

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**December 10, 2023**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

Prelude

Welcome

\* God's Greeting

\* We Greet One Another

\* Call to Worship Isaiah 40:1-2, 10-11

*"Comfort, comfort my people," says your God. "Speak tenderly to Jerusalem. Tell her that her sad days are gone and her sins are pardoned.*

**Listen! It's the voice of someone shouting, "Clear the way through the wilderness for the Lord!"**

*Yes, the Sovereign Lord is coming in power. He will rule with a powerful arm. See, he brings his reward with him as he comes.*

**He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart.**

\* Opening Song: "Make Way"

*Sing! A New Creation #98*

Make way, make way, for Christ the King in splendor arrives.

Fling wide the gates and welcome him into your lives.

**Women (Men)**

Make way (*make way*) Make way (*make way*)

For the King of kings. (*For the King of kings.*)

Make way (*make way*) Make way! (*make way!*)

And let his kingdom in.

He comes the broken hearts to heal, the prisoners to free.

The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance, the blind shall see.

**Women (Men)**

Make way (*make way*) Make way (*make way*)

For the King of kings. (*For the King of kings.*)

Make way (*make way*) Make way! (*make way!*)

And let his kingdom in.

"Away In A Manger"

*Lift Up Your Hearts #86*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,

the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head:  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.  
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus: look down from the sky  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.  
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care;  
prepare us for heaven to live with you there

#### Lighting of the Advent Candles

Today we light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ-A light which brings peace to our community.

(Light candle)

Peace for...

“The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.”  
Isaiah 11:6

**Come, Emmanuel, our peace, our light and our salvation. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

Song of Response: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” vs 7 LUYH #61

O come, desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid all our sad divisions cease  
and be thyself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

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

God’s Guidance for our lives: Romans 13:8-10

*Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.*

**The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”**

*Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law....  
So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."*

Prayer of Confession

*Dear Jesus, we can become fixated on what we believe is the "right way" to do things for your kingdom.*

**Tear down our pride and arrogance. Help us to listen and to be uncommonly gracious with each other, even while we strive to honor you with our lives. Help us to care more about unity than we do about being right or getting our way.**

**In response to your grace, help us to be an example of unity. In your name, amen.**

Words of Assurance: Romans 15:5-6

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

Song of Entrusting: "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" *Lift Up Your Hearts #88*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.  
For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.  
How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.  
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: Romans 15: 1-9

<sup>1</sup> We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. <sup>3</sup> For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." <sup>4</sup> For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, <sup>6</sup> so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews<sup>1</sup> on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed <sup>9</sup> and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name."

Message: Peace in Community

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

Prayer of Application

\* Song of Response: "Make Me A Channel of Your Peace"

*Psalter Hymnal #545*

Make me a channel of your peace Where there is hatred, let me bring you love  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord And where there is doubt, true faith  
in you

O Master grant that I may never seek Much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood is to understand To be loved as to be love with all my soul  
Make me a channel of your peace Where there is despair in life let me bring  
hope

Where there is darkness, let me bring your light And where there's sadness,  
ever joy

O Master grant that I may never seek Much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood is to understand To be loved as to be love with all my soul  
Make me a channel of your peace It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all people, we receive And in dying that we are born, to eternal life  
O Master grant that I may never seek Much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood is to understand To be loved as to be love with all my soul

## **WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\* Blessing

\* Closing Song: "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go In Peace"

*Lift Up Your*

*Hearts #97*

Lord, bid your servant go in peace; your word is now fulfilled.

These eyes have seen salvation's dawn, this child so long foretold.

This is the Savior of the world, the Gentiles' promised light,

God's glory dwelling in our midst, the joy of Israel.

Postlude

\*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Deb Niehof

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Laura Hufford, Derek Ten Pas, Pam Voss

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS :**

The special offering next week is for **Ames Ecumenical Housing**. Through Keystone Apartments and Stonehaven Apartments here in Ames, Ames Ecumenical Housing provides housing for lower income older adults and those with mobility impairments

**The outreach committee** is having a toy for Salvation Army. Just bring a unwrapped toy from birth up to 12 years of age, the most need is for 6 years thru 12 years of age. The toy drive is thru Sunday December 17. Donations can be placed in the box in the church entryway. If you have any questions feel to contact Mark Voss

**The education committee** invites the congregation, family and friends to our youth **Christmas Program, Dec 17<sup>th</sup>** after the service.

