

WORSHIP SERVICE
May 5, 2024
Sixth Sunday of Easter

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship

Leader: Hallelujah! Now have come the salvation, power and kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ.

People: For the accuser of God's people, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

Leader: They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. They did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

People: Therefore rejoice, you heavens! Sing, oh earth! The Lord our God is a strong tower, the righteous run to Him and are safe.

* Opening Song: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" vs. 1,2,4

Lift Up Your Hearts #776

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.

That Word above all earthly powers-no thanks to them-abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill; God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!

* Opening Prayer

* Song: "When Peace Like A River" *Lift Up Your Hearts #451*

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea
billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, "It is well,
it is well with my soul."

It is well (*It is well*) with my soul (*with my soul*)

It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control: that Christ has regarded my helpless
estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.

It is well (*It is well*) with my soul (*with my soul*)

It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin - oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! - my sin, not in part,
but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more; praise the
Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

It is well (*It is well*) with my soul (*with my soul*)

It is well, it is well with my soul

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be
rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall resound and the Lord shall
descend; even so, it is well with my soul.

It is well (*It is well*) with my soul (*with my soul*)

It is well, it is well with my soul

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Lord of the Church, through our own grievous fault, we admit that we have sinned in our thoughts, words and deeds. By what we have done and by what we have left undone. We are people of little strength and small faith. Forgive us, Lord Jesus, and free us

from what hinders and the sin that entangles. In determination and joy, we may run the race you have for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: "Well may the Accuser roar of sins that I have done; I know them all – and thousands more. My Lord God knoweth none. There in His book I bear the "more than conqueror" name. I am a soldier, child, and fellow-heir of Him who fought and overcame." God's word assures us: because Jesus bore the just punishment of God against our sin, we are forgiven.

All: We can fight the good fight. We can finish the race, We can keep the faith, as we fix our eyes on you, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Song of Entrusting: "I Want To Walk As A Child of the Light" vs. 1,3
Lift Up Your Hearts #730

I want to walk as a child of the light I want to follow Jesus
God set the stars to give light to the world The star of my life is Jesus
I want to see the brightness of God I want to look at Jesus
Clear Sun of righteousness shine on my path And show me the way
to the Father

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Message: How to Run a Marathon

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

* Song of Response: "May The Mind Of Christ, My Savior" vs 1, 2, 4, 5
Lift Up Your Hearts #334

May the mind of Christ, my Savior, live in me from day to day,
by His love and power controlling all I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph only through His pow'r.

May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea.

Him exalting, self abasing: this is victory.

May we run the race before us, strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus as we onward go.

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S COVENANT WITH US

The Lord's Supper

Communion song: Song: "Beneath the Cross"

Lift Up Your Hearts #825

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- "Lift High The Cross" vs 1, 4, 7

Lift Up Your Hearts #264

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name. Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod, the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name. O Lord, once lifted on the tree of pain, draw all the world to seek you once again.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name. So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory! Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Lora Copley

Message: Rev. Lora Copley

Musicians: Elijah Goossen, Elizabeth Hobson, Laura Hufford, Mark Voss

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

Special offering this week: Tyler and Christina are in Stellenbosch, South Africa, where Tyler is serving 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

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.

We will be celebrating this year's graduates on May 5th. Please join us in the fellowship hall after the service for cake and punch. Graduates

from Universities: Eli Whitney – BS in Mechanical Engineering, Sam Krause – Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Benjamin Marcus – Masters in Mechanical Engineering, Lyndee Jones – BS in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Lydia Berns-Schweingruber - BA in Education and Sociology. From High School: Nate VanDyk and Chloe Berns-Schweingruber.

The Whitney's would like to invite you to Old Chicago on Sunday the 12th at 2 to 4 pm to celebrate Eli's Graduation and Tom's retirement from Heartland Coop. There will be some apps and cake to share.

To honor our mothers, there will be color sheets on the table outside the office. Please color one and hang it on the bulletin board with your name on it. We will be doing these all month, everyone is welcome to participate. There will as be some Book Markers there for coloring as well.

