

WORSHIP SERVICE

January 7, 2024

Epiphany Sunday

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship (from Romans 5 and Psalm 105)

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

We dwell in Him and He in us.

Give thanks to the Lord and call on his name,

Remember the wonders he has done, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing praises to him and tell of his marvelous works.

* Opening Song: Here I Am to Worship" *Lift Up Your Hearts #567*

Light of the world You stepped down into darkness Opened my eyes,
let me see Beauty that made this heart adore You Hope of a life spent
with You

Here I am to worship Here I am to bow down Here I am to say that
You're my God You're altogether lovely Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days Oh so highly exalted Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created All for love's sake
became poor Here I am to worship Here I am to bow down Here I
am to say that You're my God You're altogether lovely Altogether
worthy Altogether wonderful to me

I'll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross

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Here I am to worship Here I am to bow down Here I am to say that
You're my God You're altogether lovely Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me
I'll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross
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Opening Prayer

Song: "Bring Forth The Kingdom"

Sing! A New Creation #123

You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life O people: life in the kingdom of God!
Bring forth the kingdom of mercy; pray for the kingdom of peace;
work for the kingdom of justice; hope for the city of God!
You are a light on a hill, O people: light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the kingdom of God!
Bring forth the kingdom of mercy; pray for the kingdom of peace;
work for the kingdom of justice; hope for the city of God!
You are a seed of the Word, O people: live for the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the kingdom of God!

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Dear Lord, it is so easy for us to keep your greatest gift to ourselves.

You give us a Spirit of courage, but we shrink back from sharing your good news.

You call us to tell others of your healing and forgiveness, but we worry about their reactions.

Set our souls on fire with your love, restore in us the joy of your salvation, and give us a willing spirit to show your way to the world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (*from Isaiah 42*)

Do not be afraid, for I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes

that are blind, to free captives from prison, and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

Song of Entrusting: "We Are People On A Journey"

Lift Up Your Hearts #142

We are people on a journey, following where the Master walks.
We are people on a journey in the shadow of the cross.
What compels? The face of Jesus! Who Protects? Our faithful guide:
he who treads the road of service, Christ the Lord the crucified.
We are people on a journey, taking up the cross of Christ.
We are people on a journey, moving on from death to life.
We release the sin that tangles. We relinquish all acclaim.
We receive the suffering Savior, he our glory, wealth and fame.
We are people on a journey, to the table of the Lord,
We are people on a journey, fed by water and the Word.
We remember, we remember, how you wash disciples' feet;
we remember on the last night gifts of wine and bread to eat.
We are people on a journey, rising up in life reborn.
We are people on a journey, speaking peace, accepting scorn.
We are walking toward a homeland, to a mystery yet unknown;
to a kingdom coming quickly, to the light of God's own throne.

Tyler and Christina Helpers update on their mission in South Africa

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:6-8

⁶Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy

Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Message: The Greatest Gift - Here, There, and Everywhere

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response: “Lord Most High” *Lift Up Your Hearts #593*

From the ends of the earth, *From the ends of the earth,*
From the depths of the sea, *From the depths of the sea,*
From the heights of the heavens, *From the heights of the heavens,*
Your name be praised.

From the hearts of the weak, *From the hearts of the weak,*
From the shouts of the strong, *From the shouts of the strong,*
From the lips of all people, *From the lips of all people,*

This song we raise Lord

Throughout the endless ages you will be crowned with praises, Lord Most High. Exalted in every nation, sovereign of all creation Lord Most High, be magnified be magnified.

From the ends of the earth, *From the ends of the earth,*
From the depths of the sea, *From the depths of the sea,*
From the heights of the heavens, *From the heights of the heavens,*
Your name be praised.

From the hearts of the weak, *From the hearts of the weak,*
From the shouts of the strong, *From the shouts of the strong,*
From the lips of all people, *From the lips of all people,*

This song we raise Lord

Throughout the endless ages you will be crowned with praises, Lord Most High. Exalted in every nation, sovereign of all creation Lord Most High, be magnified be magnified.

WE CELEBRATE GOD’S COVENANT WITH US

*The Lord’s Supper

Communion song: “Remembering With Love and Hope” vs 1-4

Lift Up Your Hearts #809

sung during passing of the bread

Remembering with love and hope, we celebrate the feast.
Christ bids us come and dine with him, our Host and great High Priest.
God's Word made known in flesh and blood, a covenant of grace-
in manger, cross, and empty tomb, we see God's loving face.
Through all our lives, Lord, you are near – and to the end of time.
In bread and cup yourself you give; our life in yours we find.
We break the bread and bless the cup; our Spirit is outpoured.
Made one in you, we feast in love until you come, O Lord.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "Go To The World" vs 1, 2, 4 *Lift Up Your Hearts #925*

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.

Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth Alleluia!

Go to the world! Go into every place.

Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.

Go seek God's presence in each time and space. Alleluia!

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

for I am with you till the age shall end,

when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen." Alleluia!

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Stacy Hertz

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Andrew Friend, Derek Ten Pas, Holly Raak

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

Communion: Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. All who are baptized into Christ and have made a public stand for him are welcome to the Lord's Table, to receive the nourishment and refreshment of the bread and cup of the Lord "as sure signs" in remembrance of Christ's

body and blood poured out for us in his once-for-all sacrifice on the cross.

The church family is invited to join **Christina and Tyler** for Breakfast Sunday January 7th at 8.30 am. The fellowship committee will be providing the meal and Tyler will give a brief update on their ministry in South Africa during the service. The Breakfast will be a time to catch up with them and hear a little more about their last year. They will have to leave shortly after our service to meet with another supporting church at noon on the 7th.

The special offering next week is for **Food at First**, which serves the Ames community by offering a free meal program and a perishable food pantry. The garden on the church property and financial gifts are ways Trinity supports this ministry.

Thank you to those of you who donated poinsettias to enhance our sanctuary during our holiday season! They were beautiful, especially during our evening services with the candle light.

Trinity would like to present the pastor and each of the other church staff members with gifts from the congregation during this advent season. Should you wish to contribute, gifts may be placed in the offering on Sundays, **December 31th or January 7th**. Please be sure to mark your contribution as “staff gift”. This can also be done online using the link below, special offering, and staff gift in memo

This year the outreach committee is doing a food drive for **Salvation Army**. Instead of giving food we are giving a dollar donation to Salvation Army. Most purchases come from The Food Bank of Iowa. Food is purchased for about 20 cents a pound, a gallon of milk costs about \$1.80, a pound of hamburger costs about 20 cents and a five-pound bag of chicken breasts cost about \$1.00. Food can be purchased very economically. If you wish to donate feel free to give a check made out to TCRC or Salvation Army, or donate online as a special offering with memo of Salvation Army. The food drive will go

thru **January 14**. If you have any questions feel free to contact Mark Voss.

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 4th Sunday evening of each month, but since the holiday is there, we moved it to the first Sunday in January, for our December meeting.

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 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 be meeting Mon January 8 at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing the Spiritual Discipline of "Retreat".

Next Council meeting is January 10th

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CRC Communications

CRCNA Position Openings - The Christian Reformed Church has the following position openings: Full-time Director of the Loan Fund (Remote US/Hybrid Grand Rapids, MI); Part-time Local Mission Leader-Great Lakes (Michigan, Indiana, or Ohio); Full-time Accounts Receivable (Hybrid Grand Rapids, MI); and Part-time Bi-lingual Regional Connector - Northeastern US (Spanish/English). For details, deadline or to apply visit www.crcna.org/jobs.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - “Visio divina” is the practice of meditating on Scripture using art or other images. Try it by reading the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15 and then meditating on the art in Calvin University’s collection based on this story (tinyurl.com/ProdigalArt). Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: Caring for You - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Did you know that along with caring for others, God wants us to care for ourselves, too? It makes God happy when you treat your body with respect and care, just like you would treat a special, holy temple. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC’s The Bible in One Year Plan.

Groundwork: Compassion - The Christlike virtue of compassion is more than an emotion. Join Groundwork as we explore Matthew 9:36, Colossians 3:12-14, and 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 to discover why the apostle Paul identifies compassion as a defining characteristic in followers of Jesus and what it looks like in our everyday lives. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

VOLUNTEERS

Congregational Prayer: Jeff Kopaska

Sound: Bryan Van Belle

Nursery Donna and Kathlyn

Children's message: Stacy Hertz

Greeters: Sterenberg

Greeters

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

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

Children's Message

January 7 Stacy Hertz
January 14 Randy Raak
January 21 Rex De Bruin
January 28 Laura Hufford
February 4 Lora Copley

Congregational Prayer

January 7 Jeff Kopaska
January 14 Mark Voss
January 21 Randy Raak
January 28 Paul Kleinwolterink

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