**WORSHIP SERVICE**

**October 15, 2023**

**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

Prelude

Welcome

\* God’s Greeting

\* We Greet One Another

\* Call to Worship  - Psalm 65:1-5,8

*Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled.*

**You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.**

*When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.*

**Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.**

*You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth*

**The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you inspire songs of praise.**

\* Opening Song: “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

Hosanna, Hosanna

\* Opening Prayer

Song: “Goodness of God”

I love You Lord; Oh Your mercy never fails me

All my days; I've been held in Your hands

From the moment that I wake up; Until I lay my head

I will sing of the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful; All my life You have been so so good

With every breath that I am able; I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice; You have led me through the fire

In darkest night; You are close like no other

I've known You as a father; I've known You as a friend

I have lived in the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful; All my life You have been so so good

With every breath that I am able; I will sing of the goodness of God

Your goodness is running after; It’s running after me

Your goodness is running after; It’s running after me

With my life laid down; I’m surrendered now

I give You everything; Your goodness is running after

It's running after me; All my life You have been faithful

All my life You have been so so good; With every breath that I am able

I will sing of the goodness of God

**WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD**

Prayer of Confession

Dear Father, it is so easy for us to deny our own sin, and to deny that we need your goodness and love. Dear Jesus, our thoughts deny that we need your grace and sacrifice. Holy Spirit, we are tempted to think that our selfish desires are good, and deny that we need your guidance and power to follow your ways instead of yours. Help us, Lord, to seek first your kingdom. Through Christ alone we pray, amen.

Assurance of PardonPsalm 56:10-13

*In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise—  in God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me? I am under vows to you, my God; I will present my thank offerings to you. For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.*

Song of Entrusting: “In Christ Alone” *Lift Up Your Hearts* #770

In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;

This cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!

My comforter, my all in all— Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe!

This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save.

Till on the cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied;

For ev’ry sin on Him was laid— Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;

Then bursting forth in glorious day, Up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory, Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me;

For I am His and He is mine— Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death— This is the pow’r of Christ in me;

From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.

No pow’r of hell, no human plan, Can ever pluck me from His hand;

Till He returns or calls me home— Here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand.

Children’s Message

Congregational Prayer

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 18:20-26,32; 19:12-17,24-25; Romans 2:14-16; and more

**20**Then the Lord said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous **21**that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.” **22**The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord.  **23**Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? **24**What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? **25**Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?” **32**Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?” He answered, “For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.” **12**The two men said to Lot, “Do you have anyone else here—sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, **13**because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the Lord against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it.” **14**So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+18-19&version=NIV#fen-NIV-472f)] his daughters. He said, “Hurry and get out of this place, because the Lord is about to destroy the city!” But his sons-in-law thought he was joking. **15**With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished.” **16**When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the Lord was merciful to them. **17**As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, “Flee for your lives! Don’t look back, and don’t stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!” **24**Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the Lord out of the heavens. **25**Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land. **14**(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. **15**They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) **16**This will take place on the day when God judges people’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

Message: Supernatural - Hell

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

Prayer of Application

\* Song of Response: “Because He Lives” verses 1&3

God sent his son, They called him Jesus He came to love, heal, and forgive

He lived and died, to buy my pardon An empty grave is there to prove

my savior lives

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow, Because he lives, all fear is gone,

because I know he holds the future And life is worth the living

Just because he lives.

And then one day I’ll cross the river I’ll fight life’s final war with pain

And then as death gives way to vict’ry I’ll see the lights of glory

And I will know he lives.

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow, Because he lives, all fear is gone,

because I know he holds the future And life is worth the living

Just because he lives.

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\* Blessing

\* Closing Song: “God of Grace and God of Glory” *Lift Up Your Hearts* #490

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;  
crown your ancient church's story, bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.

Postlude

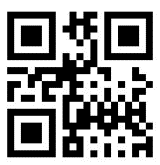
\*Please stand if you are able.

Children’s Message: Lora Copely

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians:  Chloe Berns-Schweingruber, Kathlyn Copely, Madie Fischer, Elijah Hufford, Laura Hufford

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Special Offering** next week the special offering is for the TCRC Building Fund. This is an important giving to our church family, as it allows our church home to be repaired and improved. The newest improvement is the playground, patio, and picnic tables. Please consider giving to the building fund, in the coming weeks, and beyond.

**Children and Worship** - During our morning worship service, immediately following the children’s message, children ages three through third grade are invited to attend Children and Worship, which meets in room 3, located to the south of the sanctuary. 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. Visitors are welcome to attend. Please come pick up your child(ren) at the end of the service.

**Adult Sunday School Class**: This week (Oct 15) This week we will visit Capernaum, Jesus' home base for his ministry on and around the Sea of Galilee. We meet in Room 7. All are welcome.

Coming soon, this year’s Trunk or Treat. Get the date on your calendar, October 27th. Signup sheet is on the table outside the office, signup early to be sure to get a spot.

**Lora Copley** will be preaching and/or presenting about Areopagus Campus Ministry at churches in Mason City, Des Moines and Pella on October 22 and 29. Thank you for supporting God's work through this ministry at Iowa State University.

