

## WORSHIP SERVICE

December 7, 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup> They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup> both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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 <sup>10</sup> and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." <sup>11</sup> 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? <sup>12</sup> 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— <sup>13</sup> 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!" <sup>14</sup> At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. <sup>15</sup> "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.

#### Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Communion Song: "O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts" *Lift Up Your Hearts #823*

O Jesus, Joy of loving hearts, The Fount of life, The Light of all,  
From fullest bliss that earth imparts, we turn unfilled to hear your call.  
Your truth unchanged has ever stood; you save all those who on you call;  
To those who seek you, you are good, to those who find you, all in all.  
We taste you, ever living Bread, and long to feast upon you still;  
We drink of you, the Fountain-head, our thirst to quench, our souls to fill.  
Our restless spirits yearn for you where'er our changeful lot is cast;  
Glad, when you smile on us anew, blest, that our faith can hold you fast.  
O Jesus, ever with us stay; make all our moments calm and bright!  
Chase the dark night of sin away, shed o'er the world your holy light.

#### **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: Stacy Hertz

Message: Pastor Randy Raak

Musicians: Char Verkade, Marlies 't Hoen, Mark Voss, Pam Voss

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### **Small Groups, Committees, & Sunday School Updates**

**Sunday School Classes** meet after fellowship time. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.

**Women's Bible Study** meets on the first Monday of the month.

**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**

**Communion:** This week, 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. Through this celebration, we remember that:

- a. The Lord's Supper is a thanksgiving to God.
- b. The Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ.
- c. The Lord's Supper is a participation in the body and the blood of Christ.
- d. The Lord's Supper signifies the work of the Spirit.
- e. The Lord's Supper seals the present and coming kingdom of God.

**This week's special offering is for Church Beyond Borders.** 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 2<sup>nd</sup>-generation Korean Americans who have disconnected from their parents' Korean-speaking churches. Church Beyond Borders is off to a good start and growing. Due 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.

**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. This will \*conclude\* our study of Mark. 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.

**If you would like to give a gift** to the staff members who work for our church family, you may place that in the offering with a memo of "For Church Staff".

**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 (515-771-9661).

**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!

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## DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

### World Renew

**World Renew Nicaragua Young Adults Trip** - Young adults (18–30), join us in Nicaragua from February 13-22, 2026! Experience God in another culture, while you explore poverty, international development and the global church through the lens of faith. Discover the impact of World Renew's work, witnessing how Nicaraguans are transforming their lives through faith and resilience. To learn more about this trip and to register, visit: <https://bit.ly/nicaragua2026info>

### 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](https://crcna.pinpointhq.com)

### ReFrame Ministries



**Kids Corner Devotions: Advent at Home: Silent Night** - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Advent at Home: Silent Night" at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Do your worries ever feel really loud? You can tell them, "Shhhhhh! Jesus is here," and remember that He loves you and gives you peace. Explore all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), including the Kids Corner Christmas Collection of devotions, Bible stories, crafts, and activities.

### Thrive

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - Advent is a season of waiting for Jesus. This week bring awareness to moments in your daily life when you are waiting. Instead of pulling out your phone or passing time with another distraction, use that time to connect with God in prayer. For example, if you're in a doctor's office waiting room, try praying with your eyes open, talking to God about the people who work there and those who come for care. If you have children, invite them to point out things you can pray for as you are waiting and then pray for them together. Whether you are in the school pick-up line, sitting in traffic, or waiting for vegetables to roast, embrace the opportunity to spend time with God. Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)

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### VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: VanDyk  
Nursery: Lyndee and Natalie  
Sound: Rob Barnes  
Children's Message: Stacy Hertz  
Congregational Prayer: Paul Kleinwolterink

#### **Greeters**

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

#### **Nursery**

Dec 7	Lyndee and Sue	Jan 4	Judy and Kenzie
Dec 14	Donna and Kristy	Jan 11	Mary and Sue
Dec 21	Mindy and Cassie	Jan 18	Lyndee and Elizabeth
Dec 28	Megan and Pam N	Jan 25	Rachel and Clayton

Feb 1 Melody and Brianna  
Feb 8 Jessica and Alisabeth

Feb 15 Donna and Kathlyn  
Feb 22 Sue and Natalie

### **Children's Message**

Dec 7 Stacy Hertz  
Dec 14 Jeff Kopaska  
Dec 21 Rex De Bruin  
Dec 28 Randy Raak  
Jan 4 Laura Hufford  
Jan 11 Lora Copley

Jan 18 Jeff Kopaska  
Jan 25 Stacy Hertz  
Feb 1 Rex De Bruin  
Feb 8 Laura Hufford  
Feb 15 Lora Copley  
Feb 22 Jeff Kopaska

### **Congregational Prayer**

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](mailto:pastor@amestrinity.org) or 928-699-9329

Lora Copley, Areopagus Campus Ministry Director: [director@isu-areopagus.org](mailto:director@isu-areopagus.org) or 505-387-6861

Tina VanDyk, Office Administrator: [office@amestrinity.org](mailto: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