

WORSHIP SERVICE
December 14, 2025

Prelude

Welcome

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

*Call to Worship (from Isaiah 2)

In days to come... people from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord... there he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths."

The Lord will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore.

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*Opening Song: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs 1, 2, 6, 7. *Lift Up Your Hearts* #61

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind.

Bid all our sad divisions cease and be thyself our King of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

*Opening Prayer

Advent Reading:

Reader 1: We left Naomi and Ruth in Bethlehem, at the beginning of the barley harvest. This followed a long journey, both literally and figuratively, as they experienced deep loss in their family, and then journeyed back from Moab. Yet even there, Ruth brought hope to Naomi through her loyalty,

devotion, and love. If hope can seep through for Naomi in her most desperate hour, hope can reach any of us, at any time.

Reader 2: This week, our Advent Candle represents peace. As Ruth and Naomi settle in Bethlehem, many things need to fall into place for them. To start, they need food. God arranged that Ruth ends up in Boaz's field, gleaning grain. Boaz is a close relative of Naomi's husband Elimelech. Through this connection, God will continue to shower Naomi and Ruth with his blessings and bring them peace through his providence.

Reader 3: This week we light the candle of peace. We stand grateful that God cares for his people, from Ruth and Naomi to us here today. We are especially grateful that Jesus would also journey to Bethlehem, to a manger in a stable, to make peace between us and God.

Song: "One Small Child"

One small Child in a land of a thousand One small dream of a Savior tonight
One small hand reaching out to the starlight
One small city of life. Oh
One king bringing his gold and riches One king ruling an army of might
One king kneeling with incense and candlelight
One King bringing us life. Oh
See Him lying a cradle beneath Him See Him smiling in the stall
See His mother praising His Father See His tiny eyelids fall
One small light from the flame of a candle One small light from a city of might
One small light from the stars in the endless night
One small light from a face. Oh
See the shepherds kneeling before Him See the kings on bended knee
See His mother praising His Father See the blessed Infant sleep
One small Child in a land of a thousand One small dream in a people of might
One small hand reaching out to the starlight.
One small Savior of life. Oh

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession:

Our Father, we know you created this universe by speaking it into being. We read about your deliverance in the Old and New Testaments.

Yet sometimes we doubt your ability to save us, and to provide for us yet today.

We do not know your plans, but we do know of your wisdom and your care for us.

Give us humility that overcomes our pride, trust that overcomes our doubts, and grace that overcomes our selfishness. In Christ we pray, amen.

Words of Assurance: (Luke 2: 10-12)

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Song of Entrusting: “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

I heard the bells on Christmas day their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, good will to men.
I thought, how as the day had come, the belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song of peace on earth, good will to men.
And in despair I bowed my head: There is no peace on earth, I said.
For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth good will to men.
Yet pealed the bells more loud and deep: God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men.
Till ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime of peace on earth, good will to men.

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Ruth 2

Message: Where You Go, I Will Go – Peace Through Providence

Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz.

² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor.”

Naomi said to her, “Go ahead, my daughter.” ³ So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.

⁴ Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, “The Lord be with you!”

“The Lord bless you!” they answered.

⁵ Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, “Who does that young woman belong to?”

⁶ The overseer replied, “She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi. ⁷ She said, ‘Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.’ She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter.”

⁸ So Boaz said to Ruth, “My daughter, listen to me. Don’t go and glean in another field and don’t go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. ⁹ Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled.”

¹⁰ At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, “Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?”

¹¹ Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. ¹² May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.”

¹³ “May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord,” she said. “You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servants.”

¹⁴ At mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar.”

When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. ¹⁵ As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, “Let her gather among the sheaves and don’t reprimand her. ¹⁶ Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don’t rebuke her.”

¹⁷ So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah. ¹⁸ She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough.

¹⁹ Her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!"

Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. "The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz," she said.

²⁰ "The Lord bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers."

²¹ Then Ruth the Moabite said, "He even said to me, 'Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.'"

²² Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with the women who work for him, because in someone else's field you might be harmed."

²³ So Ruth stayed close to the women of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold

When the new heaven and earth shall own The Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Blessing

*Closing Song: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" *Lift Up Your Hearts #581*

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!
All Thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in thee!
Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Jeff Kopaska

Message: Pastor Randy Raak

Musicians: Andrew Friend, Matt Haken, Eli Hufford, Laura Hufford

Small Groups, Committees, & Sunday School Updates

Sunday School Classes meet after fellowship time. 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. Next meeting is Dec 15 at 6:30 pm at the home of Kelly Hobson. Contact Kelly with any questions.

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, Jan 11 at 5:00 PM

Next Council meeting is Jan 14 at 6:30 PM

TCRC ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are invited to our Christmas Program this Sunday, Dec 14 at 11 am Invite your relatives and friends.

