

WORSHIP SERVICE

April 27, 2025

2nd Sunday of Easter

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship (From Psalm 145 & 147)

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; no one can comprehend his greatness.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all time and space.

Yet the Lord is gracious and compassionate to his people, slow to anger and rich in love.

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

* Opening Song: "How Great Thou Art"

Lift Up Your Hearts #553

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made

I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder Thy power throughout the universe displayed
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee How great Thou art, how great Thou art
When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees

when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee How great Thou art, how great Thou art
But when I think that God, His Son not sparing Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in

That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing He bled and died to take away my sin
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee How great Thou art, how great Thou art
When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart

Then I shall bow in humble adoration And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee How great Thou art, how great Thou art

* Opening Prayer

* Song: "In Sweet Communion, Lord, With You" vs 1-4 *Lift Up Your Hearts #346*

In sweet communion, Lord, with you I constantly abide;

my hand you hold within your own to keep me near your side.
Your counsel through my earthly way shall guide me and control,
and then to glory afterward you will receive my soul.
Whom have I, Lord, in heaven but you, to whom my thoughts aspire?
And, having you, what more on earth is there I can desire?
Though flesh and heart should faint and fail, the Lord will ever be
the strength and portion of my heart, my God eternally.
To live apart from God is death; 'tis good his face to seek
My refuge is the living God; his praise I long to speak

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Lord, at times we seem so desperate to understand a universe that is beyond our comprehension.

We might reduce it to the smallest fields of study to try to gain an understanding of something greater. Sometimes, we may reduce it to simplifications that give us an illusion of understanding.

To support our illusion of control, we may reduce your world to physical elements, and deny that anything exists beyond our capacities to comprehend or study.

Lord, we thank you for minds that can explore these complexities, but we pray for humility to recognize our limitations compared to you. In your unlimited grace we pray, amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Psalm 147:5-6,10-11)

"How great is our Lord! His power is absolute! His understanding is beyond comprehension!

The Lord supports the humble, but he brings the wicked down into the dust....

He takes no pleasure in the strength of a horse or in human might.

No, the Lord's delight is in those who fear him, those who put their hope in his unfailing love."

Song of Entrusting: "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

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 28:4-20, Luke 24:39, Leviticus 19:31

1 Samuel 28:4-20

⁴The Philistines assembled and came and set up camp at Shunem, while Saul gathered all Israel and set up camp at Gilboa. ⁵When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart. ⁶He inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets. ⁷Saul then said to his attendants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her." "There is one in Endor," they said. ⁸So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes, and at night he and two men went to the woman. "Consult a spirit for me," he said, "and bring up for me the one I name." ⁹But the woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done. He has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why have you set a trap for my life to bring about my death?" ¹⁰Saul swore to her by the Lord, "As surely as the Lord lives, you will not be punished for this." ¹¹Then the woman asked, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" "Bring up Samuel," he said. ¹²When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!" ¹³The king said to her, "Don't be afraid. What do you see?" The woman said, "I see a ghostly figure^[a] coming up out of the earth." ¹⁴"What does he look like?" he asked. "An old man wearing a robe is coming up," she said. Then Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. ¹⁵Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" "I am in great distress," Saul said. "The Philistines are fighting against me, and God has departed from me. He no longer answers me, either by prophets or by dreams. So I have called on you to tell me what to do." ¹⁶Samuel said, "Why do you consult me, now that the Lord has departed from you and become your enemy? ¹⁷The Lord has done what he predicted through me. The Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hands and given it to one of your neighbors—to David. ¹⁸Because you did not obey the Lord or carry out his fierce wrath against the Amalekites, the Lord has done this to you today. ¹⁹The Lord will deliver both Israel and you into the hands of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will also give the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines." ²⁰Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, filled with fear because of Samuel's words. His strength was gone, for he had eaten nothing all that day and all that night.

Luke 24:39

³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

Leviticus 19:31

³¹ “Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God.

Account of a personal experience

Message: Encountering Mystery - Supernatural Interpersonal Experience

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Prayer of Application

* Song of Response: “Be Still, My Soul

Be still, my soul, The Lord is on thy side. Bear patiently, The cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God, to order and provide. In every change, He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul, Thy best thy heavenly Friend. Through thorny ways, Leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul, thy God doth undertake. To guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing shake. All now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul, the waves and wind still know. His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on. When we shall be forever with the Lord.
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone. Sorrow forgot, Love's purest joys restored.

Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past. All safe and blessed, we shall meet at last.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: “Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing” Lift Up Your Hearts #933

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace.

Let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.

O direct us and protect us traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound.

May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.

Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children’s Message: Laura Hufford

Message: Pastor Randy Raak

Musicians: Char Verkade, Naomi Friend, Maggie Van Dyk, Rex DeBruin

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Communion: We look forward to celebrating the Lord's Supper next Sunday morning. All who are trusting in Christ and have made a public stand for him are encouraged to join.

The special offering this week is for Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA). MICA is a private, non-profit organization serving children and families affected by poverty in central Iowa. To learn more, visit micaonline.org.

