

WORSHIP SERVICE
November 30, 2025

Prelude

Welcome

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

*Call to Worship (from Isaiah 9 & 42)

The people who lived in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them a light has shined.

I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by paths they have not known I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I will do, and I will not forsake them.

*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

*Opening Prayer

Advent Reading:

Reader 1: Advent means 'coming.' It is a time of expectation. A time for us to look back and remember the coming of a Savior, and also to look forward to a time when he will fulfill his promise and come again.

Reader 2: Each candle represents a theme of the season; themes we might feel throughout the year, but during the Advent season, they are themes that help us to focus on what God has done through the Savior he sent.

Reader 3: This week, our candle represents hope. As we join Ruth and Naomi in Chapter One, they are in a place where hope seems far away. Yet hope can come even in the most unexpected times and places. Ruth gives Naomi hope when all seems lost, and God gave Israel hope when they were in their darkest moments.

Reader 4: As we begin this journey through Advent together. We light the candle of 'Hope' remembering that our ultimate hope will find its fulfillment in God's faithfulness to his promises.

Song: "Beautiful One"

Lift Up Your Hearts #607

Wonderful so wonderful is Your unfailing love.

Your cross has spoken mercy over me.

No eye has seen no ear has heard no heart could fully know.

How glorious how beautiful You are!

Beautiful One I love; Beautiful One I adore. Beautiful One my soul must sing.

Powerful so powerful Your glory fills the skies,

Your mighty works displayed for all to see.

The beauty of Your majesty awakes my heart to sing.

How marvelous how wonderful You are.

Beautiful One I love; Beautiful One I adore. Beautiful One my soul must sing.

You opened my eyes to Your wonders anew.

You captured my heart with this love.

'Cause nothing on earth is as beautiful as You.

You opened my eyes to Your wonders anew.

You captured my heart with this love.

'Cause nothing on earth is as beautiful as You.

Beautiful One I love; Beautiful One I adore.

Beautiful One my soul must sing.

My soul, my soul must sing.

My soul, my soul must sing. Beautiful one.

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession:

Dear Jesus, it is easy for us to give up hope when the difficulties of life come crashing down on us.

We may look for solutions or relief in the wrong places. But in the end they don't help, and often make things worse. Please forgive us for these times.

*We thank you for your faithfulness. Give us the strength we need for each day, Lord. Draw us near and help us to persevere in faith. In Christ we pray.
Amen.*

Words of Assurance: (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

“‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. “ ‘In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’”

Song of Entrusting: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” *Lift Up Your Hearts* #56

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live

for a while in the country of Moab. ² The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. ³ Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. ⁶ When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷ With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. ⁸ Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. ⁹ May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud ¹⁰ and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." ¹¹ But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? ¹² Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— ¹³ would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord's hand has turned against me!" ¹⁴ At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵ "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."

Message: Where You Go, I Will Go – Hope Through Hesus

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" *Lift Up Your Hearts #88*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,

while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Blessing

*Closing Song: "Once In Royal David's City" vs 1, 2, 4 *Lift Up Your Hearts #87*

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.
He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and meek, and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.
And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;
For that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above,
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Lora Copley

Message: Pastor Randy Raak

Musicians: Elijah Goossen, Laura Hufford, Elizabeth Hobson

Small Groups, Committees, & Sunday School Updates

Sunday School Classes meet after fellowship time. Nov 30 & Dec 7 Christmas Program practice; Dec 14: Christmas Program; Dec 21 & 28: no classes Christmas break; Jan 4: classes resume.

Children and Worship meets during the service, after the Children's Message.

Young Adult Ministry: This group meets on Fridays and Sundays throughout the year. Join the GroupMe for event details. See Derek Ten Pas with questions.

Breakfast Club meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at the Lincoln Center Hy-Vee at 8:30 am.

UFO meets on the 3rd Monday of the month.

Women's Bible Study meets on the first Monday of the month. Next meeting is Dec 1 at 9:00 AM at the Sixty Forward Center in Ames, finishing essential #1 in the "Finishing Well" series. Questions? Contact Pam Voss.

Pub Theology meets monthly on a Sunday at The Mucky Duck. Next meetings will be Dec 14 at 7 PM.