The church fellowship hall we be used on Sunday evenings from 5 – 7 pm.

Pam Whitney will be on vacation from November 29th through December 10th. Please have your announcements in as soon as possible for these two weeks.

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…

**Small Groups, Committees, & Sunday School Updates**

**Sunday School Classes** October 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 Hy-Vee at 8:30 AM.

**UFO** will meet Monday October 23rd at Naomi Friends home. We will be helping her complete a banner for the church sanctuary. If you have questions please reach out to Kelly Hobson (515-771-9661).

**Women’s Bible Study** next meeting will be Monday October 2nd in the fellowship hall. Our faith practice discussion will be on Meditation, all women are welcome. Contact Melody Franje with any questions.

**Areopagus** – Sunday night from 5 – 7 in the fellowship hall.

**Next Council meeting** is November 8th

**DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

World Renew

**Join the Serving With Dignity Cohort starting November 2023!**- Serving with Dignity is an asset-based approach to service that moves us beyond meeting immediate needs to create lasting change and transformation. Through online learning, congregations will develop a new posture and learn practical steps to shift the way they serve. All are welcome but the cohort is targeted at those who are involved in or leading service, community engagement, and mercy ministries (staff, volunteers, deacons). The online cohort meets for one year starting in November: first and third Wednesday evenings November 2023 - April 2024, and first Wednesdays in May, June, September, and October 2024. Participant materials are available in Spanish and English. This cohort is funded by Thriving Essentials and is designed to be a next step if you have or plan to participate in the Thriving Essentials training (https://www.crcna.org/essentials). For more information about Serving with Dignity or to apply: www.worldrenew.net/events. Contact Jodi Koeman, Church with Community Mobilizer, World Renew at jkoeman@worldrenew.net for more information about this cohort or Serving with Dignity training for your congregation.

ReFrame Ministries

**Kids Corner: God's Provision Gives Us Hope** - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. God promises to give us better gifts (Matthew 7:9-11), and he promises to “take care of all [our] needs'' (Philippians 4:19). This week’s devotion is all about trusting God to provide, even when God’s gifts might not look the way we expect. (Just think how he saved us from our sins!) Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible story podcast “Wilderness Journey.”

**Groundwork: God is in Charge, Now and Forever** - God revealed truths about the End Times to Daniel through complex images and symbolism. Join our Groundwork conversation as we conclude our study of Daniel with the dreams and prayer we find in chapters 7-12 where we discover a reassuring message from God: God is in charge and only God’s kingdom will endure forever. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**VOLUNTEERS**

Congregational Prayer: Mark Voss

Sound: Brian Sterenberg

Nursery: Melody and Alisabeth

Children's message: Lora Copley

Greeters: Kleinwolterink

**Greeters**

October 15 Kleinwolterink

October 22 Kopaska

October 29 Kuyper

November 5 Niehof

November 12 Niemeyer

November 19 Nikkel

November 26 Oftedal

December 3 Oltman

December 10 Raak

December 17 Saldana

December 24 Sanders/Bassham

December 31 Schweingruber/Berns

January 7 Sterenberg

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**   
October14 Tom & Elaine Oftedal

October 16 Tyler and Christina Helfers

October 17 Melody Franje

October19 Jocilyn Tapp

October 22 Mbom Mbih

October 22 Ngieh Mbih

October 29 Christina Helfers

November 2 Brianna Kopaska

November 3 Anastasia Tuckness  
November 4 Jeff & Kristy Kopaska

November6 William Hobson  
November 7 Jacob Sterenberg

November 7 Tom Whitney

November 11 Marlies ‘t Hoen  
November 13 Deb Niehof  
November 19 Pam Whitney   
November 22 Brittany Tapp  
November 27 Marv & Janet Bakker  
November 28 Jennifer Nikkel

**Nursery**

October 15 Melody and Alisabeth

October 22 Jessica and Kathlyn

October 29 Donna and Brianna

November 5 Elaine and Kristy

November 12 Mindy and Cassie

November 19 Megan and Pam N

November 26 Judy and Kenzie

December 3 Sue F and Alisabeth

December 10 Mary and Jayden

December 17 Rachel and Caraline

December 24 Melody and Stacy

December 31 Jessica and Alisabeth

January 7 Donna and Kathlyn

**Children’s Message**

October 15 Lora Copley

October 22 Laura Hufford

October 29 Jeff Kopaska

November 5 Deb Niehof

November 12 Stacy Hertz

November 19 Rex De Bruin

November 26 Laura Hufford

December 3 Deb Niehof

December 10 Lora Copley

December 17 Randy Raak

December 24 Jeff Kopaska

December 31 Deb Niehof

January 7 Stacy Hertz

**Congregational Prayer**

October 15 Mark Voss

October 22 Paul Kleinwolterink

October 29 Randy Raak

November 5 Jeff Kopaska

November 12 Lora Copley

November 19 Randy Raak

November 26 Melody Franje

December 3 Tom Niehof

December 10 Randy Raak

December 17 Lora Copley

December 24

December 31 Randy Raak

January 7 Rex De Bruin

**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

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

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

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