Congregational meeting on May 12th. After the worship service, we will have a short meeting to select the new Elders and Deacons. For Elder – Joel Copley, Naomi Friend, and Paul Kleinwolterink. For Deacon – Donna Bergman, Rebekah DePenning, and Christopher 't Hoen. The counting committee, comprising Pastor Tom Niehof and Deacon Mark Irvin, will count all ballots received. Every name that has been approved by more than 2/3 of the votes received will be put into a container – one container for the elder nominees, and one for the deacon nominees. The retiring elders and deacon (if available) will then blindly select a name (from the nominees to their office) to succeed them as the officer connected to their part of the TCRC family

From Building & Grounds - in preparation for the Summer BBQ event and Ames Christian School starting here in the fall, church grounds clean-up will be June 8. Please mark your calendars for a great church family event.

The Outreach Committee is planning an outing to an **Iowa Cubs game on Friday evening, June 7**. Game time is 7:08, and there will be fireworks following the game. Please sign up on the sheet in the foyer so we can pre-purchase a block of tickets. Anyone can attend and pick up a ticket at the game, too.

Summer BBQ plans - July 26, Friday night, grilling for the neighborhood, burgers and hotdogs, inflatables, possibly music. We will need a church clean up this summer as well, date to come.

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. 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 May 5.

Breakfast Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the Lincoln Center Hy-Vee at 8:30 AM.

UFO meets the third Monday of the month.

Women's Bible Study meets on Monday once a month.

Pub Theology meets the fourth Sunday of the Month
Next Council meeting is May 15th

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - In Whistling in the Dark, Frederick Buechner writes, “‘Thy kingdom come . . . on earth’ is what we are saying. . . . To speak those words is to invite the tiger out of the cage, to unleash a power that makes atomic power look like a warm breeze.” What are we asking when we pray for God’s kingdom to come on earth? Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

World Renew

Celebrate Women Worldwide on Mother's Day - Next week, we celebrate women in our communities of faith near and far. Women who are supported physically, mentally, and spiritually are better equipped to support their own families and communities. On Mother’s Day, please consider giving a gift to celebrate a special woman in your life through World Renew. Your gift will honor your loved one – and support other women to flourish fully as well, as God intends for them. For more information or to give online, go to worldrenew.net/womenofhope

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: The Unhurried Jesus - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Jesus knew that quiet time with God is special in a busy world. Sometimes, when all the activity stops and our bodies slow down, we feel bored. Instead of searching for a way to fill the quiet with extra activities, try this: Talk to God! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the KC Bible Story Podcasts.

Groundwork: Spiritual Priorities in Haggai and Zechariah - In good times and bad, life is full of struggles and challenges. Even when God answers our prayers, the way forward isn’t always straight. Join Groundwork as we study Haggai 1-2 and Zechariah 1-14 to glean biblical wisdom for navigating and enduring our own spiritual and

physical challenges today and find courage to continue trusting God. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

CRC Communications

Please pray for Synod 2024! - We need everyone to be involved. The theme for synod worship and prayer is God With Us..

Email SynodPrayer@crcna.org with your questions or comments.

The Banner

The Banner's Counting On You! - Please support the award-winning, journalistic ministry of the CRC by donating online today. \$500,000 is needed every year to keep The Banner going. The more funds we are able to raise, the less we need to draw on ministry shares, releasing money to other ministries of the CRCNA. Give now at:

TheBanner.org/Give

Greeters

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|--------|----------|---------|----------------|
| May 5 | Hallihan | June 2 | Kleinwolterink |
| May 12 | Hertz | June 9 | Kopaska |
| May 19 | Irvin | June 16 | Kuyper |
| May 26 | N Klemme | June 23 | Niehof |

Nursery

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|--------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|
| May 5 | Rachel and Sue F | June 2 | Elaine and Alisabeth |
| May 12 | Melody and Jayden | June 9 | Mindy and Kathlyn |
| May 19 | Jessica and Caraline | June 16 | Megan and Brianna |
| May 26 | Donna and Stacy | | |

Children's Message

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|--------|--------------|---------|---------------|
| May 5 | Lora Copley | June 2 | Rex De Bruin |
| May 12 | Jeff Kopaska | June 9 | Randy Raak |
| May 19 | Deb Niehof | June 16 | Laura Hufford |
| May 26 | Stacy Hertz | | |

Congregational Prayer

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|-------|-------------|--------|------------|
| May 5 | Lora Copley | May 12 | Randy Raak |
|-------|-------------|--------|------------|

May 19 Mark Voss
May 26 Tom Niehof
June 2 Randy Raak
June 9 Tom Kuyper

June 16 Randy Raak
June 23 Mark Voss
June 30 Rex De Bruin
July 7 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