

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**March 17, 2024**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

Prelude

Welcome

\* God's Greeting

\* We Greet One Another

\* Call to Worship (from Isaiah 35)

*The desert and the parched land will be glad. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom.*

**Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.**

*They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.*

**Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.**

*But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the Lord has rescued will return.*

**They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.**

\* Opening Song: "Oh For A Thousand Tongues To Sing" vs 1,2,7,8

*Lift Up Your Hearts #590*

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,

to spread thro' all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones, Your loosened tongues  
employ;

You blind, behold your Savior come, And leap, you lame, for joy!

To God all glory, praise, and love, Be now and ever given

By saits below and saints above, The church in earth and heaven

\* Opening Prayer

\* Song: "Speak, O Lord"

*Lift Up Your Hearts #755*

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to receive the food of your holy  
Word.

Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in your likeness – that the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.

Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all your purposes for your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.

Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of your purity.

Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see your majestic love and authority. Words of power that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of your plans for us. Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.

And by grace we'll stand on your promises, and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.

Speak, O Lord, till your church is built, and the earth is filled with your glory.

## **WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD**

Prayer of Confession

**Our Father, you are the source of every good and perfect gift. We thank you for the growth and restoration that we find in you. Yet we look for these blessings from other sources such as human wisdom, or we take credit ourselves for the ways you have blessed us. Help us to trust your leading in our lives. Help us to see ourselves through the mirror of your word. In Christ we pray, amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (*1 John 1:5-7*)

*God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

Song of Entrusting: "Seek Ye First"

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;  
knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia.

We do not live by bread alone, but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia.

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 47:1-12

<sup>1</sup> The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. <sup>2</sup> He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side. <sup>3</sup> As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. <sup>4</sup> He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. <sup>5</sup> He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. <sup>6</sup> He asked me, "Son of man, do you see this?" Then he led me back to the bank of the river. <sup>7</sup> When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. <sup>8</sup> He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. <sup>9</sup> Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. <sup>10</sup> Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. <sup>11</sup> But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for

salt. <sup>12</sup> Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”

Message: Journey to Shalom: The River of Hope

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

Prayer of Application

\* Song of Response: “Lord of All Hopefulness”

*Lift Up Your Hearts #378*

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:

Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:

Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:

Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:

Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

## **WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\* Blessing

\* Closing Song: “All Creatures Of Our God And King” vs 1, 4, 6

*Lift Up Your Hearts #551*

1 All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing:

Alleluia! Alleluia! O burning sun with golden beam,  
and shining moon with silver gleam, O praise Him, O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 Earth ever fertile, day by day bring forth your blessings on our way;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! All flowers and fruits that in you grow,  
let them his glory also show: O praise Him, O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One: O praise Him, O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

\*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Rev. Lora Copley

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Elijah Goossen, Elijah Hufford, Laura Hufford , Maggie  
VanDyk

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS :**

Next week's special offering is for **Areopagus**, a ministry to Iowa State University. Areopagus aims to reflect the relevance of the Gospel and a Reformed Christian worldview to the world of higher education, and in the lives of students and faculty. For more information, please talk with Lora Copley (Areopagus director), or visit <http://www.isu-areopagus.org/>

Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, is your last day to supply names for the opening of Deacon and Elder. The suggestion sheets are on the table by the office. Please fill them out and put them in the box. We will have a congregational meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup> .for the election of officers.

**Let the madness begin!!** It's that time of year and the Cyclones will be a high seed at The Dance :)

If you're interested in joining the fun, click the link below to enter TCRC's 2024 bracket challenge.

<https://tournament.fantasysports.yahoo.com/mens-basketball-bracket/group/27136/invitation?key=47010cef892b0920>

password (if you need it): Gr8TCRCBBall

**Easter Sunday**, we'll have our Sunrise Service at **6:30 am** by the fire pit on the church lawn, and then our regular Easter service at **9:30**. There will be a small breakfast provide at the church for those who are staying at the church between the services..