We are looking for someone to do the Children's message on May 18th. All of our volunteers are already busy/gone on this day. If you are interested, or want to ask how it works and what you need to do, please let me or Stacy Hertz. This can be a one-time deal, but if you enjoy doing it, could get you into the rotation.

Areopagus is joining with other campus ministries to create and distribute 1,000 care packages for ISU students during our upcoming Prep Week. Would you **help donate items** for the packages? Follow the link

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2XKAAG8MNWPOR?ref=wl_sharecom or find the QR Code in your announcements email. Giving Deadline is **April 28**. Call Lora for more info. (505-387-6861). Thank you!

Sue Fee had spinal fusion surgery and will spend several months recovering. A meal train has been created for her and Dennis for the first few weeks after surgery. Please follow the link to sign up to help if you can with a meal during this time. Questions or help signing up, please contact Pam. Meal train link: <https://mealtrain.com/53rz1y>

Congregational meeting on May 4 after the morning service: We'll have a brief meeting to approve the new elders and deacons immediately following the service. The nominees are: Elder - Melody Franje and Paul Kleinwolterink; and Deacon - Mark Voss and Derek Ten Pas. Since this will be the only item on the agenda, we expect the meeting will conclude in time for the final Sunday School classes for the year.

Ames Christian School will hold their spring music concert here on May 8th. Please be respectful if you come to the church at this time. The last day of school will be May 22nd, with an early out. The church will have its weekly cleaning that night, and wedding that weekend.

On May 11th Kathlyn Copley, Amelia t'Hoen, Jackson Hufford, Brianna Kopaska, and Cassie Kopaska will publicly do their Profession of Faith during the morning service. Please join us in the fellowship hall for cake and punch provided by the fellowship committee.

Young Adults Ministry will not be meeting again until **May 4th**

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Greece (October 13 - 24, 2025): Travel by motor coach (6 days) and cruise ship (4 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and

cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

Everyone is welcome to join the Hertz family as they celebrate Caraline graduation from High School, Saturday, May 24th from 10.30 to 1 @1041 X Ave Boone Iowa 50036.

This year, 2025 AD, is the 1700 anniversary of the Council of Nicea. This is a good time to do a quick survey of Church History. We will meet in Room 7 at 10:50 a.m, 27th, and May 4th

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.

On Sunday, June 1st, we will celebrate the recent graduates and the conclusion of our church education year with a potluck lunch after the worship service. Caraline Hertz, Colton Niemeyer, Jadyn Niemeyer, Jackson Hufford, Alexa Kopaska, Elijah Goossen, Johnathan Copley, Joel Copley, Nima Sina, and McKenzie Niemeyer.

Reminder there will be 2 weddings at this church in May. May 23rd and 24th and May 29th and 30th. Please keep this in mind if you plan to come to the church on these days. They will be using the whole church for their events.

This summer's BBQ (Grill, Thrill, and Chill) will be held Friday June 13th. Get it on your calendar and save the date.

If your 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 into the announcements for the week. Thanks Pam

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 3 through 3rd 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

Young Adult Ministry – Meets Again on May 4th

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

UFO meets the 3rd 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, April 27th 7 pm Mucky Duck.

Hymn Sing will be the first Sunday of the Month at 5 pm at the Church. May 5th is the next one.

Next Council meeting is May 14th

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CRC Communications

40 Days of Prayer for Synod 2025 - 40 Days of Prayer are written prayers representing the diversity of CRC members that will guide us for the 40 days leading up to synod.

Sign up to receive an email with the prayer for the day, or a PDF with each week's prayers. The 40 Days of Prayer will begin next Sunday, May 4, and will conclude as Synod 2025 delegates gather on June 12. crcna.org/synod/prayer

The Banner

The Banner's Counting On You! - Please support the award-winning journalistic ministry of the CRC by giving today. \$500,000 is needed every year to keep The Banner going. The more funds raised in this annual drive, the less is drawn from ministry shares, releasing money to other agencies of the CRCNA. Please donate now online at:

TheBanner.org/Give

Calvin University

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Greece - October 13-24, 2025 - Travel by motor coach (6 days) and cruise ship (4 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: Needed: Grand Friendships - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Needed: Grand Friendships," at www.kidscorner.net. Spending time with mentors helps us grow in faith, share love, and remember that God is always with us. We can learn to see God's goodness and share it with others, whatever their age. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Earth Day Collection.

