

WORSHIP SERVICE
February 19, 2023
Last Sunday of Epiphany

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship from Revelation 1

All glory to Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.

He has made us a kingdom and priests to serve God his Father.

All glory and power to him forever and ever: "When I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ... In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance."

Worthy is He to receive all praise!

* Opening Song: "Beautiful One"

Lift Up Your Hearts #607

Wonderful so wonderful is Your unfailing love. Your cross has spoken mercy over me. No eye has seen no ear has heard no heart could fully know. How glorious how beautiful You are! Beautiful One I love; Beautiful One I adore. Beautiful One my soul must sing.

Powerful so powerful Your glory fills the skies, Your mighty works displayed for all to see. The beauty of Your majesty awakes my heart to sing. How marvelous how wonderful You are. Beautiful One I love; Beautiful One I adore. Beautiful One my soul must sing. Beautiful One I love; Beautiful One I adore. Beautiful One my soul must sing.

You opened my eyes to Your wonders anew. You captured my heart with this love. 'Cause nothing on earth is as beautiful as You. You opened my eyes to Your wonders anew. You captured my heart with this love. 'Cause nothing on earth is as beautiful as You.

Beautiful One I love; Beautiful One I adore. Beautiful One my soul must sing. My soul, my soul must sing. My soul, my soul must sing. Beautiful One

"Beautiful Savior"

Lift Up Your Hearts #17

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve thee, Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.
Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming
spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer; He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.
Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.
Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration, Now and forevermore be Thine!

*Opening Prayer

“I Love You Lord”

Sing! A New Creation #16

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice
to worship you; O my soul, rejoice
Take joy, my King, in what you hear;
may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Call to Confession -

Prayer of Confession (adapted from WS 2.2.49)

*We often think we love You well, O God. But when we hear your Great
Command, we realize our love for you competes with lesser loyalties and an
idolatrous heart. How easily our devotion dies. How quickly our compassion
crumbles. We are not tending our lampstand.*

**Forgive us. In deep mercy, spare us. Rekindle our lost first love for You and
for our neighbor. May we see anew, and respond rightly, to Your love for us
in Jesus. In His name, Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*This saying is true and deserving of full acceptance: Jesus Christ came into the
world to save sinners.*

**All glory to Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.
Alleluia!**

Song of Entrusting: “Your Mercy Flows”

Lift Up Your Hearts #700

Your mercy flows upon us like a river. Your mercy stands unshakable and
true.

Most holy God, of all good things the giver, we turn and lift our fervent prayer to you.

Hear our cry (Hear our cry) O Lord (O Lord) be merciful (be merciful) once more. (once more.)

Let your love, (let your love) your anger stem; (your anger stem;) remember mercy Lord, again.

Your mercy flows upon us like a river. Your mercy stands unshakable and true.

Most holy God, of all good things the giver, we turn and sift our fervent prayer to you.

Hear our cry (Hear our cry) O Lord (O Lord) be merciful (be merciful) once more. (once more.)

Let your love, (let your love) your anger stem; (your anger stem;) remember mercy O Lord, Your gain.

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Revelations 2:1-7 (p:1138)

2 "To the angel^[a] of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. ² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. ⁵ Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. ⁶ But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Message: Ancient Lessons for Today's Church - Loveless Orthodoxy

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response: "They'll Know We Are Christians" Lift Up Your Hearts #256

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,

and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand

and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side

and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride. And they'll

know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are

Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,

and all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,

and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us all one.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Blessing

*Closing Song: "My Friends, May You Grow In Grace" Lift Up Your Hearts #938

My friends, may you grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

My friends, may you grow in grace, and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.

To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Rachel DeBruin

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Andrew Friend, Naomi Friend, Holly Raak, Nate VanDyk

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

Next week Sunday's offering will be for The Bridge home. As their director explained to us last month, the Bridge home addresses homelessness here in Ames by providing emergency shelter and sustainable solutions. And now, with ladies from TCRC holding Bible studies for the women residents there, we are also addressing spiritual needs. Please keep The Bridge (and our Bible study there) in your prayers.

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. The sign up should be up soon. Please share this date with your friends and family. It will be the same setup as last time, Large booths (8 x10.5) will be \$12, small booths(6 x 8) will be \$7. We will be offering tables as well for \$2 each.

On March 8, CRC congregations are being called to take time to ask for God's blessing upon the world, our nations and communities, crops and industry, and the church worldwide. The TCRC Council feels that we should take some time this year to pray for our denomination as well as those topics. Since we have a council meeting at 6:30 on March 8, we'll have a brief prayer service before that, starting at 6:00. We hope you can join us.

The TCRC Council is asking for your nominations for elders and deacons. At this time we anticipate needing 2 elders and 3 deacons, with one of the deacon terms being for only 1 year to finish Mary Saucedo's term. Nomination forms are on the table in the church lobby. Please give this prayerful consideration and submit your nomination form in the black box on the same table by March 6.

Sunday School Schedule for 2022/23: February 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).

You are making a difference! On behalf of the ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, thank you for your gifts to ministry shares. Your support enables congregations to do so much more to further God's Kingdom than any one church could do alone. Our denomination could not impact the world through missions, media, and church development without your incredible and faithful support. Thank you! To discover more visit crcna.org/ministryshares.

Have you been heard? Our congregation has a once-in-five-year opportunity to participate in the 2023 CRC denominational survey. This survey helps denominational leadership understand the concerns and needs of local congregations like ours. It is crucial that as many people from our congregation as possible participate. Please visit crcna.org/survey/7210 to answer the survey questions by **March 31**.

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

CRC Communications

Prayer Changes Things - We know prayer is powerful; it can change hearts, relationships, and circumstances. In the Prayer Guide you'll find daily items of thanks, praise, request, and lament that can remind you and your fellow church members that God is in control, and cares for his world and all people. Sign up or print PDF pages to share at crcna.org/get-involved/pray

ReFrame Ministries

Joy in God - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Where does real joy come from? Joy does not depend on what happens to you. It is about what God is doing inside you. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Preparing for Easter: A Family Lenten Devotional eBook.

Focus on the Cross - Lent is a season to focus on the hope of Jesus Christ. Receive a free Today devotional email series to help you refresh, refocus, and renew your faith during Lent. Or download the ebook! Subscribe at todaydevotional.com/lent.

Groundwork: Learning from the Seven Churches of Revelation - Every believer must discern what it looks like to live out their Christian faith in the midst of a secular culture. Join Groundwork as Dr. Jeff Weima joins us to study Revelation 2-3 and discuss the sermons Jesus told John to write down for seven of the early Christian churches and what they might have to say to the Church also yet today. Listen now at Groundworkonline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

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. You can find the corrected video at <https://vimeo.com/worldrenew/turkiye-syria-earthquake-response>.

VOLUNTEERS

Congregational Prayer: Nancy Berns
Sound : Brian Van Belle

Nursery: Judy and Kopaska
Children's message: Rachel De Bruin
Greeters: Kleinwolterink

Greeters

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

Nursery

February 19 Judy and Kopaska
February 26 Sue F and Alisabeth
March 5 Mary K and Kathlyn
March 12 Rachel and Stacy
March 19 Melody and Kristy
March 26 Jessica and Cassie
April 2 Donna and Pam N
April 9 Elaine and McKenzie
April 16 Mindy and Chloe
April 23 Megan and Jayden
April 30 Judy and Caraline

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