

WORSHIP SERVICE
March 3, 2024
Third Sunday of Lent

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship - based on Jeremiah 16:19-21

Lord you are my strength and my fortress, my refuge in time of distress.

The peoples of earth will come to you and say, "We have followed empty promises and human ways that could not save us."

The Lord will show them his glory, his power and majesty. Then they will know the truth, that there is no one like our God.

Lord, fill the earth with your wisdom and grace, that we may live in your peace.

* Opening Song: "The Lord's Prayer"

Father, let your kingdom come Father, let your will be done

On Earth as in heaven Right here in my heart

Father, let your kingdom come Father, let your will be done

On Earth as in heaven Right here in my heart

Give us this day our daily bread Forgive us, forgive us

As we forgive the ones who sinned Against us, forgive them

And lead us not into temptation But deliver us from the evil one

Let your kingdom come Father, let your kingdom come

Father, let your will be done On Earth as in heaven

Right here in my heart

Father, let your kingdom come Father, let your will be done

On Earth as in heaven Right here in my heart

Give us this day our daily bread Forgive us, forgive us

As we forgive the ones who sinned Against us, forgive them

And lead us not into temptation But deliver us from the evil one

Let your kingdom come

It's yours, it's yours All yours, all yours The kingdom, the power, the glory are yours

It's yours, it's yours All yours, all yours Forever and ever the kingdom is yours

It's yours, it's yours All yours, all yours The kingdom, the power, the glory are yours

It's yours, it's yours All yours, all yours Forever and ever the kingdom is yours

Father, let your kingdom come Father, let your will be done
On Earth as in heaven Right here in my heart
Father, let your kingdom come Father, let your will be done
On Earth as in heaven Right here in my heart

* 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

Lord, you taught us to speak the truth in love to our neighbor.

Yet that can be difficult, so we casually replace the truth with convenient lies. We try to avoid conflict by telling people what we think they want to hear.

Or we agree to their faces, yet make plans to discredit them with others.

Father, help us to speak with grace and truth, and to show the world the difference of your ways. In Christ we pray, amen.

Words of Assurance *Isaiah 61:8-9*

"For I, the Lord, love justice.... In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known

among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed."

Song of Entrusting: "Be Thou My Vision"

Lift Up Your Hearts #859

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art – thou my best thought, by day or by night; waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord. Thou my great Father; thine own may I be, thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not nor vain, nor vain empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always: thou and thou only first in my heart, high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Zechariah 8:14-22

¹⁴This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Just as I had determined to bring disaster on you and showed no pity when your ancestors angered me," says the Lord Almighty, ¹⁵"so now I have determined to do good again to Jerusalem and Judah. Do not be afraid. ¹⁶These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts; ¹⁷do not plot evil against each other, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this," declares the Lord. ¹⁸The word of the Lord Almighty came to me. ¹⁹This is what the Lord Almighty says: "The fasts of the fourth, fifth, seventh and tenth months will become joyful and glad occasions and happy festivals for Judah. Therefore love truth and peace." ²⁰This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Many peoples and the inhabitants of many cities will yet come, ²¹and the inhabitants of one city will go to another and say, 'Let us go at once to entreat the Lord and seek the Lord Almighty. I myself am going.' ²²And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the Lord Almighty and to entreat him."

Message: Journey to Shalom - A Compelling Shalom

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

* Song of Response: "Hear The Call Of The Kingdom"

Hear the call of the kingdom Lift your eyes to the King
Let His song rise within you As a fragrant offering
Of how God, rich in mercy Came in Christ to redeem
All who trust in His unfailing grace Hear the call of the Kingdom
To be children of light With the mercy of heaven
The humility of Christ Walking justly before Him
Loving all that is right That the life of Christ
May shine through Him King of Heaven
We will answer the call We will follow
Bringing hope to the world Filled with passion
Filled with power to proclaim Salvation in Jesus' name
Hear the call of the Kingdom To reach out to the lost
With the Father's compassion In the wonder of the cross
Bringing peace and forgiveness And a hope yet to come
Let the nations put their trust in Him. King of Heaven
We will answer the call We will follow
Bringing hope to the world Filled with passion
Filled with power to proclaim Salvation in Jesus' name
King of Heaven We will answer the call
We will follow Bringing hope to the world
Filled with passion Filled with power to proclaim
Salvation in Jesus' name

