

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**March 26, 2023**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

Prelude

Welcome

\* God's Greeting

\* We Greet One Another

\* Call to Worship

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

***And to each one of us the gifts of the Spirit have been given for the common good.***

*So fan into flame the gift of God which is in you.*

***For the Spirit which God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.***

*Lord, please accept our praises now as we raise our hearts and voices to you!*

\* Opening Songs: "Hosanna, Praise Is Rising"

Praise is rising eyes are turning to you we turn to you

Hope is stirring hearts are yearning for you we long for you

When we see you we find strength to face the day

In your presence all our fears are washed away – washed away

Hosanna Hosanna

You are the God who saves us worthy of all our praises

Hosanna Hosanna

Come have your way among us we welcome you here Lord Jesus

Hear the sound of hearts returning to you, we turn to you

In your kingdom broken lives are made new, you make us new

When we see you we find strength to face the day

In your presence all our fears are washed away – washed away

Hosanna Hosanna

You are the God who saves us worthy of all our praises

Hosanna Hosanna

Come have your way among us we welcome you here Lord Jesus

When we see you we find strength to face the day

In your presence all our fears are washed away – washed away

Hosanna Hosanna  
You are the God who saves us worthy of all our praises  
Hosanna Hosanna  
Come have your way among us we welcome you here Lord Jesus  
Hosanna Hosanna

“How Great Is Our God”

Lift Up Your Hearts #574

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty  
Let all the earth rejoice, Let all the earth rejoice  
He wraps himself in Light, and darkness tries to hide  
And trembles at His voice, And trembles at His voice  
How great is our God, sing with me  
How great is our God, and all will see  
How great, how great is our God  
Age to age He stands, And time is in His hands  
Beginning and the end, Beginning and the end  
The Godhead Three in One  
Father, Spirit, Son  
The Lion and the Lamb, The Lion and the Lamb  
How great is our God, sing with me  
How great is our God, and all will see  
How great, how great is our God  
Name above all names, Worthy of our praise  
My heart will sing, How great is our God  
How great is our God, sing with me  
How great is our God, and all will see  
How great, how great is our God

\*Opening Prayer

### **WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

*Dear Jesus, we profess that all wealth, all wisdom, all healing, all hope resides in You.*

**And yet our motives revolve around what will serve our self-interests instead of you.**

*We hear You knocking, and yet we turn to other wealth, worldly wisdom, fake healing, and false hope.*

**We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

*For our self-centeredness and lukewarm apathy, forgive us. Our sins are many.*

**But your deep mercy is new every morning. In your mercy we pray, Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon: Lamentations 3:22-25

*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his mercies never fail. They are new every morning... The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him.*

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 3: 14-22 (p:1139)

### **To the Church in Laodicea**

<sup>14</sup> "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. <sup>15</sup> I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

<sup>19</sup> Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. <sup>20</sup> Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

<sup>21</sup> To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Message: 7 Churches of Revelation: Laodicea - sickening vanity

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

Prayer of Application

\*Song of Response: "Seek Ye First"

*Lift Up Your Hearts #899*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by ev'ry word that proceeds  
From the mouth of God, Allelu, Alleluia  
Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;  
knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia.  
Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.

## **WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\*Blessing

\*Closing Song: "Step By Step"

*Sing! A New Creation #17*

O God, you are my God, And I will ever praise you.

O God, you are my God, And I will ever praise you.

I will see you in the morning, And I will learn to walk in your ways.

And step by step you'll lead me, And I will follow you all of my days.

O God, you are my God, And I will ever praise you.

O God, you are my God, And I will ever praise you.

I will see you in the morning, And I will learn to walk in your ways.

And step by step you'll lead me, And I will follow you all of my days.

Postlude

\*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Rex DeBruin

Message: Rev Randy Raak

Musicians: Chloe Berns-Schweingruber, Kathyln Copely, Ben Giles, Laura Hufford, Breanna Sterenberg, Nate VanDyk

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS :**

This week's special offering is for **Areopagus**, a ministry to Iowa State University. Areopagus aims to reflect the relevance of the Gospel and a Reformed Christian worldview to the world of higher education, and in the lives of students and faculty. For more information, please talk with Lora Copley (Areopagus director), or visit <http://www.isu-areopagus.org/>

Communion for April will be held on Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup> at the Seder meal, instead of Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Rehoboth Christian School Choir Tour 2023** will be at Des Moines Christian School Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> @ 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/](http://www.lutheranchurchofhope.org/west-des-moines/calendar/eid/784720/) There is a flier in the office window showing all concerts for this tour.

**Deb Niehof** has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Surgery and Chemo are expected to begin soon. Please pray for effective treatment and a good recovery.

