

## WORSHIP SERVICE

February 23, 2025

### WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

\* God's Greeting

\* We Greet One Another

\* Call to Worship - from Psalm 97

*The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.*

**The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all peoples see his glory.**

*Light shines on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart.*

**Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.**

\* Opening Song: "Praise the Lord! Sing Hallelujah" Lift Up Your Hearts #518

Praise the Lord! Sing hallelujah! Come, our great Redeemer praise

I will sing The glorious praises Of my God through all my days

Put no confidence in princes Nor on human help depend

They shall die To dust returning All their thoughts and plan shall end

Happy are The ones professing Jacob's God to be their aid

They are blest Whose hope of blessing On the Lord their God is stayed

Heaven and earth The Lord created Seas and all that they contain

He delivers from oppression Righteousness he will maintain

Food he daily give the hungry Sets the mourning prisoner free

Raises those Bowed down with anguish Makes the sightless eyes to see

God our Savior love the righteous And the stranger he befriends

Helps the orphan and the widow Judgment on the wicked sends

Praise the Lord! Sing hallelujah!

Come, our great Redeemer praise I will sing The glorious praises

Of my God through all my days Over all God reigns forever

Through all ages he is King Unto him Your God, O Zion Joyful hallelujahs sing

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

Lift Up Your Hearts #322

I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;

no tender voice like thine can peace afford.

I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need thee!

O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

I need thee every hour, stay thou near by;

temptations lose their power when thou art nigh.

I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need thee!

O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

I need thee every hour, in joy or pain;

come quickly, and abide, or life is vain.

I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need thee!  
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.  
I need thee every hour; teach me thy will,  
and thy rich promises in me fulfill.  
I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need thee!  
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.  
I need thee every hour, most Holy One;  
O make me thine indeed, though Blessed Son!  
I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need thee!  
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

## **WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD**

God's call to equip ourselves: Ephesians 6:10-13

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Prayer of Confession

*Dear Father, you call us to be your people, and to be a light to the world around us.*

**But forces remain that seek to obscure your message and intimidate your people into silence.**

*Lord, at times we struggle to follow your command to love our neighbor, and yet also be faithful to your gospel of truth.*

**Help us to overcome the hurt and pride we may feel. We ask for your wisdom, your grace, and the strength to respond by speaking the truth in love, with gentleness and respect.**

*We pray in the name of Jesus, whose example showed us how to do this, Amen.*

Words of Assurance 1 Peter 5:5-7

*"Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

Song of Entrusting: "Holy Spirit, Living Breath Of God" Lift Up Your Hearts #746

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord to renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause your Word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see;  
give me passion for your purity; Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.  
Holy Spirit, come abide within, may your joy be seen in all I do.  
Love enough to cover every sin, in each thought and deed and attitude.

Kindness to the greatest and the least, gentleness that sows the path of peace.  
Turn my striving into works of grace; Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.  
Holy Spirit, from creation's birth, giving life to all that God has made,  
show your power once again on earth, cause your church to hunger for your ways.  
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise; lead us on the road of sacrifice,  
that in unity the face of Christ may be clear for all the world to see.

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel

### **David and Goliath**

<sup>17</sup> Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. <sup>2</sup> Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. <sup>3</sup> The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them. <sup>4</sup> A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. <sup>5</sup> He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; <sup>6</sup> on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. <sup>7</sup> His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him. <sup>8</sup> Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. <sup>9</sup> If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." <sup>10</sup> Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." <sup>11</sup> On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified. <sup>12</sup> Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul's time he was very old. <sup>13</sup> Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. <sup>14</sup> David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, <sup>15</sup> but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem. <sup>16</sup> For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand. <sup>17</sup> Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. <sup>18</sup> Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them. <sup>19</sup> They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines." <sup>20</sup> Early in the morning David left the

flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. <sup>21</sup> Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. <sup>22</sup> David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. <sup>23</sup> As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. <sup>24</sup> Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear. <sup>25</sup> Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel." <sup>26</sup> David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" <sup>27</sup> They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, "This is what will be done for the man who kills him." <sup>28</sup> When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle." <sup>29</sup> "Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?" <sup>30</sup> He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. <sup>31</sup> What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him. <sup>32</sup> David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." <sup>33</sup> Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth." <sup>34</sup> But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, <sup>35</sup> I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. <sup>36</sup> Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. <sup>37</sup> The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you." <sup>38</sup> Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. <sup>39</sup> David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. <sup>40</sup> Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine. <sup>41</sup> Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. <sup>42</sup> He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a

boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. <sup>43</sup> He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup> "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!" <sup>45</sup> David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup> This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. <sup>47</sup> All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands." <sup>48</sup> As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. <sup>49</sup> Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. <sup>50</sup> So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. <sup>51</sup> David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. <sup>52</sup> Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron. <sup>53</sup> When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they plundered their camp.

<sup>54</sup> David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem; he put the Philistine's weapons in his own tent. <sup>55</sup> As Saul watched David going out to meet the Philistine, he said to Abner, commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is that young man?" Abner replied, "As surely as you live, Your Majesty, I don't know." <sup>56</sup> The king said, "Find out whose son this young man is." <sup>57</sup> As soon as David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with David still holding the Philistine's head. <sup>58</sup> "Whose son are you, young man?" Saul asked him. David said, "I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem."

Message: 17What's Your Story, David?

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

Prayer of Application

\* Song of Response: "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

Lift Up Your Hearts #352

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
be now and ever near me, my Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

O let me feel you near me! The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear:  
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but Jesus, draw still nearer, and shield my soul from sin.  
O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
and speak and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.  
O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,  
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too;  
O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end;  
when you in glory take me, my Savior and my Friend.

## **WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\* Blessing

\* Closing Song: "God of Grace and God of Glory" vs 1, 2, 4

Lift Up Your Hearts #926

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;  
crown your ancient church's story, bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of  
this hour.  
Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of  
these days.  
Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore, serving you  
whom we adore.

Postlude

\*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Stacy Hertz

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Rex DeBruin, Elijah Goossen, Holly Raak, Maggie VanDyk

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Communion:** Next week we will gather at the Lord's Table. Come, all who are sorry for their sins, who believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, have confessed his name, and desire to live in obedience to him. Come, for Christ our risen Lord invites you to fellowship with him at his table.

**Next week's special offering will be for The Bridge home.** As their director explained to us last month, the Bridge home addresses homelessness here in Ames by providing emergency shelter and sustainable solutions.

**Adult Sunday School (Room 7):** Melody Franje and Rex De Bruin will continue to lead a discussion on different faith practices and how to incorporate these spiritual disciplines into our personal and communal lives. Last fall we discussed disciplines such as the sabbath, hospitality, gratitude, and generosity. We'd love to have you join us this spring!

**Young Adult Ministry's** first meeting will be lunch will be on February 23rd!.

**Council is requesting** your prayerful consideration and nomination of TCRC members to serve in the offices of elder and deacon. The form, including instructions, for nominations is on the table in the entryway. Please put your completed forms in the box there labeled **"ELDER & DEACON NOMINATIONS"** by **March 9<sup>th</sup>**



**You are invited** join an important conversation on a larger vision for mental health, with Dr Warren Kinghorn of Duke University, and ISU's own Dr Marty Martinez and Dr Eric Weber. *Is There more to Mental Health?: A Discussion on Flourishing, Suffering and Spirituality.* Tuesday, February 25, 7:30pm Memorial Union, South Ballroom Questions? Please talk to Lora Copley, 505 387 6861

**The Family 2 Family** sale will happen again this spring, Saturday, April 5th, 2025 9:00am - 1:00pm.

We will release this to the public in a couple weeks, so get signed up if you want a slot. <https://www.amestrinity.org/church-events/family2family-spring-sale/>

