

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**November 12, 2023**

**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

Prelude

Welcome

\* God's Greeting

\* We Greet One Another

\* Call to Worship (from Deuteronomy 33)

*Blessed are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the  
LORD?*

**There is no one like the God of Israel who rides on the heavens to  
help his people.**

*The eternal God is our refuge,*

**And underneath are His everlasting arms.**

\* Opening Song: "Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing" *Lift Up*  
*Your Hearts* #521

Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount – I'm fixed upon it mount of God's unchanging  
love

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I've come;

and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;

he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!

Let that grace now like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee;

prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

\* Affirmation of Faith: Philippians 2:5-11

**Let the same mind be in you as was in Christ Jesus: Who, being in  
very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to**

**be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

\* Song of Affirmation: “Meekness and Majesty”

*Sing! A*

*New Creation #109*

Meekness and majesty Manhood and Deity In perfect harmony The  
Man who is God

Lord of eternity Dwells in humanity Kneels in humility And washes  
our feet

O what a mystery Meekness and majesty Bow down and worship For  
this is your God

Father's pure radiance Perfect in innocence Yet learns obedience To  
death on a cross

Suffering to give us life Conquering through sacrifice And as they  
crucify Prays 'Father forgive'

O what a mystery Meekness and majesty Bow down and worship For  
this is your God

Wisdom unsearchable God the invisible Love indestructible In frailty  
appears

Lord of infinity Stooping so tenderly Lifts our humanity To the  
heights of His throne

O what a mystery Meekness and majesty Bow down and worship For  
this is your God

\* Opening Prayer

**WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD :**

Prayer of Confession

**O God, you who search hearts and minds, forgive the sin we deceive ourselves is not there or is not so bad. Forgive us for leaning upon our false hearts, our filthy hands, our faint strength. Forgive us for grasping after other blessings, when you are the Fount.**

**Lord, overturn us with your truth and your grace. Make us humble. Make us new.**

**In Jesus name, Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*Our Lord promises: "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."*  
(Ezekiel 36:25-26)

*People of God, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our Jacob heart is washed. We are forgiven.*

***Thanks be to God!***

Song of Entrusting: "Give Us Clean Hands" *Lift Up Your*  
*Hearts #628*

We bow our hearts, We bed our knees; O Spirit, come make us humble.

We turn our eyes from evil things; O Lord, we cast down our idols. Give us clean hands, give us pure hearts; let us not lift our souls to another.

Give us clean hands, give us pure hearts; let us not life our souls to another.

O God, let us be a generation that seeks, that seeks your face, O God of Jacob.

O God, let us be a generation that seeks, that seeks your face, O God of Jacob.

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 32:22-32

<sup>22</sup> That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup> After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. <sup>24</sup> So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. <sup>26</sup> Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup> The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. <sup>28</sup> Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome." <sup>29</sup> Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. <sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."<sup>31</sup> The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. <sup>32</sup> Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon.

Message: Struggles with God

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

Prayer of Application

\* Song of Response: "Make Me A Captive, Lord"

Make me a captive, Lord and then I shall be free

Force me to render up my sword, and I shall conquer's be

I sink in life's alarms when by myself I stand

Imprison me within your arms, and strong shall be my hand

My power is faint and low till I have learned to serve

It lacks the needed fire to glow, it lacks the breeze to nerve

It cannot drive the world until itself be driv'n

Its flag can only be unfurled when you shall breathe from heav'n  
My heart is weak and poor until it master find,  
It has no spring of action sure, it varies with the wind  
It cannot freely move till you have wrought its chain  
Enslave it with your matchless love, and deathless it shall reign.

## **WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\* Blessing

\* Closing Song: "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High" *Lift Up Your  
Hearts #610*

Lord, I lift your name on high;  
Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life;  
I'm so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,  
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky.  
Lord I lift your name on high!

Postlude

\*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Stacy Hertz

Message: Rev. Lora Copley

Musicians: Chloe Berns-Schweingruber, Elijah Goosen, Elijah Hufford,  
Laura Hufford

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS :**

**Peter Fish** –We will be collecting the Peter Fish on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Our special offering next week is for Tyler and Christina are in Stellenbosch, South Africa, where Tyler is serve as pastor to an international church (SIF). The church exists to be a "global family in Christ", serving students, migrant workers, and refugees from around the world. Please consider a gift towards Tyler and Christina's work to

reach out to non-Christians with the Gospel, and to disciple Christians to be witnesses to Christ and the Kingdom in all areas of life

**Adult Sunday School Class:** Adult Sunday School Class: This week (Nov. 12) we will visit Philippi and Thessalonica. Please read Acts 16 and 17:1-9 in preparation. We meet in Room 7. All are welcome There will be no adult class on November 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> , resuming December 3<sup>rd</sup>, This week (Dec. 3) we will visit Delphi and Corinth, key sites in Ancient Greece, and important for understanding Paul's ministry and our contemporary culture. Please read Acts 18 in preparation.