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S COVENANT WITH US

* The Lord's Supper

Communion song: "Beneath The Cross of Jesus" *Lift Up Your Hearts #825*
(During the passing of the bread)

Beneath the cross of Jesus I find a place to stand,
And wonder at such mercy That calls me as I am;
For hands that should discard me Hold wounds which tell me, "Come."
Beneath the cross of Jesus My unworthy soul is won.
Beneath the cross of Jesus His family is my own—
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams, Now one through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor The ones that You have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus See the children called by God.
Beneath the cross of Jesus— The path before the crown—
We follow in His footsteps Where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us To be His perfect bride;
Beneath the cross of Jesus We will gladly live our lives.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "We Receive Your Blessing"

Lift Up Your Hearts #947

We receive your blessing; we receive your grace,
as we walk in the light shining from your face.
May the peace that you give change the way that we live.
We receive your blessing as we leave this place.
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, you heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and praise the Holy Ghost.
We receive your blessing; we receive your grace,
as we walk in the light shining from your face.
May the peace that you give change the way that we live.
We receive your blessing as we leave this place.
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, you heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and praise the Holy Ghost.
We receive your blessing as we leave this place.

Postlude

* Please stand if you are able.

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Chloe Berns-Schweingruber, Kathyln Copely, Rickiel De Silva, Elijah Hufford, Laura Hufford, Derek Ten Pas

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

Communion: Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for believers. If you are sorry for your sins and follow Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, you are invited to come to his table. Through this celebration, we remember that:

- a. The Lord's Supper is a thanksgiving to God.
- b. The Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ.
- c. The Lord's Supper is a participation in the body and the blood of Christ.
- d. The Lord's Supper signifies the work of the Spirit.

The Lord's Supper seals the present and coming kingdom of God.

The special offering next week is to support **Midwest B.A.S.I.C** (Brothers And Sisters In Christ) **Youth Bible Camp**, which has been such a blessing to our young people each summer. This years camp will be August 3 – 7th. The theme will be

HIStory, Jesus life. Spending a day each on the prophets, birth, Gospels, Easter, and resurrection. Ending with final day on present.

There will be Easter color pages available on the table outside the office. Please color and pin to the bulletin board outside the Library. Lets share our Church Family' talents with coloring. Put your name on them so they can be returned after the holiday..

As Easter approaches, it is again time to purchase flowers for our sanctuary. Flowers will cost \$13 each and can be ordered from now till March 17th. If you have questions, please contact Pam Voss, be sure to leave a message. There will be a signup sheet on the table outside the office. Payment can be made in the offering, noting to use money for Easter Flowers. If paying online, use special offering with memo of Easter Flowers.

A memorial service for Carl Vander Wal will be held on Saturday, March 16 at 1:00 pm at First Christian Church, 250 W. E Avenue in Nevada. The family will be available for visitation for an hour immediately before the service.

<https://www.rasmussonfh.com/obituaries/Carl-L-Vander-Wal?obId=30739654>

Adult Sunday School in Room 7: Join Rex De Bruin and Andrew Friend as they lead a class on the Holy Spirit with the help of Francis Chan's "Forgotten God" book and DVD series. Thorough scriptural support and compelling narrative form Chan's invitation to stop and remember the One we forget all too often, the Spirit of the living God.

Save the date: Our next Family2Family Sale will be **Saturday, April 6**. It's a great way to help neighborhood families by recycling your kids' (and your own) outdated or outgrown clothes into some extra cash! Check out our church web site for all the details.