**Ministry Amplified** -March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm, Resonate leaders and missionaries from all over the world will meet and get updates from Director Kevin DeRaff, Missionaries serving in Japan including Larry Spalink, Ken Lee, Perin Werner and Charles Oh. Registration by using this link <https://resonateglobalmission.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d753413c936a8d8acd14ca756&id=490204e91a&e=ffcd6b2b27>

Synod has designated the second Wednesday in **March (March 12, 2025) as the Annual Day of Prayer.** On this date each year, all CRC congregations are requested to take time to ask for God's blessing upon the world, our nations and communities, crops and industry, and the church worldwide. Will you join us? For those in the United States, it may be important to note that there is also a National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 1, 2025. U.S. Councils, if you feel that participating in an Annual

Day of Prayer can be done more meaningfully in conjunction with this National Day of Prayer (U.S.), please do so.

**Reminder** the winter season is here, please be sure to wipe your shoes before you come into the church to help with keeping our church home clean.

**If you group** or committee has an announcement, please be sure to get me an update by 10:30 am on Thursday so I have time to get it in them into the announcements for the week.

Pam Whitney will be gone from March 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>

**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** Happening at 10.50, after fellowship

**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, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> 7 pm Mucky Duck.

**Hymn Sing** will be held the first Sunday of the Month at 5 pm at the Church. March 3<sup>rd</sup> is the next one.

**Next Council meeting** is March 12<sup>th</sup>

### **DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

ReFrame Ministries

**Kids Corner: Show Respect** - Check out this week's kids' devotion "Show Respect" at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). One way to be kind and respectful is to remind yourself that God made other people in his image (Genesis 1:27). 1 Peter 5:5 tells us to obey our



elders and “be humble toward everyone else.” Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like KC’s Church in Action Comic Book.

**Groundwork: Paul's First Journey: The Gospel Spreads and the Church Grows -**

After Jesus ascends to heaven and the Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost, the apostles start teaching and spreading the good news of salvation. Join Groundwork as we study the Apostle Paul’s first missionary journey in Acts 13-14 and let his teaching and experiences instruct our faith today. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

World Renew

**Help Us Renew Hope through World Renew DRS Sunday Today -** Today’s offering for World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) builds hope in communities across the U.S. and Canada. World Renew DRS helps homeowners like Gladys who may not be able to recover from a flood, tornado, wildfire, or hurricane on their own. Please give generously online at [worldrenew.net/drs](http://worldrenew.net/drs), by phone at 1-800-552-7972, or through today’s offering.

**Join World Renew’s Response to Foreign Aid Freeze -** World Renew is continuing to assess needs from a recent USAID funding freeze. Although the context surrounding the situation changes by the day, thousands of people remain affected. Will you join World Renew and help extend God’s compassion? Together with your gifts, we can provide short-term emergency aid and continue to help people facing hunger, disaster, and conflict. Donate to our rapid response fund by visiting <http://worldrenew.net/IDR-Foreign-Aid-Freeze-Response> or calling 1-800-552-7972.

CRC Communications

**Faith Alive Temporary Shutdown - IMPORTANT NOTICE:** From February 17 to February 26, the Faith Alive call center and website will not be accepting orders. On February 27 their new online store will launch and be ready to serve church resource needs once again!

Thrive

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip -** Think about a favorite Bible verse. Look it up in translations that are different from what you normally use. What do you notice in a new way? What stands out to you? Rewrite the verse in your own words or draw a picture of what this verse means to you. Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)

**VOLUNTEERS**

Congregational Prayer: Tom Niehof  
Sound: Brian Sterenberg  
Nursery: Jessica and Pam  
Children's message: Stacy Hertz  
Greeters: Oftedal

Greeters

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 Kopaska

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**

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 Lyndee and Alisabeth  
April 13 Mary 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**

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**

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