

WORSHIP SERVICE
September 24, 2023

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship (from Deuteronomy 33:26-27,29)

There is no one like our God.

He rides across the heavens to help us, across the skies in majestic splendor.

The eternal God is our refuge, and beneath us are his everlasting arms.

How blessed we are! For who else is like us, a people saved by the Lord?

* Opening Song: "Praise To The Lord, The Almighty"

Lift Up Your Hearts #575

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation! Come, all who hear; brothers and sisters draw near, join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wonderously reigning, sheltering you under his wings, oh, so gently sustaining. Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining? Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you; surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do as with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O, let all that is in me adore him! All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again. Gladly forever adore him!

* Opening Prayer

* Song: "Sanctuary"

Lord prepare me To be a sanctuary

Pure and holy Tried and true

With thanksgiving I'll be a living

Sanctuary for You Lord prepare me
To be a sanctuary Pure and holy
Tried and true With thanksgiving
I'll be a living Sanctuary for You

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Our Father, we confess that we are not so pure and holy. Too often our motivations, our desires, and even our actions are neither pure nor holy. Nor can we always claim to be tried and true. Too often we go our own way instead of following the path You show us in your Word. We pray that you would open our short-sighted eyes to our own folly, and open our hearts to embrace you as Lord. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance (Isaiah 30:15,18)

"This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: 'In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength'... the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!"

Song of Entrusting: "I Need Thee Every Hour" vs 1-3

Lift Up Your Hearts #322

I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine can peace afford.
I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need thee!
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.
I need thee every hour, stay thou near by;
temptations lose their power when thou art nigh.
I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need thee!
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.
I need thee every hour, in joy or pain;
come quickly, and abide, or life is vain.
I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need thee!

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 30:15-21

¹⁵ This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. ¹⁶ You said, 'No, we will flee on horses.' Therefore you will flee! You said, 'We will ride off on swift horses.' Therefore your pursuers will be swift! ¹⁷ A thousand will flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you will all flee away, till you are left like a flagstaff on a mountaintop, like a banner on a hill." ¹⁸ Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! ¹⁹ People of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you. ²⁰ Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. ²¹ Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Message: What Robs Us of Happiness?

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

* Song of Response: "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

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

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

Lift Up Your Hearts #897

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear

All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer

Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer

Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer

In his arms he'll take and shield you: you will find a solace there.

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Stacy Hertz

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Andrew Friend, Holly Raak, Derek TenPas

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

The special offering This week will be for **Bethany Christian Services**, an organization that works to bring and keep families together through services including adoption, foster care, and pregnancy & family counseling. For more information, see: www.bethany.org/about-us

Communion: Next week we will have the opportunity to celebrate the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is the family table at which we eat together and are nourished with Christ's sacrifice for us. Here (as in Baptism) we celebrate who we are - children of God – and are reminded of God's promises to be our God, to care for us, love us, and be faithful to us. All who are baptized into Christ and have made a public stand for him are welcome to the Lord's Table.

The Children and Worship team is excited to welcome our children, ages 3-3rd grade, to worship with us during the main worship service. We will meet in the old "music room" or classroom 3, located to the south of the sanctuary. After the children's message during our service, the kids will follow the leader(s) through the exit door in the front of the church to get to that classroom. Please come after worship to pick up your child!

During our morning worship service, immediately following the children's message, children ages three through second grade are invited to attend *Children and Worship*, which meets in the worship center in the back of the fellowship hall. Children experience worship in the same order as in the sanctuary: we approach God in reverence, hear His Word proclaimed, respond in praise, and go forth in peace and love to serve in God's name. Their worship includes songs, prayers, Bible stories presented using wooden figures and felt pieces, and an offering of creative response. *Children and Worship* is a program for children learning to worship God, rather than a time to socialize or play. In a culture that competes for our attention and consumption, this is an opportunity for young children to learn to offer their attention and love to God. Each *Children and Worship* service builds on previous stories brought into the worship center throughout the year. Children are

encouraged to begin this age-specialized program at the start of the school season after they turn 3 years old. Visitors are welcome to attend.

Adult Sunday School Class: This week (Sept. 24) we will journey up Mt. Sinai and discuss the Ten Commandments and the building of the Tabernacle. Class will meet in room 7, hope to see you there.

There is a sign-up schedule outside the office if you want to go see Eleanor. We can group together to save cost of travel and make the trip a little less dull. Please sign up and let others know when you can go. If you have questions, please ask Judy Oltman or Pam Whitney know and we will see if we can find the answers.

