

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**December 22, 2024**  
**Fourth Week Of Advent**

**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

Prelude

Welcome

\* God's Greeting

\* We Greet One Another

\* Call to Worship 2 Peter 3:8-10,13-14

*Dear friends, do not forget this: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.*

**The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise [to return]. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

*In keeping with his promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.*

**So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.**

\* 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 I'll never know how much it cost

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

To see my sin upon that cross 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

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

Opening Prayer

Song: "Meekness And Majesty"

*Sing! A New Creation #109*

Meekness and majesty Manhood and Deity In perfect harmony  
The Man who is God Lord of eternity Dwells in humanity  
Kneels in humility And washes our feet  
O what a mystery Meekness and majesty  
Bow down and worship For this is your God  
Father's pure radiance Perfect in innocence  
Yet learns obedience To death on a cross  
Suffering to give us life Conquering through sacrifice  
And as they crucify Prays 'Father forgive'  
O what a mystery Meekness and majesty  
Bow down and worship For this is your God  
Wisdom unsearchable God the invisible  
Love indestructible In frailty appears  
Lord of infinity Stooping so tenderly  
Lifts our humanity To the heights of His throne  
O what a mystery Meekness and majesty  
Bow down and worship For this is your God

**WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD**

Advent Candle Lighting - our Confession and Assurance

*Speaker 1: In the brighter light on this fourth Sunday in Advent, may we see more clearly the glory of God in Christ.*

*Speaker 2: "With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens" (Psalm 89:1b-2).*

*(All four Advent candles are lit.)*

*Speaker 1: Light four candles, see them glow Brightly, so that all may know How four candles show the way Turning our darkness into brightest day.*

**All: Dear God, your faithfulness has been great, leading us to this day of anticipation and celebration. May the glorious light of your steadfast love shine brightly in us and through us, that all may give you praise and glory. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.**

Song of Entrusting: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

vs 1, 4, 5, 6 *Lift Up Your Hearts #61*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, though branch of Jesse's stem, unto thine own and rescue them!  
From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.  
O come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home.  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.  
O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Children's Message  
Congregational Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

<sup>4</sup>But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup>For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup>He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Message: Bright Hope for Tomorrow: Transforming Tomorrow

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

Prayer of Application

\* Song of Response: "O Master Let Me Walk With Thee" vs 1,3,4 *Lift Up Your Hearts* #325

O Master, let me walk with thee In lowly paths of service free;  
Tell me thy secret, help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.  
Teach me thy patience; still with thee In closer, dearer company,  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, In trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray Far down the future's broadening way,  
In peace that only thou canst give, With thee, O Master, let me live

### **WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\* Blessing

\* Closing Song: "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" vs 1, 3, 4

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.  
All ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!  
For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold  
when with the ever-circling years Comes round the age of gold  
When the peace shall over all the earth Its an ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Postlude

\*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Rev. Lora Copley

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Naomi Friend, Elijah Goossen, Elizabeth Hobson, Derek Ten Pas

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**The last special offering for 2024 will be for the Benevolence Fund.** Trinity CRC maintains this special fund in order to have resources available to help members who may experience unexpected or emergency needs.

There will be a **Christmas Eve Candle Light** service on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

**Fellowship committee** would like to thank everyone for the great time of food and fellowship last Sunday.

Worship with us at our **Blue Christmas Service on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7PM**, the longest night of the year. The holiday season is not always easy. Find a place to worship and pray over whatever you are experiencing with scripture, traditional carols, candle lighting, and words of hope.

**Slides of Bethlehem:** During the past year Tom Niehof has put up his slides of Biblical sites in Palestine, Greece and Turkey. Episodes 30 and 31 focus on Bethlehem, home of Ruth and Naomi, Jesse and David, and birthplace of Jesus. You can find them at <https://www.youtube.com/@travelswithdrtom>

**Committee Chairs** – endowment request forms have been sent out, please have them completed by the end of the year if possible. Thanks

**From the Deacons**, income for November was \$27,975. Our total income-to-date is 86.36% of our annual church budget. Expenses for November were

\$44,872.49, this is higher, mostly due to increased Property and Liability insurance premiums unrelated to Ames Christian School. Special Offerings, World Renew Peter Fish \$1,934 and Helpers \$4,200. We are halfway December, and this is the time of year we ask that you prayerfully consider your year-end gift to the church.

**It's that time of year**, if you would like to give a gift to those who work for our church family, please place that in the collection with note/memo "For Church Staff".

**Sunday school:** There will be no Sunday school on Dec 15 (Christmas program instead), Dec 22, or Dec 29. Classes will resume on Jan 5.

**Please think about our** church family that can't get out and about, especially as the weather gets colder. If you or your family would like to create homemade cards or buy some to send. Let them know as the weather gets colder that our hearts are warm with thoughts of them. Send an email to [office@amestrinity.org](mailto:office@amestrinity.org) if you need addresses or check out the address list on the table outside the office.

**Randy will be on vacation** December 26 -31

**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.

**There is printout of** Birthdays, Greeters, Congregational Prayer, Nursery, and Children's message on the table outside the office. This has been updated into early 2025. The directory with the newest updates. is on the table outside the office. Please review your changes if you made any. If you have changes or need to add info, please do it on this sheet.

**Children and Worship** - During our morning worship service, immediately following the children's message, ages three through third grade are invited to attend, meeting 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 pick up your child(ren) at the end of the service



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

**Sunday School Classes** Resume January 5th

**Children and Worship** – Happening after the children's message

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

**UFO** meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month

**Women's Bible Study** Will meet the first Monday of the month

**Pub Theology** meets the last Sunday of the month, Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 7 pm Mucky Duck.

