

WORSHIP SERVICE
November 19, 2023

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship (from Joel 2)

Do not be afraid, O land; be glad and rejoice, for surely he has done great things!

He sends you abundant showers... the threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.

"I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten— and you will praise the name of the Lord your God, who has worked wonders for you....

**And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions."**

* Opening Song: "Let All Things Now Living"

Lift Up Your Hearts

#5

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who guides us and leads to the end of our days.
His banners are o'er us, his light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.
His law he enforces; the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise,
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

*Opening Prayer

Song: "Give Thanks"

Sing! A New Creation #216

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "We are strong!"

let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"

Give thanks. Give thanks.

Prayer of Confession

Our almighty Father, we confess that we take your blessings for granted all too often.

We may assume that we will have warm clothes and houses, and plenty to eat.

We may feel entitled to a government that provides us with education, employment, healthcare, and even peace and safety.

We may even feel entitled to your grace and forgiveness.

Lord, give us hearts that are full of gratitude and open our eyes to the many ways you care for us. In Christ, we pray, amen.

Words of Assurance (Romans 8:1-2,28)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.... And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Children's Message

Thanks for God's salvation

Scripture Reading: Psalm 65:1-4

¹ Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled.

² You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.

³ When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.

⁴ 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.

Meditation

* Song of Response: "There Is A Redeemer"

Lift Up Your Hearts

#833

There is a Redeemer Jesus God's own Son Precious Lamb of God Messiah
Holy One

Thank You O my Father For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit Till the work on earth is done

Jesus my Redeemer name above all names

Precious Lamb of God Messiah Hope for sinners slain

Thank You O my Father For giving us Your Son

And leaving Your Spirit Till the work on earth is done

When I stand in glory I will see His face

There I'll serve my King forever In that holy place

Thank You O my Father For giving us Your Son

And leaving Your Spirit Till the work on earth is done

Thanks for God's providence for the world

Scripture Reading: Psalm 65:5-8

⁵ You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,⁶ who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength,⁷ who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.⁸ The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.

Meditation

Song of Response: "Shout To The Lord"

Lift Up Your Hearts

#603

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you. All of my days, I want to praise

the wonders of your mighty love. My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength,

let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands: forever I'll love you, forever I'll

stand.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you. All of my days, I want to praise

the wonders of your mighty love. My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength,

let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands: forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Congregational prayer

Thanks for our daily needs

Scripture Reading: Psalm 65:9-13

⁹You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.

¹⁰You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. ¹¹You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.

¹²The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.

¹³The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.

Meditation

* Song of Response: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Lift Up Your

Hearts #348

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever wilt be. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and spring-time and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me! Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow – blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: “Now Thank We All Our God”

Lift Up Your

Hearts #543

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Rex DeBruin

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Char Verkade, Mark Voss, Pam Voss

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

Our special offering this 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

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: There will be no adult class on November 19th or 26th, resuming December 3rd, that 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 26th**. Please put your payment in the offering with Memo: Poinsettia Plant. You may take it home after December 31st service. Questions contact Pam Voss 515-708-2676

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 or co-leader Anastasia Tuckness at 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 4th 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.

Please let Pam Whitney know if you would like to volunteer for Nursery or Greeters and are not already on the list. If you are on the list and would like to be removed, please let her know as well.

Pastor Randy will be on vacation December 26th through the 31st. Please reach out to your elders during this time.

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.

The Church has an event happening the December 14th through the 16th. Please be sure if you come to the church, you do not interrupt the event.

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 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 3rd 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 13th.

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - We often associate generosity with financial giving, but we can also cultivate a generous spirit in our relationships.

Ponder how you might practice this in daily life, perhaps by focusing on refraining from mental criticism, attributing the best motives to people's actions, being "present" and attentive when spending time with others (especially children), or doing acts of random kindness. Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

ReFrame Ministries

Groundwork: Transformed Living - The apostle Paul continued to unpack the new realities of their life in Jesus Christ for the Roman Christians; he challenged them to live transformed lives. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Romans 12-13 to learn how to we too should live in light of the Gospel and what it means to renew our minds and be living sacrifices for God. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Kids Corner: Daily Gratitude - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Take a moment to try this exercise: In five seconds, name five things that you are thankful for. Ready? Three... two... one... go! This week's devotion is about being thankful. Why be thankful? Because it helps us to see God at work in our lives every day. Gratitude gives joy to

both God and us! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the KC's Liz and Friends Podcast "Attitude of Gratitude."

World Renew

Bringing Hope for Families - When families around the globe participate in World Renew's Free A Family® program, parents, children, and future generations are impacted for good. As God brings change, blessings abound, and families can move on from hunger, malnutrition, and poor health. Your gift in next week's offering brings hope to families worldwide -- or consider becoming a monthly donor at worldrenew.net/FreeAFamily.

[For use on Thanksgiving Day] Giving Thanks with our Offerings - As we give thanks to God, we are grateful for mothers in the village of Ka Chi, Laos, who receive medical support from World Renew through local health volunteers who provide prenatal check-ups, nutritional training, and preventative care. Through your gift in today's offering, more families will be able to participate in the Free A Family® program and receive the training and skills they need to journey away from poverty. For more information, visit worldrenew.net/FreeAFamily.

The Banner

CRCNA Position Opening - The Christian Reformed Church in North America is looking for a part-time (10-15 hrs/wk) Sales Representative for The Banner. The Banner Sales Representative is responsible for meeting Banner advertising sales objectives by maintaining excellent relationships with our existing advertisers, developing new accounts, and managing the workflow of display ads. This position is hybrid (Grand Rapids, MI, or Burlington, ON, area) or remote anywhere else in the US or Canada. Visit www.crcna.org/jobs for details or to apply.

VOLUNTEERS

Congregational Prayer: Randy Raak

Sound: Brian Sterenberg

Nursery: Megan and Pam N

Children's message: Rex De Bruin

Greeters: Nikkel

Greeters

November 19 Nikkel

November 26 Oftedal

December 3 Oltman

December 10	Raak
December 17	Saldana
December 24	Whitney
December 31	Schweingruber/Berns
January 7	Sterenberg

Nursery

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 Mindy
December 24	Melody and ????
December 31	Jessica and Alisabeth

Children's Message

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

Congregational Prayer

November 19	Randy Raak
November 26	Melody Franje
December 3	Lora Copley
December 10	Randy Raak
December 17	Tom Kuyper
December 24	Randy Raak
December 31	Rex De Bruin

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