

## WORSHIP SERVICE

December 29, 2024

### WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

\* God's Greeting

\* We Greet One Another

\* Call to Worship Isaiah 60:1-3

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.*

**See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.**

*Nations will come to your light*

**And kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

\* Opening Song: "Joy To The World" Lift Up Your Hearts #92

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!

Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,

and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,

far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove

the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,

and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

\* Opening Prayer

Song: "We Three Kings Of Orient Are"

We three kings of orient are. Bearing gifts we traverse afar. Field and

fountain moor and mountain. following yonder star. O star of wonder Star

of night. Star with royal beauty bright. Westward leading still proceeding.

Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem plain. Bold I bring to crown him again. King

forever ceasing never. Over us all to reign. O star of wonder Star of night.

Star with royal beauty bright. Westward leading still proceeding. Guide us

to thy perfect light.

Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a Deity nigh. Prayer and

praising all men raising. Worship Him God on high. O star of wonder Star

of night. Star with royal beauty bright. Westward leading still proceeding.

Guide us to thy perfect light.

Myrrh is mine its bitter perfume. Breathes a life of gathering gloom.  
Sorrowing sighing bleeding dying. Sealed in the stone cold tomb. O star of  
wonder Star of night. Star with royal beauty bright. Westward leading still  
proceeding. Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold Him arise. King and God and Sacrifice. Alleluia  
Alleluia. Earth to heav'n replies. O star of wonder Star of night. Star with  
royal beauty bright. Westward leading still proceeding. Guide us to thy  
perfect light.

## **WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD**

God's Will For Us, Ephesians 5: 8-14

<sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as  
children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the light consists in all  
goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup>and find out what pleases the  
Lord. <sup>11</sup>Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather  
expose them. <sup>12</sup>It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in  
secret. <sup>13</sup>But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and  
everything that is illuminated becomes a light. <sup>14</sup>This is why it is said:  
“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Song of Entrusting: “I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light”

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  
In Him there is no darkness at all The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God Shine in my heart Lord 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

In Him there is no darkness at all The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God Shine in my heart Lord Jesus  
I'm looking for the coming of Christ I want to follow Jesus  
When we have run with patience the race We shall know the joy of Jesus  
In Him there is no darkness at all The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God Shine in my heart Lord Jesus

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi Visit the Messiah

<sup>2</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King  
Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the

one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.<sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.<sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup>“‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.<sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.<sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.<sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Message: The Light Shines In The Darkness

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

Prayer of Application

\* Song of Response: “As With Gladness”                      Lift Up Your Hearts #105

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore your splendor see.  
As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,  
there to bend the knee before Christ whom heav'n and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy-seat.  
As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare;  
so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin’s alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'nly King.  
Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed lives at last  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.  
In that glorious city bright none shall need created light;  
you its Light, its Joy, its Crown, you its Sun which goes not down;  
there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

## **WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\* Blessing

\* Closing Song: "I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day" vs 1, 3-5

I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.  
I thought, how as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along th'unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.  
And in despair I bowed my head:  
"There is no peace on earth," I said.  
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth good will to men."  
Yet pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men."  
Till ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day--  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Postlude

\* Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Laura Hufford

Message: Rev. Tom Niehof

Musicians: Chloe Berns-Schweingruber, Rex DeBruin, Laura Hufford, Pam Voss

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Communion:** Next week we will have the opportunity to celebrate the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is the family table at which we eat together and are nourished with Christ's sacrifice for us. Here (as in Baptism) we celebrate who we are - children of God – and are reminded of God's promises to be our God, to care for us, love us, and be faithful to us. All who are baptized into Christ and have made a public stand for him are welcome to the Lord's Table.

**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.

**This morning we welcome Rev. Tom Niehof** who will lead us in a study of Matthew 2, the visit of the Wise Men. May God bless the preaching of His Word.

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

**Sunday school:** There will be no Sunday school today, classes will resume on Jan 5.

**Randy will be on vacation** December 26 -January 2<sup>nd</sup>

**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.  
January 5<sup>th</sup>

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

### **DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **World Renew**

**Giving Thanks for You at Christmas** - Thank you for sharing God's love with people in need through World Renew during Advent. Your gift is providing help and hope for families, like Moses' in Malawi, who are facing poverty, disaster, and injustice today. If you want to help people through World Renew in the New Year, please go to [worldrenew.net/gifts](http://worldrenew.net/gifts) or call 800-552-7972. Thank you for sharing the Good News of God's love!

#### **ReFrame Ministries**

**Kids Corner:** Home is a Blessing - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). God is our rock and our foundation. The home is the

place where your family chooses to make a commitment to serve God. What a blessing! Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like the Bible Story Podcast The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders.