**Advent Poinsettia Sign up** Sponsor a poinsettia plant to enhance our worship services through Advent. Cost will be \$10.25 per plant. Money for your order due **November 26<sup>th</sup>**. Please put your payment in the offering with Memo: Poinsettia Plant. You may take it home after December 31<sup>st</sup> service. Questions contact Pam Voss

**The church fellowship hall** will be used on Sunday evenings from 5 – 7 pm by Areopagus. They will be viewing “The Chosen” through November.

In November, a small group meets for mental health support. These meetings will take place Tuesdays 21, at 2-3:30pm in the Fellowship Hall at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ames (610 15th Street). This group will provide a safe place to discuss faith and mental illness. NAMI Connection groups are free and confidential recovery support groups for people at least 18 years old that have any mental health condition; the group offers respect, understanding, encouragement and hope. NAMI stands for National Alliance on Mental Illness, a national grassroots organization with local chapters that's dedicated to building better lives for people with mental illness and their families. To find out more or register, contact the NAMI office at 515-292-9400, NAMI education coordinator Erik Gustafson

at [egustafson@namicentraliowa.org](mailto:egustafson@namicentraliowa.org) or co-leader Anastasia Tuckness at [atuckness@gmail.com](mailto:atuckness@gmail.com).

**The next Pub Theology** (or Beers & Bibles/Spirits & Spirit/Brews & Truths) night at the Mucky Duck will be this Sunday evening (Nov 26) at 6:30. Bring your thirst, sense of humor, and hunger for off-the-wall theology questions ;) We've got some good questions coming in already – keep 'em coming! At this point we're planning on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday evening of each month.

**Ames Christian School** has expressed an interest in discussing the possibility of holding middle school classes at TCRC, starting with the 2024-2025 academic year. This would be a temporary arrangement while they are planning, fundraising, and building an addition onto their current facility. Council agreed to continue this discussion with them if they remain interested.

You are invited to worship with us at our Blue Christmas Service on December 21st at 7PM, the longest night of the year. The holiday season is not always easy. Find a safe place to grieve whatever you are experiencing with scripture, traditional carols, candlelighting, and words of hope. We hope you will find God's comfort and connection with us during this time.

Pastor Randy will be on vacation November 10<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> and December 26<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>. Please reach out to your elders during these times.

Pam Whitney will be on vacation from November 29<sup>th</sup> through December 10<sup>th</sup>. 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** Nov 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 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.

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

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

**Next Council meeting** is December 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

World Renew

**Thank You for Your World Hunger Sunday Offering!** - World Renew gives praise to God for the generous-hearted people like you who support our mission and help us to share Christ's hope with communities struggling with hunger and poverty.

**Groundwork: In His Mercy, God Chose You** - When someone we love doesn't share our belief in Jesus, we often experience grief and heartache. Join Groundwork as we study Paul's lament for his fellow Jews in Romans 9-11. Together we'll learn about God's sovereign choice and our free will and we'll discover comfort in the truth that God, in his mercy, has chosen us. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - End-of-year giving opportunities abound at this time of year, so be intentional about your giving. Consider doing some research to discover a new local ministry or organization that supports a cause you care about deeply, and then give generously of your time, talents, and treasure to help it flourish. Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)



## **VOLUNTEERS**

Congregational Prayer: Tom Niehof  
Sound: Tom Whitney  
Nursery: Mindy and Cassie  
Children's message: Stacy Hertz  
Greeters: Niemeyer

### **Greeters**

November 12 Niemeyer  
November 19 Nikkel  
November 26 Oftedal

### **Nursery**

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

### **Children's Message**

November 12 Stacy Hertz  
November 19 Rex De Bruin

### **Congregational Prayer**

November 12 Tom Niehof  
November 19 Randy Raak

**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 = Rex De Bruin; L-S = Tom Kuyper;  
T-Z = Jeff Kopaska

**Deacons:** A-G = Joseph Yoder; H-K = Pam Niemeyer; L-S = Tom Whitney;  
T-Z = Mark Irvin