Hymn Sing meets on the first Sunday of the month. Next meeting is Sunday, Dec 7 at 5:00 PM

Next Council meeting is Dec 10 at 6:30 PM

TCRC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next week's special offering is for Church Beyond Borders church This is a cutting edge "hybrid" church with a combination of on-line worship in Korean and English, small groups, and 1-to-1 discipleship and pastoral care. The church ministers to 2nd-generation Korean Americans who have disconnected from their parents' Korean-speaking churches. Church Beyond Borders is off to a good start and growing. Do to financial issues, support to CBB from Resonate has been halted at this time, please keep SJ in your prayers as CBB works with a reduction in their finances.

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.

Adult Sunday School will meet in Room 8/9 at 10:50 AM this week. Rev. Tom Niehof will lead a study on the Gospel of Mark, chapter 8. All are welcome.

The Outreach Committee is having a toy drive for The Salvation Army. We invite you to donate unwrapped toys for kids age birth up to 12 years old. **Gifts will be accepted through Sunday, December 14**, and can be placed in the box in the entryway of the church. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Voss.

The Education Committee requests your help. They are looking for congregation members to share some historical details about Sunday School. This will help the committee plan programming for the Spring Semester. Take a few minutes to fill out a short questionnaire at



<https://forms.gle/txq1KXLeNEQ6X4v57>, or scan the QR code to the right.

Church Family, you are invited to our **Christmas Program on Sunday, December 14** at 11 AM, with a potluck lunch to follow. Please invite your relatives and friends.

Parents, we will **practice at the church on Saturday, December 13**, 10:00 am to noon, with a lunch of pizza provided. Please reach out to Kelly Hobson with any questions or for more information.

Please join us for a Potluck Soup Lunch following the Christmas Program on Dec 14! Based on the first letter of your last name, please plan to bring: A-J: soups, K-R: desserts; S-Z: salads, cheese/crackers, bread, any side.

Committee Chairs – endowment request forms have been emailed to you. Please have them completed by the end of the year if possible. Thanks.

The council has put together a Search Committee to start looking for our next pastor. The members of the committee are Jeff Kopaska (chair), Melody Franje (council liaison), Rex DeBruin, Laura Hufford, Mindy Nikkel, Lyndee Ten Pas, and Rob Barnes. Please pray that God gives them guidance as they search and interview for our next pastor.

Please keep food and drinks contained to the fellowship hall. This helps to keep our space neat and free of unwanted pests. Thank you!

We are looking for a few people to join our team of children's message volunteers. No long preparation needed—just a willingness to encourage our youngest worshippers. If you can serve in this way, please contact Tina VanDyk (office@amestrinity.org).

There is a printout of Birthdays, Greeters, Congregational Prayer, Nursery, and Children's message on the table outside the office. The latest church directory is on the table as well. If you have changes or need to add info, please make notes on this sheet or send an email to office@amestrinity.org.

If your group or committee has an announcement, please be sure to get an update to the church office by 10:30 am on Thursdays to be included in the announcements for the week. If you leave a written message in the office, please be sure to include your name in case a follow-up is necessary. Thank you!

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CRC Heritage Fund

Crunched for Time? - Crunched for time this year? You can buy more time on your year-end gift by using a donor-advised fund. So long as you give into the account by December 31, you can decide later how to distribute the funds. Learn more at crcna.org/heritagefund or call Josh Remer, CRCNA Planned Giving Advisor at 616-223-5885.

World Renew

Let's End Hunger Together on Giving Tuesday - Right now, families in Sudan and South Sudan are facing a severe hunger crisis due to conflict and displacement. Will you join World Renew to help end hunger and turn crisis into hope? Every dollar you give on Tuesday joins a generous \$1 million challenge gift, providing emergency food and showing God's love to families in Sudan and South Sudan. Learn more and give generously on December 2 at worldrenew.net/givingtuesday.

World Renew DRS Volunteering Opportunity - Nearly a year ago, catastrophic wildfires swept across Los Angeles, with 9,000 homes destroyed in the Eaton fire. World Renew Disaster Response Services' (DRS) local partner is ready to rebuild homes with one-week volunteer groups. Are you interested in getting your congregation involved with this wildfire response? Contact Morgan Tibble from DRS at mtibble@worldrenew.net with questions or to sign up today. Let's share God's love and hope to disaster survivors, together!

