

WORSHIP SERVICE
February 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship

As we follow Jesus to the cross and empty tomb this Lent, let us recognize our King's victory.

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

John records, "When I saw Him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then He placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

* Opening Song: "Forever"

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King. His love endures forever.

For He is good, He is above all things. His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise.

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm. His love endures forever

For the life that's been reborn. His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise. Sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful. Forever God is strong. Forever God is with us.

Forever. Forever.

From the rising to the setting sun. His love endures forever

By the grace of God we will carry on. His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise. Sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful. Forever God is strong. Forever God is with us. Forever and ever.

Forever God is faithful. Forever God is strong. Forever God is with us

Forever. Forever.

"Revelation Song"

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain Holy holy is He
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on Heaven's mercy seat
Holy holy holy Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of kings You are my ev'rything
And I will adore You
Clothed in rainbows of living color Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder
Blessing and honor strength and glory And power be to You the only wise
King
Holy holy holy Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of kings You are my ev'rything
And I will adore You
Filled with wonder awestruck wonder At the mention of Your name
Jesus Your name is power breath and living water Such a marv'lous mystery
yeah
Holy holy holy Is the Lord God Almighty Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing Praise to the King of kings You are my ev'rything
And I will adore You

*Opening Prayer

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Call to Confession:

Confession:

Lord, you know all. You know our every weakness and hypocrisy. You know our cowardice. How often we fear to share that we follow You, Lord Jesus. How often we are "like a wave of a sea, blown and tossed by the wind." We confess we are often miserable with our own fear and faithlessness.

Our sins are many. Forgive us. In your deep mercy, spare us, strengthen us and make us new. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon *From 2 Tim 2:12-13:*

"Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself." Take courage! Be not afraid. For all who repent and trust in Jesus Christ, his grace is greater than all our sin.

Thanks be to God!

Song of Entrusting: "His Mercy Is More"

What love could remember No wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum Thrown into a sea without
bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more
What patience would wait as we constantly roam What Father, so tender, is
calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor Our sins they are many, His
mercy is more
Praise the Lord, His mercy is more Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
What riches of kindness He lavished on us His blood was the payment, His
life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford Our sins they are many, His
mercy is more
Praise the Lord, His mercy is more Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Revelations 2:8-11 (p:1138)

⁸ "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. ⁹ I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I

will give you life as your victor's crown. ¹¹ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

Message: 7 Churches of Revelation: Smyrna - Perseverance

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response: "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

Lift Up Your

Hearts #325

O Master, let me walk with thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me thy secret, help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.
Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,
And guide them in the homeward way.
Teach me thy patience; still with thee
In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong.
In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way,
In peace that only thou canst give,
With thee, O Master, let me live.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Blessing

*Closing Song: "Blessed Be Your Name"

Lift Up Your Hearts #343

Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful, where your streams of abundance flow; blessed be your name. Blessed be your name when I'm found in the desert place. Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be your name.

Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise. When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say, "Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your name. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your glorious name."

Blessed be your name when the sun's shining down on me, when the world's "all as it should be"; blessed be your name. Blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering; though there's pain in the offering, blessed be your name.

Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise. When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say, "Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your name. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your glorious name."

You give and take away You give and take away My heart will choose to say Lord blessed be Your name Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Laura Hufford

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Kathlyn Copley, Ben Giles, Elijah Hufford, Laura Hufford, Holly Raak, Breanna Sterenberg

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

This week 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.

Communion: Next week we will gather at the Lord's Table. Come, all who are sorry for their sins, who believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, have confessed his name, and desire to live in obedience to him. Come, for Christ our risen Lord invites you to fellowship with him at his table.

There will be an **Elders meeting** on March 4th at 9 am.

If you don't get the weekly Service and Bulletin email, please send a request to office@amestrinity.org and let Pam know so you can be added to the list. This

is sent out as a blind copy, so email addresses are not shared. Also there is a copy of the directory on the table by the office, please update or add information. This allows us to have contact information for our Deacons and Elders.