Located on the table outside the office, there are pamphlets for **"Read the Bible in a Year"**. Please take one if you would like, makes for a great way to keep on track for reading the bible.

There is printout of Birthdays, Greeters, Congregational Prayer, Nursery, and Children's message on the table outside the office. I will print this out at the beginning of each month.

Each year, the second **Wednesday in March** is designated as the CRC Day of Prayer. On this date, all CRC congregations are requested to take time to seek God's leading, blessing, and transformation to become more like Christ.

The fellowship hall will be in use on March 2nd, from 1-6. Please keep this in mind if you have any plans to visit the church this day.

If you are not on our weekly emails and updates, please supply your email address to Pam Whitney at office@amestrinity.org. Please update the directory on the table outside the office as well. I will make a new version at the end of March.

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.



Small Groups, Committees, & Sunday School Updates

Sunday School Classes 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 meets the 3rd week of the month.

Women's Bible Study meet last Sunday of the month.

Pub Theology meets the 4th Sunday of the month

Next Council meeting is March 20th

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Renew

Thank you for participating in World Renew DRS Sunday - Your generous gifts and prayers last Sunday for World Renew DRS support the physical and spiritual needs of disaster survivors. Through your involvement, World Renew DRS offers volunteer services, clean up, home repair, community organizing, cost estimating, and reconstruction to homeowners who are without resources to recover on their own. Thank you for participating! If you missed Sunday's offering, go to worldrenew.net/drs or call 800-848-5818 to give today.

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: Living a Holy Life - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Have you ever wanted to do something that you knew wasn't right? We all wrestle with sin, but we need to take personal responsibility. We can't blame Satan for our poor behavior (Ephesians 6:11-17). Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Lent and Easter Collection.

Groundwork: The Shame Of The Cross - As we seek to comprehend the fullness of Jesus' sacrifice, we need to revisit the shame of the cross. Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 53:1-3, Philippians 2:5-8, Genesis 2:25, Genesis 3:7-10, Hebrews

12:1-3, and 1 Peter 2:4-6 to examine the relationship between sin and shame and unpack why Jesus' experience of shame was necessary for our salvation. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Most of us are not naturally good listeners, and that can affect our relationship with God. Practice "listening prayer" this week. Find a quiet spot, calm your mind, and invite God to speak to your heart. Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

Calvin University

Festival of Faith And Writing - The Calvin Center for Faith and Writing invites you to attend the Festival of Faith & Writing, April 11-13, on the campus of Calvin University. The Festival features over 70 speakers, including plenary speakers Anthony Doerr, Yaa Gyasi, and Tracy K. Smith. Visit our website to see our full roster of fabulous speakers, purchase tickets, or to learn more. Questions? Reach out to ccfw@calvin.edu.

Greeters

March 3 Bergman
March 10 De Bruin
March 17 Franje
March 24 Copley
March 31 Hobson
April 7 Voss
April 14 Hubert
April 21 Hufford
April 28 Friend

Nursery

March 3 Melody and Caraline
March 10 Jessica and Stacy
March 17 Donna and Alisabeth
March 24 Elaine and Kathlyn
March 31 Mindy and Brianna
April 7 Megan and Kristy
April 14 Judy and Cassie
April 21 Sue F and Pam N
April 28 Mary K and Kenzie

Children's Message

March 3 Stacy Hertz

March 10 Randy Raak
March 17 Lora Copley
March 24 Laura Hufford
March 31 Jeff Kopaska
April 7 Deb Niehof
April 14 Stacy Hertz
April 21 Rex De Bruin
April 28 Laura Hufford

Congregational Prayer

March 3 Randy Raak
March 10 Tom Kuyper
March 17 Randy Raak
March 24 Mark Voss
March 31 Rex De Bruin
April 7 Mark Voss
April 14 Paul Kleinwolterink
April 21 Randy Raak
April 28 Jeff Kopaska

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