**After the program** on December 17<sup>th</sup>, everyone is invited to stay for a **potluck meal** of soup, sides and dessert! By last name please bring these items for the meal. A -H Dessert, I – P Bread/Side, and Q – Z Soup.

**Christmas Program has a "wish" list** for the Christmas program-if able to lend an item or 2 we would greatly appreciate it! Please label items with your name so they can be returned after the program:\*Computer floppy disk, \*small traffic cones (3-preferred), \*traffic/stop sign (hand-held), \*straw/hay bales (2) (small), \*Battery operated Christmas lights (any color) (3). If you have any questions

please direct to Rachel De Bruin or Laura Hufford. We will need these items for our practices starting on Dec. 10.

**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.

**The next Pub Theology** (or Beers & Bibles/Spirits & Spirit/Brews & Truths) night at the Mucky Duck will be Sunday evening (Jan 7th) 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, but since the holiday is there, we moved it to the first Sunday in January, for our December meeting.



**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 morning (Dec. 10) we will \*conclude\* our study of Paul's missionary journeys in Greece, as we visit Athens and Olympia. All are welcome. We meet in Room 7. Thanks for your interest; it has been a fun semester.

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 26<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>. Please reach out to your elders during this time.

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.

Reminder as we come upon the winter season, please be sure to wipe your shoes before you come into the church to help with keeping our church home clean.

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

**Sunday School Classes** Dec 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** meet the first Monday of the month

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

### **DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

ReFrame Ministries

**Kids Corner: Promises and Peace** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). During Advent, we remember the story of Mary, a teenager, called by God to be Jesus' mother. "How could this be?" she wondered at first. But the angel Gabriel assured Mary. "God's favor is on you," he said. "Anything is possible with God." Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) like the Bible story podcast "The Birth of Jesus."

**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.

**Groundwork: Jesus: Our Mighty God** - The prophet Isaiah next calls the coming Messiah "Mighty God." Join Groundwork as we explore Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 10:21, Acts 1:6-8, and Revelation 5:6,11-14 to discover what this title communicates to us about Jesus. Together, we'll discuss how his presence as a helpless baby displays the awesomeness of God's power and gives us hope as we anticipate his return. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

World Renew

**Deep Christmas Joy** - God gave us his Best Gift at Christmas, and Jesus tells us to give as we have so abundantly received. Your donation to the World Renew Gift Catalog will bring real joy to someone who is struggling to survive each day.

Donate today at [worldrenew.net/gifts](http://worldrenew.net/gifts) or call 800-552-7972.

Thrive

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - In the Bible, the Greek term that is usually translated as “hospitality” means “love of strangers.” How might your home (whether it’s a house, an apartment, a dorm room, or another place) become a space to practice the love of strangers? Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Congregational Prayer: Randy Raak  
Sound: Rex De Bruin  
Nursery: Mary and Jayden  
Children's message: Lora Copley  
Greeters: Raak

### **Greeters**

December 10 Raak  
December 17 Saldana  
December 24 Whitney  
December 31 Schweingruber/Berns  
January 7 Sterenberg  
January 14 t' Hoen  
January 21 VanDyk  
January 28 Verkade  
February 4 Voss  
February 11 Sanders/Bassham  
February 18 Yoder  
February 25 Bakker

### **Nursery**

December 10 Mary and Jayden  
December 17 Rachel and Mindy  
December 24 Sue Fee and ????  
December 31 Jessica and  
Alisabeth  
January 7 Donna and Kathlyn  
January 14 Elaine and Brianna  
January 21 Mindy and Kristy  
January 28 Megan and Cassie  
February 4 Judy and Pam  
February 11 Sue and Kenzie

### **Children's Message**

December 10 Lora Copley  
December 17 Randy Raak  
December 24 Jeff Kopaska  
December 31 Deb Niehof  
January 7 Stacy Hertz  
January 14 Randy Raak  
January 21 Rex De Bruin  
January 28 Laura Hufford  
February 4 Lora Copley  
February 11 Jeff Kopaska  
February 18 Deb Niehof



### **Congregational Prayer**

December 10      Randy Raak  
December 17      Lora Copley  
December 24      Randy Raak  
December 31      Rex De Bruin  
January 7      Mark Voss  
January 14      Paul Kleinwolterink  
January 21      Randy Raak  
January 28      Jeff Kopaska  
February 4      Lora Copley  
February 11      Randy Raak  
February 18      Melody Franje  
February 25      Tom Niehof

**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