Rehoboth Christian School Choir Tour 2023 will be at Des Moines Christian School Friday, March 31st @ 9:30 am and at Lutheran Church of Hope @ 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm. There will be a Navajo Taco Dinner and Program included with the Church of Hope concert. Please RSVP for this at www.lutheranchurchofhope.org/west-des-moines/calendar/eid/784720/ There is a flier in the office window showing all concerts for this tour.

Eleanor Ostendorf has been moved to assisted living apt at Mills Pond community. This area will give her more support with mobility and memory. She could use some visits and cards during this time of transition.

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 Saucedá'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 26, March 5,19,26 (12th Spring Break)' April 2,16,23,30 (Easter 9th), May 7 (last day of class)

Special family & friends invite opportunity: For our Maundy Thursday (April 6) evening service this year, TCRC will be hosting a Seder meal. The Seder is the traditional Jewish Passover meal, perhaps close to what Jesus would have celebrated with his disciples in the Upper Room on that Thursday evening before his crucifixion. We will be celebrating a Christian version of the meal based on information from the Jews For Jesus organization. It highlights the many ways in which Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament promises of God and the expectations of the Jews in their celebration of the Passover. The meal involves participation by all who attend, with roles for men women and children.

Here's the INVITATION part: This will be a full meal provided by our Fellowship Committee and Smokin' Big Dawg's BBQ. We'll have room, and food, for over 100 people, which is quite a bit more than our typical worship service attendance. The meal will provide insight into the Jewish cultural observance of the Passover and the gospel message of Jesus's sacrifice for us. So we'll have a good meal, cultural enrichment, and spiritual insight all in one event :) Please invite any family or friends who might be interested. We'll have a sign-up sheet in the lobby to help the Fellowship Committee have an idea of how many people to prepare for, but even if you don't sign up, please come anyway – you'll be glad you did!

Passion Week services at TCRC: Looking ahead to our observances of Jesus' Passion week, we'll have our regular service at 9:30 am on April 2 to observe Palm Sunday. On April 6 we'll have our Seder meal observance of Maundy Thursday (probably at 6:00 pm). Then on Easter Sunday, we'll have our Sunrise Service at 6:30 am by the fire pit on the church lawn, and then our regular Easter service at 9:30.

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**.

Resonate Global Missions would like to Thank you for your faithful support for God's mission!

As we consider the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023, I'm reminded of Jesus' words from Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Thank you for taking those words to heart and living out your faith.

Jesus' words came at a time of transition—it was the end of Jesus' ministry on earth, but only the beginning for his disciples. Here we have Jesus' promise to send the Spirit, and also our instructions to live out his mission! Those instructions are for us, too, and Resonate is here to continue partnering with you as you join God's mission in whatever way he calls you in the new year. Right now, God is working through your support for Resonate missionaries, church planters, campus ministers, and other ministry leaders in your own community and to the ends of the earth. And in the coming year, even more people will come to know Jesus Christ and grow in their faith. Thank you for walking with them!

In Christ, Joel Huyser, Interim Director

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 3rd Monday of the month

Women's Bible Study Will meet first Monday March 6th. The discussion will be "Practicing Presence" – which helps us be aware and open to the presence of Christ around us. What can we do to intentionally seek a deeper intimacy with God? Are you daily aware of God's presence?

Next Council meeting will be March 8th

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.

Kids Corner: A Friend Named Jesus - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Think about your best friend. What do you like about your best friend? How do you know you have a good friendship? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Preparing for Easter: A Family Lenten Devotional eBook.

Groundwork: Worshipping Christ, the Lamb Who is Worthy - When the world tries to squash our faith and it seems like evil is winning, Christians can find encouragement in Revelation. Join Groundwork as we explore John's visions of heavenly worship in Revelation 4-5. We'll discuss the truths these visions convey and why they offer valuable assurance for our faith. Listen now at Groundworkonline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

VOLUNTEERS

Congregational Prayer: Randy Raak

Sound : Tom Whitney

Nursery: Sue F and Alisabeth

Children's message: Laura Hufford

Greeters: Kopaska

Greeters

February 26 Kopaska

March 5 Kuyper

March 12 Niehof

March 19 Niemeyer

March 26 M Nikkel

April 2 Oftendal

April 9 Oltman

April 16 Raak

April 23 Saldana

April 30 Sanders/Bassham

Nursery

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