Resonate Global Mission

Hiring! Temporary Communications Specialist - Resonate Global Mission is seeking a temporary content writer & editor to support our storytelling and donor communications during a 3-month parental leave. This role is ideal for a creative, detail-oriented communicator with strong writing skills and a passion for global mission. This is a part-time, hybrid or remote position based in Burlington, Ont.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; or elsewhere in North America. Learn more and apply before December 8, 2025 at crcna.pinpointhq.com

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions: Advent at Home: O Come, O Come, Immanuel - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Advent at Home: O Come, O Come, Immanuel" at www.kidscorner.net. God promises to be with us in every moment—when we're sad, happy, or waiting for better days—and that gives us hope. This Advent, we can celebrate the hope of Jesus, who was born to be our Savior and will one day come again. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Kids Corner Christmas Collection of devotions, bible stories, crafts, and activities.

Groundwork: Waiting for the Light of the World. - Advent is a season of waiting. We're waiting for Jesus, the Light of the World. Join Groundwork as we study Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 18:27-28, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 11:1-3, and Romans 13:11-14 to explore the Bible's theme of light and gain a fuller understanding of what we're waiting for as we begin to prepare our hearts for the arrival of Jesus at his birth at Christmas. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Today is the first Sunday in the season of Advent, a time when we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus. There are many different ways we can get ready for Christmas—such as listening to music, reading Christmas stories, and lighting Advent candles. How will you practice getting your heart ready? Check out the Advent page of Thrive's Family Faith Formation toolkit for some ideas: crcna.org/advent-tools. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Voss
Nursery: Jessica and Kathlyn
Sound: Rex De Bruin
Children's Message: Lora Copley
Congregational Prayer: Mark Voss

Greeters

Nov 30	Voss	Jan 18	Hobson
Dec 7	Yoder	Jan 25	Voss
Dec 14	Niemeyer	Feb 1	Hubert
Dec 21	Bergman	Feb 8	Hufford
Dec 28	De Bruin	Feb 15	Friend
Jan 4	Franje	Feb 22	Hallihan
Jan 11	Copley		

Nursery

Nov 30	Jessica and Kathlyn	Jan 18	Lyndee and Elizabeth
Dec 7	Donna and Sue	Jan 25	Rachel and Clayton
Dec 14	Lyndee and Kristy	Feb 1	Melody and Brianna
Dec 21	Mindy and Cassie	Feb 8	Jessica and Alisabeth
Dec 28	Megan and Pam N	Feb 15	Donna and Kathlyn
Jan 4	Judy and Kenzie	Feb 22	Sue and Natalie
Jan 11	Mary and Sue		

Children's Message

Nov 30	Lora Copley	Jan 11	Lora Copley
Dec 7	Stacy Hertz	Jan 18	Jeff Kopaska
Dec 14	Jeff Kopaska	Jan 25	Stacy Hertz
Dec 21	Rex De Bruin	Feb 1	Rex De Bruin
Dec 28	Randy Raak	Feb 8	Laura Hufford
Jan 4	Laura Hufford	Feb 15	Lora Copley

Feb 22 Jeff Kopaska

Congregational Prayer

Nov 30 Mark Voss

Dec 7 Paul Kleinwolterink

Dec 14 Randy Raak

Dec 21 Jeff Kopaska

Dec 28 Tom Niehof

Jan 4 Randy Raak

Jan 11 Lora Copley

Jan 18 Tom Niehof

Jan 25 Randy Raak

Feb 1 Tom Niehof

Feb 8 Rex De Bruin

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

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

Tina VanDyk, Office Administrator: office@amestrinity.org

Elders: A-G = Paul Kleinwolterink; H-K = Melody Franje; L-S = Joel Copley; T-Z = Naomi Friend

Deacons: A-G = Derek Ten Pas; H-K = Christopher 't Hoen; L-S = Mark Voss; T-Z = Donna Bergman

Committee Chairs: Building & Grounds – Jim Bergman; Education – Christopher 't Hoen; Endowment – Paul Kleinwolterink; Fellowship – Sue Fee; Technology – Tom Kuyper; Outreach and Enfoldng – Mark Voss; Worship – Randy Raak