

WORSHIP SERVICE
May 4, 2025
Third Sunday of Easter

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 98 and Song of Songs 2)

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

The winter is past, the snows are over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth, and blossoms on the flowering trees.

The birds are in the trees, and the time of singing has come.

Let us shout for joy to our God, and make music to our Creator.

* Opening Song: "For the Beauty of the Earth" vs 1-3 *Lift Up Your Hearts #19*

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,

for the love which from our birth over and around us lies.

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,

hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,

for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

* Opening Prayer

* Song: "How Great Is Our God"

Lift Up Your Hearts #574

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty

Let all the earth rejoice, Let all the earth rejoice

He wraps himself in Light, and darkness tries to hide

And trembles at His voice, And trembles at His voice

How great is our God, sing with me

How great is our God, and all will see

How great, how great is our God

From age to age He stands, And time is in His hands

Beginning and the end, Beginning and the end

The Godhead Three in One

Father, Spirit, Son

The Lion and the Lamb, The Lion and the Lamb

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God
Name above all names, Worthy of our praise
My heart will sing, How great is our God

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Our Father, we thank you for the beauty of this creation, and we marvel at your ability to create such an intricately interdependent universe for us to inhabit.

Even more, we marvel at the glimpses in your Word of the new heaven and earth which are to come.

Forgive us for taking this all for granted, or for not caring for your world as we should.

Deepen our sense of wonder for all that you have made. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (*From John 1*)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.... The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ”

Song of Entrusting: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” *Lift Up Your Hearts* #521

Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount – I’m fixed upon it mount of God’s unchanging love
Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I’ve come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood
Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!
Let that grace now like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee;
prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here’s my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Children’s Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

Scripture Reading: Acts 22:6-16

⁶“About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. ⁷I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?’ ⁸“‘Who are you, Lord?’ I asked. “ ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied. ⁹My companions saw the light, but

they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me. ¹⁰ “‘What shall I do, Lord?’ I asked. “ ‘Get up,’ the Lord said, ‘and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.’ ¹¹ My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me. ¹² “A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. ¹³ He stood beside me and said, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ And at that very moment I was able to see him. ¹⁴ “Then he said: ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. ¹⁵ You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’

Message: Experiencing Mystery - When God Breaks In

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Prayer of Application

* Song of Response: “God Moves In A Mysterious Way” vs 1,2,3,5

Lift Up Your Hearts #25

God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform.
He plants his footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm.
Deep in unfathomable mines of never-failing skill,
he treasures up his bright designs and works his sovereign will.
You fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds you so much dread
are big with mercy and shall break in blessings on your head.
Blind unbelief is sure to err and scan his work in vain.
God is his own interpreter, and he will make it plain.

WE CELEBRATE GOD’S COVENANT WITH US

The Lord’s Supper

Communion Song: “Gather Us In”

Lift Up Your Hearts #529

Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of the
day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.
We are the young, our lives are a mystery, we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human
race. Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.
Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away here in this place the new light is shining now is the kingdom, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands" vs 1,2,4/5/6

Lift Up Your Hearts #26

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Lora Copley

Message: Pastor Randy Raak

Musicians: Elijah Goosen, Derek TenPas, Nate VanDyk, Elizabeth Hobson

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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.

Next Week's Special Offering is for the **TCRC Building Fund**. Our building committee works hard to keep our church in good repair. Pray fully consider your giving to help with this church family need.

There will be no hymn sing this Sunday, May 4th, next hymn sing will be on June 1st.

May 4th is our last day of Sunday School for this school year. Thank you to all the teachers who made it happen. Have a great summer!

Please join us and help celebrate bride to be Alexa Kopaska. Close family friends are hosting a shower Saturday May 17 from 3-5 PM at the Stonebrooke Clubhouse 3816 Fletcher Blvd, Ames. Registry can be found at Theknot.com

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 is can be a one-time deal, but if you enjoy doing it, could get you into the rotation.

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. Ballots are on the table if you will be absent.

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.

Experiencing Mystery: When God Breaks In

Young Adults Ministry will be meeting again **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.

Adult Sunday School: 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 May 4th

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 Wed. 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, May 25th 7 pm Mucky Duck.

Hymn Sing will be the first Sunday of the Month at 5 pm at the Church. June 1st is the next one.

Next Council meeting is May 14th

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: Connecting Like Jesus in the Digital World - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Connecting Like Jesus in the Digital World" at www.kidscorner.net. God wants us to build good relationships with others, just like Jesus did. We can use technology to stay connected, but we should always be kind, loving, and thoughtful in how we interact with others. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Coloring Packet Collection.

Groundwork: Christian Engagement in Societal Issues - Together, let's delve into the complexities of Christian engagement in societal issues. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-17, Romans 3:10-12, and James 2:1-9 to discover practical insights and biblical wisdom to help us discern what it means to faithfully engage and embrace our role in shaping a more just and God-honoring society. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

CRC Heritage Fund

Doing More for Ministry (1) - "I wish I could do more!" That's a common sentiment we hear from supporters of CRC ministries who are passionate about the work of ministries like Thrive, Reframe, and Resonate. One way you can do more for ministry is

including a gift to CRCNA in your will or trust. Learn more at crcna.org/heritagefund or call Josh Remer, CRCNA Planned Giving Advisor, at 616-223-5885.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Teacher Appreciation Week - Ephesians 4 says that Christ himself gave us leaders, including teachers, “to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (4:11, NIV). At a mealtime with family members this week, share a story of a teacher who had a big impact on your life. How did God use them to help guide and encourage you? Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

World Renew

Join Us in Supporting Babies and Moms Next Week - The first 1,000 days of a child’s life are the most important. But in many countries, pregnant mothers and their babies don’t get the care they need. That’s why World Renew equips local communities around the world to deliver life-saving care. Together, we can share God’s love and help babies grow up healthy and strong in the first 1,000 days. Learn more or give online at worldrenew.net/first1000days.

VOLUNTEERS

Congregational Prayer: Tom Niehof

Sound: Rex De Bruin

Nursery Jessica and Cassie

Children's message: Lora Copley

Greeters: Kopaska

Greeters

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

Nursery

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

July 27 Elaine and Pam
 August 3 Mindy and Kenzie
 August 10 Megan and Sue F
 August 17 Kopaska and Elizabeth H
 August 24 Mary and Caraline

August 31 Sue F and Brianna
 September 7 Sue F and Alisabeth
 September 14 Sue F and Kathlyn
 September 21 Jessica and Sue F
 September 28 Donna and Kristy

Children's Message

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
 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

Congregational Prayer

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