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

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.

Join us for a **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** on December 24 at 6:30 pm as we celebrate the wonder and joy of our Savior's birth.

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 special offering on December 21 will be for Ames Ecumenical Housing. Through Keystone Apartments and Stonehaven Apartments here in Ames, Ames Ecumenical Housing provides housing for lower income older adults and those with mobility impairment.

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 is looking for 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.

As we look ahead to January, our Education Committee is preparing for the next season of Sunday School—and **we could use your help!** We are currently looking for:

- An adult Sunday School teacher. You're welcome to continue the wonderful work Tom N. has been doing or bring a new study or format if you feel called.
- A high school class teacher.
- Someone to partner with Melody F. to split the middle school class.

If you've ever considered teaching, this is a great time to give it a try. We have materials available and would be happy to help you get started. It's not difficult, and it can be a meaningful way to serve and grow with our church family. Please take some time to pray about these opportunities. If you have questions or feel led to teach, we would love to talk with you. If you are interested or have additional questions, feel free to connect with

Christopher 't Hoen via e-mail chris_thoen@yahoo.com. Thank you for considering how you might be part of this ministry!

November Financial Notes: General Fund income was \$16,874. As of November, 89.5% of budgeted income has been received; 77% of expenses have been spent. Recent special offering gifts: World Renew/Peterfish—\$2102.58, Resonate-Helpers—\$4300.

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

Save the date—the Annual Congregation Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 29.

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

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>

The Gift of Christmas - Next week, we celebrate the gift of Jesus, who left his heavenly home to offer us the hope of eternal life with him. By giving a gift for World Renew this season, you can help share hope in Jesus for families facing poverty, disaster, or crisis worldwide. Please give generously in the upcoming offering for World Renew or online at worldrenew.net/gifts

Position Opening: Director of Justice and Peace - The Director of Justice and Peace position at World Renew is now live. This is a full-time, leadership role open to candidates in Canada and the United States. The director will provide vision and strategic leadership for World Renew's Justice and Peace Program, guiding staff, projects, partnerships, resource development, and external engagement. This position will strengthen World Renew's capacity in Justice and Peace initiatives, ensuring programming is rooted in biblical principles and aligned with our global strategy. The director will collaborate across teams to deliver transformational, community-driven projects, advocate for systemic change, and engage with external partners to amplify our impact worldwide. Learn more and apply at worldrenew.net/careers by January 2.

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions: Advent at Home: Joy to the World - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Advent at Home: Joy to the World" at www.kidscorner.net. This week of Advent is all about joy! Maybe light the hope, peace, and joy candles with your family, sing a favorite Christmas song, like Joy to the World, and remember that Jesus is the best reason to celebrate. Explore all the great content at kidscorner.net, including the Kids Corner Christmas Collection of devotions, Bible stories, crafts, and activities.

Groundwork: Out of Darkness and into the Light - Turning on a light changes everything. What changes can we anticipate when Jesus brings his light to our world? Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 2:2-5, John 8:12-19, and John 12:44-50 to discover the significant effects we can expect the presence of the Light of the World to bring in our lives and our world. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Around the world a lot of people are thinking about giving and receiving gifts for Christmas. Did you know that Christmas is, in some way, God's gift to God? It marks that important moment when God entered our earthly life in order to restore God's broken world through the cross of Christ and the empty tomb. A restored world had been a desire of God's heart for a long time, so now is a good time to write God a Christmas card, praising the Lord that salvation is possible through the birth of the Christ-child in Bethlehem. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Niemeyer
Nursery: Donna and Kristy
Sound: Brian Sterenberg
Children's Message: Jeff Kopaska
Congregational Prayer: Randy Raak

Greeters

Dec 14 Niemeyer

Dec 21 Bergman

Dec 28 De Bruin
Jan 4 Franje
Jan 11 Copley
Jan 18 Hobson
Jan 25 Voss
Feb 1 Hubert
Feb 8 Hufford

Feb 15 Friend
Feb 22 Hallihan
Mar 1 Hertz
Mar 8 Irvin
Mar 15 Nancy Klemme
Mar 22 Kleinwolterink
Mar 29 Kopaska

Nursery

Dec 14 Donna and Kristy
Dec 21 Mindy and Cassie
Dec 28 Megan and Pam N
Jan 4 Judy and Kenzie
Jan 11 Mary and Sue
Jan 18 Lyndee and Elizabeth
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
Mar 1 Mindy and Kristy
Mar 8 Megan and Cassie
Mar 15 Judy and Pam N
Mar 22 Mary and Kenzie
Mar 29 Lyndee and Sue

Children's Message

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 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