Anastasia has set up a meal signup in Meal Train for Tom and Deb Niehof. Deb will be having surgery soon, and they'd love some help with meals during April when she is recovering. See full details and sign up at <https://mealtrain.com/kw3y2d> . If you'd prefer, you can simply email Anastasia at [atuckness@gmail.com](mailto:atuckness@gmail.com) and she will get you the information and put you on the schedule. Thanks so much for your support during this time

**Small flowering plants** will be available for purchase in memory of a loved one again for this year's Easter Service. The plants will be \$10.25 per plant and can be picked up after the Easter service. The plant order and money are due by **April 2**. Please place a check in the offering plate made out to TCRC and "Easter Plant" filled in on the memo line. If you have any questions, see Pam Voss (515-708-2676 or [pamkvoss@gmail.com](mailto:pamkvoss@gmail.com)). If you are giving on line, please pick special offering, and memo as Easter Flowers.

**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](http://crcna.org/survey/7210) to answer the survey questions by **March 31**. We have 6 so far, please consider taking this survey.

**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](https://d36s6f2n3iyjqc.cloudfront.net/fyi-files/Growing_Young_Chapter_1_Powell_Mulder_Griffin.pdf)

**THIS SUMMER** we have the opportunity to do an intergenerational mission trip to Flagstaff, Arizona! We can stay for free @ Hope Community CRC (and there are hotels within walking distance). We have a variety of possible work projects identified at Hope Church, the Indian Bible College, and the Sunshine Rescue Mission. Work options include things like gardening, painting, repairs, light construction, and serving meals to the homeless. Our "day-away" could be a trip to the Grand Canyon. Other nearby possibilities for the day-away or afternoon/evening trips could include Slide Rock State Park (natural waterslide); Walnut Canyon National Monument (Native American cliff dwellings) or the Eldon Pueblo ruins; rock-climbing & rappelling on nearby mountains (with a guide); mountain hiking on Mt Eldon or the San Francisco peaks; Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument (learn about volcanoes); and the Flagstaff Aquaplex indoor waterpark. There will be a questionnaire sent out to the mailing list. Please fill it out by March 26th so planning can begin.

**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**. There will be a small breakfast provide at the church for those who are staying at the church between the services.

**Midwest B.A.S.I.C** (Brothers And Sisters In Christ) **Youth Bible Camp**, this year will be Sunday August 6<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup>. Camp is open to students who have finished the 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Camp is located at 32203 230th St, Eldora, IA 50627. We are always looking for kid, as well as volunteers for camp: councilors, and speakers. Please contact Pam Whitney if you have questions or need more information.

If you don't get the weekly Service and Bulletin email, please send a request to [office@amestrinity.org](mailto: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.

**Sunday School Schedule for 2022/23** March 26 April 2,16,23,30 (Easter 9th), May 7 (last day of class)

### **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** Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month

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

**Next Council meeting** will be April 12th

### **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](http://familyfire.com). Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

**Kids Corner: Jesus Cried** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Through crying with his friend, Jesus set an example for us by showing empathy towards others. And by feeling for our friends, listening to them, and being with them, we can follow Jesus and show his love. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) like the Bible Story Coloring Packet 6: The Miracle of Easter.

**Groundwork: Experiencing Palm Sunday with Jesus** - During Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the crowds hailed him as king. Join Groundwork as we examine Matthew 21:1-9, Mark 11:11-17, Luke 19:41-44, and John 12:12-19 to discuss the meaning of Palm Sunday and observe Jesus' actions and countenance as he experiences the events of that first Palm Sunday. Listen now at [Groundworkonline.com](http://Groundworkonline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

World Renew

**Join us for World Renew Sunday** - More than 700 million people around the world live in extreme poverty (on less than \$1.90 a day). Next week, World Renew and churches across the US will be partnering together to help build pathways out of poverty for the world's vulnerable people. Visit [worldrenew.net/world-renew-sunday](http://worldrenew.net/world-renew-sunday) to learn more and come prepared to give next week for World Renew Sunday.

**World Renew Responds to Tropical Cyclone Freddy** - Last weekend, Tropical Storm Freddy hit Malawi, Mozambique, and Madagascar, sweeping through some countries twice with wind and rain, causing landslides that destroyed roads, hospitals, and schools. World Renew has released emergency funds to provide blankets, food, and tarps to those who lost homes and loved ones. You can help families displaced by the storm. Please give online at [worldrenew.net/cyclonefreddy](http://worldrenew.net/cyclonefreddy), call 1-800-552-7972 to give by credit card, or mail your check made out to World Renew with "Tropical Cyclone Freddy" in the memo line to: World Renew, 8970 Byron Commerce Drive, Byron Center, Michigan 49315-7400.

CRC Communications

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Congregational Prayer: Tom Kuyper

Sound : Bryan Van Belle  
Nursery: Jessica and Cassie  
Children's message: Rex De Bruin  
Greeters: M Nikkel

### **Greeters**

March 26 M Nikkel  
April 2 Oftendal  
April 9 Oltman  
April 16 Raak  
April 23 Saldana  
April 30 Sanders/Bassham

### **Nursery**

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