**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 17<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**<https://www.amestrinity.org/events/family2family-spring-sale-april-6-2024/>**

**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.**

If you are not on our weekly emails and updates, please supply your email address to Pam Whitney at [office@amestrinity.org](mailto: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 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 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month.

**Women's Bible Study** Will meet Monday March 25<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship hall at 9 am. Topic: Spiritual Friendship (pg 151-154 Spiritual Disciplines Book), copies on the table outside the office.

**Pub Theology** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

**Next Council meeting** is March 20<sup>th</sup>

### **DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

ReFrame Ministries

**Groundwork: The Complete Sufficiency Of The Cross** - Christ's sacrifice is completely sufficient to satisfy God's wrath, and yet, sometimes we forget. Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 53:6; Galatians 2:20-21, 3:1-



3, 3:24-27, & 6:14-15; and Romans 5:9-11 & 6:1-4 to discuss the source of this truth, how we can keep our fears at bay, and how we can keep a right perspective about our salvation and our deeds. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Kids Corner: The Not-So-Triumphal Entry** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Ever wonder why Jesus chose to ride a donkey? By selecting a donkey, he declared that he was there to get to work—God's work—and he wasn't threatening anyone. Donkeys aren't flashy. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like KC's Lent and Easter Collection.

Thrive

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - What would happen if we all listened to others just as deeply and lovingly as God listens to us? How would that change our family life, our work life, our interactions with our neighbor, or our online presence? Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Congregational Prayer: Randy Raak  
Sound: Bryan Van Belle  
Nursery: Melody and Alisabeth  
Children's message: Lora Copley  
Greeters: De Bruin

<b>Greeters</b>	May 26	N Klemme
March 17 De Bruin	June 2	Kleinwolterink
March 24 Copley	June 9	Kopaska
March 31 Hobson	June 16	Kuyper
April 7 Voss	June 23	Niehof
April 14 Hubert	June 30	Niemeyer
April 21 Hufford	July 7	Nikkel
April 28 Friend	July 14	Oftendal
May 5 Hallihan	July 21	Oltman
May 12 Hertz	July 28	Raak
May 19 Irvin		



## **Nursery**

March 17	Melody and Alisabeth	May 26	Donna and Stacy
March 24	Elaine and Kathlyn	June 2	Elaine and Alisabeth
March 31	Mindy and Brianna	June 9	Mindy and Kathlyn
April 7	Megan and Kristy	June 16	Megan and Brianna
April 14	Judy and Cassie	June 23	Judy and Kristy
April 21	Sue F and Pam N	June 30	Sue and Cassier
April 28	Mary K and Kenzie	July 7	Mary and Pam
May 5	Rachel and Sue F	July 14	Rachel and Kenzie
May 12	Melody and Jayden	July 21	Melody and Megan
May 19	Jessica and Caraline	July 28	Jessica and Jayden

## **Children's Message**

March 17	Lora Copley	May 26	Stacy Hertz
March 24	Laura Hufford	June 2	Rex De Bruin
March 31	Jeff Kopaska	June 9	Randy Raak
April 7	Deb Niehof	June 16	Laura Hufford
April 14	Stacy Hertz	June 23	Lora Copley
April 21	Rex De Bruin	June 30	Jeff Kopaska
April 28	Laura Hufford	July 7	Deb Niehof
May 5	Lora Copley	July 14	Stacy Hertz
May 12	Jeff Kopaska	July 21	Rex De Bruin
May 19	Deb Niehof	July 28	Randy Raak

## **Congregational Prayer**

March 17	Randy Raak	May 26	Tom Niehof
March 24	Mark Voss	June 2	Randy Raak
March 31	Rex De Bruin	June 9	Tom Kuyper
April 7	Mark Voss	June 16	Randy Raak
April 14	Paul Kleinwolterink	June 23	Mark Voss
April 21	Randy Raak	June 30	Rex De Bruin
April 28	Jeff Kopaska	July 7	Paul Kleinwolterink
May 5	Lora Copley	July 14	Jeff Kopaska
May 12	Randy Raak	July 21	Randy Raak
May 19	Mark Voss	July 28	Tom Kuyper

**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