**Groundwork:** Your Questions about Scripture and Hope - Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 6:9-13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 11:13-16, Revelation 20:1-6, John 15:18-25, and Psalm 46 to look at some of the questions you asked this year in response to our discussions on the Lord's Prayer, Joshua, and Revelation; then we'll talk about the issues that feel most pressing for our faith right now and where we can find the hope and encouragement to keep living faithfully each day. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**We're Hiring! Learning and Development Specialist** - This position will implement a learning and development program for denominational staff, focusing on improving skills, knowledge, and overall professional development. The successful candidate will also oversee the Performance Review System and collaborate with the Human Resources Directors to execute the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) strategy for denominational staff. This full time, hybrid position can work from either Grand Rapids, Mich., or Burlington, Ont. Apply at [crcna.pinpointhq.com](http://crcna.pinpointhq.com)

### **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)

### **Thrive**

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - As we come to the end of a calendar year, this is a fitting time to look back. At a mealtime this week, share with someone else one thing that you're grateful for, one thing you're sad about, and one way you've seen God working in the past year. Read Psalm 90 together as a reminder that God directs our days, months, and years. Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Congregational Prayer: Rex De Bruin  
Sound: Tom Whitney  
Nursery: Mindy and Elizabeth H  
Children's message: Laura Hufford  
Greeters: Irving

### **Greeters**

Dec 29 Irvin

January 5 N Klemme

January 12 Kleinwolterink  
 January 19 Kopaska  
 Jan 26 Kuyper  
 Feb 2 Niehof  
 Feb 9 Niemeyer  
 Feb 16 Nikkel  
 Feb 23 Oftedal  
 March 2 Oltman  
 March 9 Raak  
 March 16 Saldana  
 March 23 Sanders/Bassham  
 March 30 Schweingruber/Berns  
 April 6 Sterenberg

April 13 t' Hoen  
 April 20 VanDyk  
 April 27 Verkade  
 May 4 Whitney  
 May 11 Bakker  
 May 18 Bergman  
 May 25 De Bruin  
 June 1 Franje  
 June 8 Copley  
 June 15 Hobson  
 June 22 Voss  
 June 29 Hubert

### **Nursery**

Dec 29 Mindy and Elizabeth H  
 Jan 5 Elaine and Caraline  
 Jan 12 Megan and Stacy  
 Jan 19 Judy and Alisabeth  
 Jan 26 Mary K and Kathlyn  
 Feb 2 Lyndee and Brianna  
 Feb 9 Rachel and Kristy  
 Feb 16 Melody and Cassie  
 Feb 23 Jessica and Pam  
 March 2 Donna and Kenzie  
 March 9 Elaine and Sue F  
 March 16 Mindy and Elizabeth  
 March 23 Megan and  
 Caraline/Stacy  
 March 30 Judy and Brianna

April 6 Mary and Alisabeth  
 April 13 Lyndee and Kathlyn  
 April 20 Rachel and Sue F  
 April 27 Melody and Kristy  
 May 4 Jessica and Cassie  
 May 11 Donna and Pam  
 May 18 Elaine and Kenzie  
 May 25 Mindy and Sue F  
 June 1 Megan and Elizabeth  
 June 8 Judy and  
 Caraline/Stacy  
 June 15 Mary and Brianna  
 June 22 Lyndee and Alisabeth  
 June 29 Rachel and Kathlyn

### **Children's Message**

Dec 29 Laura Hufford  
 Jan 5 Deb Niehof  
 Jan 12 Stacy Hertz  
 Jan 19 Rex De Bruin  
 Jan 26 Randy Raak  
 Feb 2 Laura Hufford  
 Feb 9 Lora Copley  
 Feb 16 Jeff Kopaska  
 Feb 23 Stacy Hertz  
 March 2 Rex De Bruin  
 March 9 Randy Raak

March 16 Laura Hufford  
 March 23 Lora Copley  
 March 30 Jeff Kopaska  
 April 6 Stacy Hertz  
 April 13 Rex De Bruin  
 April 20 Randy Raak  
 April 27 Laura Hufford  
 May 4 Lora Copley  
 May 11 Jeff Kopaska  
 May 18 Stacy Hertz  
 May 25 Rex De Bruin

June 1 Randy Raak  
June 8 Laura Hufford  
June 15 Lora Copley

June 22 Jeff Kopaska  
June 29 Stacy Hertz

### **Congregational Prayer**

Dec 29 Rex De Bruin  
Jan 5 Randy Raak  
Jan 12 Jeff Kopaska  
Jan 19 Tom Kuyper  
Jan 26 Lora Copley  
Jan 5 Randy Raak  
Jan 12 Jeff Kopaska  
Jan 19 Tom Kuyper  
Jan 26 Lora Copley  
Feb 2 Paul Kleinwolterink  
Feb 9 Randy Raak  
Feb 16 Jeff Kopaska  
Feb 23 Tom Niehof  
March 2 Randy Raak  
March 9 Lora Copley  
March 16 Tom Kuyper

March 23 Randy Raak  
March 30 Tom Niehof  
April 6 Rex De Bruin  
April 13 Randy Raak  
April 20 Tom Niehof  
April 27 Randy Raak  
May 4 Mark Voss  
May 11 Paul Kleinwolterink  
May 18 Randy Raak  
May 25 Jeff Kopaska  
June 1 Tom Niehof  
June 8 Randy Raak  
June 15 Lora Copley  
June 22 Tom Kuyper  
June 29 Randy Raak

**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