi (home of St. Francis); Florence; Ravenna; and St. Mark's Basilica in Venice. Join Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading biblical scholar, for this inspirational tour. Contact Dr. Weima at weimje@calvinseminary.edu or [616-328-3110](tel:616-328-3110).

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 Monday February 20th at 7 pm at Deb Niehof's Home. You can bring a project or craft to work on, or just come and enjoy the fellowship! This month is our annual "Soup Swap." You are invited to bring 2 containers (3-4 cups each) of soup (frozen or not) to share. We'll share our soup "stories" (is there anything interesting about your soup, why you chose that recipe, etc.?) and then each person will select 2 containers of soup to take home. It would be quite helpful if you also provided copies of your recipe and indicated if it contains gluten, dairy, or meat.

Women's Bible Study Will meet first Monday of the month

Next Council meeting will be March 8th

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Formation

At-Home Family Faith Formation Tip - Rain For Roots is a collective of songwriters that includes Sandra McCracken, Katy Bowser, Ellie Holcomb, and Flo Paris. They came together around a single vision: to make new Scripture songs for children, centered around the poetry of Sally Lloyd-Jones (author of The Jesus Storybook Bible). Inspired by traditional folk melodies, Rain for Roots makes new, timeless songs about the old gospel Story. Check them out at RainforRoots.com. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)

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.

God's Idea of Justice - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Imagine that you see someone being bullied. Do you just watch, or turn away, or do you try to help the person being bullied? How does

God want you to respond? What is God's idea of justice? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Kids Corner Valentine Cards.

Groundwork: Seeing Jesus Christ in Heaven - The Bible's final book of Revelation has long been a source of mystery to Christians across the ages. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Revelation 1 to examine the opening images of John's heavenly vision and discuss the comfort it offers believers still today. Listen now at Groundworkonline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Safe Church

Annual Inter-Classis Safe Church Conference - Classis Huron's annual inter-classis safe church event is happening in person again this year! Join us on Saturday, March 4, 2023, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm at Waterloo CRC, Waterloo, Ontario. Dr. Amanda Benckhuysen, Ministry Team Leader for Safe Church, will speak on "The Use and Misuse of Power in the Church." Christian Horizons Education Director Steve Snider 's presentation will focus on supporting a person living with a disability. Carol Penner will present on "Repentance and Accountability: Forgiveness is Not the First Step." For more information and registration go to <https://www.wmott.ca/scc>

Pastor Church Resources

Offering for Pastor Church Resources - On Sunday, February 19, we'll be taking a collection for Pastor Church Resources (PCR). This ministry focuses on the health and wellbeing of pastors, ministry leaders, congregations, and classes. Your gift enables PCR to resource, encourage, and support CRC churches and leaders in significant ways.

World Renew

Help Earthquake Survivors - World Renew is responding to 2 major earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria. You can help provide emergency aid to people who desperately need it through World Renew. Please give generously today at worldrenew.net, call 800-552-7972, or make out your check to World Renew, with Türkiye/Syria Earthquake Response in the memo line, and send to: World Renew, 8970 Byron Commerce Dr. SW, Byron Center, MI 49315.

VOLUNTEERS

Congregational Prayer:	Paul Kleinwolterink
Sound :	Rex De Bruin
Nursery:	Megan and Caraline

Children's message: Lora Copley
Greeters: Kleinwolterink

Greeters

February 12	Kleinwolterink
February 19	N Klemme
February 26	Kopaska
March 5	Kuyper
March 12	Niehof
March 19	Niemeyer
March 26	M Nikkel

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

February 11	Elizabeth Hobson
February 14	Stacy Hertz
February 18	Joseph Yoder
February 20	Colton Niemeyer
February 20	Jayden Niemeyer
February 24	Catherine Hobson
February 25	Alexa Kopaska
February 28	Tom Niehof

Nursery

February 12	Megan and Caraline
February 19	Judy and Stacy
February 26	Sue F and Alisabeth
March 5	Mary K and Kathlyn
March 12	Rachel and Brianna
March 19	Melody and Kristy
March 26	Jessica and Cassie

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

Lora Copley: director@isu-areopagus.org or 505-387-6861 (Areopagus Campus Ministry)

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