Groundwork: Christian Civility: Defending Our Faith without Being Defensive -

How do we disagree without being disagreeable, or handle conflicts when people slander or talk against us? Join Groundwork as we study 1 Peter 3:8-17 and Titus 3:1-11 to seek biblical wisdom for responding to and navigating a divisive culture in faithful and Christlike ways. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Centre for Public Dialogue, Thrive, World Renew

Finding Hope in Hospitality: A Faith-Based Conversation on Welcoming the

Stranger - On May 15, from 7:30–9:00 PM EST, we invite you to a cross-border virtual gathering. In a time when refugee resettlement and immigration spark complex emotions and conversations across North America, Thrive, the Centre for Public Dialogue, Exodus World Service, and World Renew's Canadian Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement Team invite you to a different kind of gathering—one rooted in hope, hospitality, and faith. Learn more and register today! network.crcna.org/topic/justice-inclusion/biblical-justice/refugees/finding-hope-hospitality-faith-based-conversation

Thrive

Today is Abuse Awareness Sunday - On this special Sunday, Thrive invites our congregation to imagine a more holistic approach to nurturing a safe and healthy church community where abuse itself becomes unthinkable and where survivors feel supported and safe. Please support this valuable ministry that empowers all CRCs by giving now at their website: crcna.org/SafeChurch/Donate

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Abuse Awareness Sunday - Today is a day when the church acknowledges the sad reality of abuse in our world and in our communities. Abuse happens when one person treats another with cruelty and violence, hurting them physically, emotionally, and/or spiritually. Jesus came to put an end to such suffering and to the cruelty that causes it. Consider how the church can follow in Jesus' footsteps. How can the church support people who are abused? How can the church help to put an end to abuse? If you're looking for a helpful starting point, check out crcna.org/SafeChurch. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

CRC Leadership Training - Thriving Essentials is a valuable training course for elders, deacons, church staff, and any volunteer ministry leader. Right now, the CRCNA is offering this training for entire church leadership teams. We're gauging interest from different regions to determine where we can set up events and send facilitators in the coming months and years. Learn more and register your church now at crcna.org/Essentials

Resonate Global Mission

Double Your Gift to Resonate - There's Still Time! - The deadline is almost here, but there's still time to double your gift to Resonate Global Mission by visiting www.resonateglobalmission.org/Double. Any amount you give to this special campaign by April 30 will be matched dollar for dollar by a generous donor! Don't wait—give today while your gift will go twice as far.

VOLUNTEERS

Congregational Prayer: Randy Raak
 Sound: Bryan Van Belle
 Nursery Melody and Kristy
 Children's message: Laura Hufford
 Greeters: Bakker

Greeters

April 27	Bakker	July 20	Hallihan
May 4	Kopaska	July 27	Hertz
May 11	Verkade	August 3	Irvin
May 18	Nikkel	August 10	Nancy Klemme
May 25	De Bruin	August 17	Kleinwolterink
June 1	Franje	August 24	Kopaska
June 8	Copley	August 31	Kuyper
June 15	Hobson	September 7	Niehof
June 22	Voss	September 14	Niemeyer
June 29	Hubert	September 21	Nikkel
July 6	Hufford	September 28	Oftedal
July 13	Friend		

Nursery

April 27	Melody and Kristy	July 20	Donna and Cassie
May 4	Jessica and Cassie	July 27	Elaine and Pam
May 11	Donna and Pam	August 3	Mindy and Kenzie
May 18	Rachel and Kenzie	August 10	Megan and Sue F
May 25	Mindy and Melody	August 17	Kopaska and Elizabeth H
June 1	Megan and Elizabeth	August 24	Mary and Caraline
June 8	Stacy and Caraline	August 31	Sue F and Brianna
June 15	Mary and Brianna	September 7	Sue F and Alisabeth
June 22	Lyndee and Alisabeth	September 14	Sue F and Kathlyn
June 29	Rachel and Kathlyn	September 21	Jessica and Sue F
July 6	Melody and Lyndee	September 28	Donna and Kristy
July 13	Jessica and Kristy		

Children's Message

April 27	Laura Hufford	June 22	Jeff Kopaska
May 4	Lora Copley	June 29	Stacy Hertz
May 11	Jeff Kopaska	July 6	Rex De Bruin
May 18	Stacy Hertz	July 13	Randy Raak
May 25	Rex De Bruin	July 20	Laura Hufford
June 1	Randy Raak	July 27	Lora Copley
June 8	Laura Hufford	August 3	Jeff Kopaska
June 15	Lora Copley	August 10	Stacy Hertz

August 17 Rex De Bruin
August 24 Randy Raak
August 31 Laura Hufford
September 7 Lora Copley

September 14 Jeff Kopaska
September 21 Stacy Hertz
September 28 Rex De Bruin

Congregational Prayer

April 27 Randy Raak
May 4 Tom Niehof
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
July 6 Rex De Bruin
July 13 Randy Raak

July 20 Laura Hufford
July 27 Lora Copley
August 3 Jeff Kopaska
August 10 Stacy Hertz
August 17 Rex De Bruin
August 24 Randy Raak
August 31 Laura Hufford
September 7 Lora Copley
September 14 Jeff Kopaska
September 21 Stacy Hertz
September 28 Rex De Bruin

Pastor Randy Raak: pastor@amestrinity.org or 928-699-9329

Lora Copley: director@isu-areopagus.org or 505-387-6861 (Areopagus Campus Ministry)

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

Committee Chairs: Building & Grounds – Jim Bergman; Education – Andrew Friend; Endowment – Paul Kleinwolterink; Fellowship – Sue Fee; Technology – Tom Kuyper; Outreach and Enfoldng – Mark Voss; Worship – Randy Raak