**Hymn Sing** will be held the first Sunday of the Month at 5 pm at the Church.

**Next Council meeting** is January 8<sup>th</sup>

## **DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ReFrame Ministries**

**Kids Corner:** Advent Week 4: The Blessing - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). We cannot repay God for his love. What we can do is give his love to others and bless those around us the same way God blesses us. Christ is the ultimate blessing, and when we receive him, it's not something we keep to ourselves. As God's children, he wants us to share the good news of Jesus's birth, death, and resurrection with others. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like the Bible Story Podcast The Story of the Shepherds.

**Groundwork:** Jesus: Our Prince of Peace - As we celebrate Christmas, join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 9:6, Psalm 137, Isaiah 49:6, Isaiah 53:4-12, Ephesians 2:14-19, and Luke 2:1-21 to discover the deep and meaningful shalom Jesus brought to us in his birth, that he promises to establish permanently when he returns, and how we can be his agents of peace in our world here and now. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

### **Thrive**

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - For you Jesus Christ came into the world: for you he lived and showed God's love; for you he suffered the darkness of Calvary and cried at the last, "It is finished"; for you he triumphed over death and rose in newness of life; for you he ascended to reign at God's right hand. All this he did for you, though you do not know it yet. And so the word of Scripture is fulfilled: "We love because God loved us first." –Adapted from the French Reformed Church liturgy During this week of Christmas, tell the familiar story of the birth of our Savior with the hope of hearing it in new and beautiful ways, remembering Christ's incarnation and birth for YOU. Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)

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### **CRC Communications**

**An Advent Greeting from the CRCNA** - As we prepare for Christmas, the ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America wish to share with you the Christmas story and find comfort in God's faithfulness. Watch this short video at [youtube.com/watch?v=gLDlg-9DLKY](https://youtube.com/watch?v=gLDlg-9DLKY) Have a blessed Christmas!

### **World Renew**

**Jesus Christ is Born!** - As we exchange gifts at Christmas, we celebrate Jesus, God's great gift to us. Will you add someone in need, like Moses from Malawi, to your Christmas giving today? Your financial gift to World Renew helps people around the world who live in poverty improve their lives and find a home for their heart in Jesus. Please give generously in today's offering for World Renew, go to [worldrenew.net/gifts](http://worldrenew.net/gifts), or call 800-552-7972.

### **Calvin University**

**The January Series** - The January Series of Calvin University returns January 20 through January 31. From Paralympians to historians, adventurers, and innovators, we have a topic for you to deepen your curiosity. Join us in the Covenant Fine Arts Center on the campus of Calvin University or online. More information can be found at [www.calvin.edu/january-series](http://www.calvin.edu/january-series)

### **The Banner**

**Year End Support for The Banner!** - Help The Banner reach its annual goal of raising \$500,000 by giving before December 31. Your gift will enable The Banner to continue reaching North Americans with inspiring and insightful Christian content for another full year. Please donate now at [TheBanner.org/Give](http://TheBanner.org/Give)

### **Global Coffee Break**

**Start the New Year with a Study** - Join one of our Global Coffee Break Online Zoom Studies. Here is your opportunity to participate in a CRCNA resource led by their team. Space is limited. Men, women and young adults welcome. Go to [Globalcoffeebreak.org/events](http://Globalcoffeebreak.org/events) for more information and to register!

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Congregational Prayer: Mark Voss

Sound: Rex De Bruin

Nursery: Donna and Melody

Children's message: Lora Copley

Greeters: Hertz

### **Greeters**

December 22 Hertz  
December 29 Irvin  
January 5 N Klemme  
January 12 Kleinwolterink  
January 19 Kopaska  
January 26 Kuyper  
February 2 Niehof  
February 9 Niemeyer  
February 16 Nikkel  
February 23 Oftedal

### **Nursery**

December 22 Donna and Melody  
December 29 Elaine and Elizabeth H  
January 5 Mindy and Caraline  
January 12 Megan and Stacy  
January 19 Judy and Alisabeth  
January 26 Mary K and Kathlyn  
February 2 Lyndee and Brianna  
February 9 Rachel and Kristy  
February 16 Melody and Cassie  
February 23 Jessica and Pam

### **Children's Message**

December 22 Lora Copley  
December 29 Laura Hufford  
January 5 Deb Niehof  
January 12 Stacy Hertz  
January 19  
January 26 Randy Raak  
February 2 Laura Hufford  
February 9 Lora Copley  
February 16 Jeff Kopaska  
February 23 Stacy Hertz

### **Congregational Prayer**

December 22 Mark Voss  
December 29 Rex De Bruin  
January 5 Randy Raak  
January 12 Jeff Kopaska  
January 19 Tom Kuyper  
January 26 Lora Copley



January 5 Randy Raak  
January 12 Jeff Kopaska  
January 19 Tom Kuyper  
January 26 Lora Copley  
February 2 Paul Kleinwolterink  
February 9 Randy Raak  
February 16 Jeff Kopaska  
February 23 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)

**Laura Hufford** Worship Coordinator: worship@amestrinity.org

**Pam Whitney** Office Administrator: office@amestrinity.org

**Elders:** A-G = Tom Kuyper; H-K = Rex De Bruin; L-S = Joel Copley; T-Z =  
Naomi Friend

**Deacons:** A-G = Joseph Yoder; H-K = Christopher 't Hoen; L-S = Tom  
Whitney; T-Z = Donna Bergman