Fun and Fellowship at the Friend's Flower Farm" The congregation is invited to a relaxing, fellowship time, at Andrew and Naomi's farm on Saturday, Sept 30, starting around 4pm, come and go as you please. Hot dogs, chips, fruit and drinks will be provided. Bring lawn chairs and grilling sticks if you have them. Andrew will also be doing hayrides. , Questions - ask Andrew, Naomi, Sue F, or Elaine O.

As the weather gets cooler and Sunday school classes and Bible studies are about to begin, please try not to throw things in the classroom trash that might attract insects or small animals, like food or cups with liquids. As the church is not cleaned till later in the week, these types of items will draw some unwanted visitors. A good practice is if you carried into the room, please carry it out with you. Thanks for your help with this, as it will definitely help keep the church clean.

Coming soon, this year's Trunk or Treat. Get the date on your calendar, October 27th. More information to come.

The Church is looking for new custodians starting at the first of the year. If you are interested please contact Pam Whitney.

Small Groups, Committees, & Sunday School Updates

Sunday School Classes Sept 24, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov 5, 12, 19, (no class 26), Dec 3, 10, 17 (Christmas Program), (no class 24 or the 31), Jan

7, 14, 21, 28, Feb 4, 11,18,25, March 3, (no class 10), 17, 24, (no class 31), April 7, 14, 21, 28, and May 5.

Breakfast Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the Lincoln Center HyVee at 8:30 AM.

UFO will be the third Monday of the month.

Women's Bible Study next meeting will be Monday October 4th.

Next Council meeting is October 11th

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: Orange Shirt Day and Micah 6:8 - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Throughout the Bible, God is clear that justice—or making things right again—is very important to him. In our world, many things are difficult and broken by sin. But God tells us that he is at work restoring justice, and he invites each of us to help him make things right wherever and whenever we can. One way we can make things right is by knowing the sad stories of the past and by doing better today. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the KC's Liz and Friends Podcast "Blizzd The Peacemaker."

Groundwork: Faith in the Fire - Throughout our lives, we will experience instances where we feel pressured to compromise our faith. Join Groundwork as we study the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace in Daniel 3 for encouragement to stand firm, trust God, and remain faithful even in the most challenging of circumstances. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Global Coffee Break, Resonate Global Mission

Fall Women's Retreat - Women, do you need a weekend away to rest and be encouraged? Join Global Coffee Break for a women's retreat October 6-8 at the beautiful Gull Lake Ministries in Hickory Corners, Michigan. Women of all ages and stages, high school and up, are

invited. Learn more and register at
<https://globalcoffeebreak.regfox.com/favored-michigan>

Resonate Global Mission

Position Openings - The Christian Reformed Church in North America has the following agency/ministry position openings in the US and/or Canada: Part-time (20hrs/wk) Administrative Specialist in Grand Rapids, MI; and two (2) Full-time Mission Team Leader for South & South East Asia and East Asia. For details, deadlines or to apply visit www.crcna.org/jobs.

VOLUNTEERS

Congregational Prayer:	Tom Kuyper
Sound:	Rex De Bruin
Nursery:	Sue F and Jayden
Children's message:	Stacy Hertz
Greeters:	Hertz

Greeters

September 24	Hertz
October 1	Irvin
October 8	N Klemme
October 15	Kleinwolterink
October 22	Kopaska
October 29	Kuyper
November 5	Niehof

Nursery

September 24	Sue F and Jayden
October 1	Mary K and Caraline
October 8	Rachel and Stacy
October 15	Melody and Alisabeth
October 22	Jessica and Kathlyn
October 29	Donna and Brianna
November 5	Elaine and Kristy

Children's Message

September 24	Stacy Hertz
October 1	Rex De Bruin

October 8	Randy Raak
October 15	Laura Hufford
October 22	Lora Copley
October 29	Jeff Kopaska
November 5	Deb Niehof

Congregational Prayer

September 24	Tom Kuyper
October 1	Randy Raak
October 8	Rex De Bruin
October 15	Mark Voss
October 22	Paul Kleinwolterink
October 29	Randy Raak
November 5	Jeff Kopaska

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

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

Elders: A-G = Brian Sterenberg: 515-230-2358; H-K = Rex De Bruin: 515-240-7947; L-S = Tom Kuyper: 515-451-3463; T-Z = Jeff Kopaska: 515-291-0074

Deacons: A-G = Joseph Yoder: 515-203-5953; H-K = Pam Niemeyer: 515-290-5933; L-S = Tom Whitney: 515-290-9655; T-Z = Mark Irvin: 217-649-9017

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