

WORSHIP SERVICE
December 21, 2025

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship (from Psalm 30)

Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people; praise his holy name.

For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime;

Weeping may stay for the night, but joy comes in the morning.

You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. Lord my God, I will praise you forever.

* Opening Song: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" vs 1,2,3,5 *Lift Up Your Hearts* #81

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;

You who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,

God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;

Seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

* Opening Prayer

Advent Reading:

Reader 1: A new love, a redeemed family. These all contribute to the swirling emotions Ruth and Naomi must be feeling throughout chapter three. The possibilities for her future, and for Naomi's future, are great. Joy has swelled up in them!

Reader 2: The third candle we light this week represents joy. Joy is more than an emotion. It is found in the sense of accomplishment of completing a job or responsibility and doing it well. It is found in the feeling of knowing you are part of something greater. It is found in the sense you get knowing God has made great promises, and that we will participate in those promises as his children.

Reader 3: This week, we light the candle of joy in expectation that the promises God makes to us are true and will ultimately be fulfilled by him. God fulfilled his promise in Jesus, the Savior who paid our penalty and restores us to a true and right relationship with himself. We look forward with joy to the day when he will come again.

Song: "Joy to the World"

Lift Up Your Hearts #92

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession:

Father, forgive us for the times we reduce Christmas to tinsel and toys, jingle bells and decking the halls.

May your star once again lift our eyes to you and set our course toward your cradle.

May your manger call us again to expressions of love and appreciation for your coming to us.

And may the Magi stir in us the spirit of giving, and hearts with great devotion to seeking you. Amen.

Words of Assurance: (Galatians 4:4-5)

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Song of Entrusting: “Angels We Have Heard On High” *Lift Up Your Hearts* #82

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Ruth 3

One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. ² Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. ³ Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do."

⁵ "I will do whatever you say," Ruth answered. ⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.

⁷ When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. ⁸ In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet!

⁹ "Who are you?" he asked.

"I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family."

¹⁰ “The Lord bless you, my daughter,” he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character. ¹² Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I. ¹³ Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the Lord lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.”

¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, “No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor.”

¹⁵ He also said, “Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out.” When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and placed the bundle on her. Then he went back to town.

¹⁶ When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “How did it go, my daughter?”

Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her ¹⁷ and added, “He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’”

¹⁸ Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”

Message: Where You Go, I Will Go – Joy

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response: “How Great Thou Art – Christmas Verses”

Angelic hosts proclaim the joyful tidings
When thou did come from heav'n in lowly birth
To manger bare, yet glory there abiding
The Son of God, to dwell with those on earth.
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
Thy gift of love, beyond all understanding
O'erwhelms my soul and fills my heart with song

In thankful praise, for matchless grace abounding
Revealed in Christ, Thine own beloved Son.
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

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Blessing

*Closing Song: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" *Lift Up Your Hearts #93*

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly stable the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Randy Raak

Message: Pastor Randy Raak

Musicians: Elijah Goossen, Elizabeth Hobson, Naomi Friend

Small Groups, Committees, & Sunday School Updates

Sunday School Classes meet after fellowship time. 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 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 on Jan 5 at 9:00 am at the Ames Sixty Forward Center. Questions? Talk to Pam Voss.

Pub Theology meets monthly on a Sunday at The Mucky Duck. Next meeting is Jan 25 at 7:00 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

Annual Congregational Meeting will be Jan 29 at 7:00 pm

TCRC ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

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.

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!

Women's Bible Study will next meet on Monday, January 5 at 9:00 am at the Ames Sixty Forward Center. We will be covering Essential #2: We Will Connect of the "Finishing Well" series. Deb Niehof will lead.

Committee Chairs – endowment request forms have been emailed to you.

Please have them completed by the end of the year if possible. Thanks.

The Annual Congregation Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Jan 29 at 7:00 pm. We will also have updates from the following: the congregational conversations about strategic planning (3 focal points that consistently came up); the pastoral search committee; the council about preaching and pastoral care after Pastor Randy leaves; the various committees. The upcoming year will have its share of challenges, but the council has been working ahead to prepare for these. Together we have some good work to do for God's kingdom in 2026.

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

Celebrating the Greatest Gift - As we exchange gifts at Christmas, we celebrate Jesus, God's great gift to us. Will you add a child or family living in poverty to your Christmas giving today? Your donation to World Renew helps people around the world improve their lives and find home in their heart for Jesus. Please give generously in today's offering for World Renew or online at worldrenew.net/gifts

Help Families Affected by the Pacific Northwest Flooding - Beginning December 8, heavy nonstop rains have led to record flooding in western and central parts of Washington state, killing at least one person and forcing tens of thousands of people to evacuate due to profound damage to homes and communities. World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) is preparing a response to help flood survivors, including in communities already recovering from severe flooding in 2021. Please join us in prayer and donate to help flood survivors at worldrenew.net/northwest, by calling 1-800-552-7972, or by mailing a check made out to World Renew, with "Pacific Northwest Floods 2025" in the memo line, to: World Renew, 8970 Byron Commerce Dr SW, Byron Center, MI 49315.

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions: Advent at Home: Away in a Manger - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Advent at Home: Away in the Manger" at www.kidscorner.net. Jesus knows what it feels like to be human, just like you. This means He understands when you're tired, hurt, or having a hard day. He loves you so much and always knows how to comfort and care for you! Explore all the great content at kidscorner.net, including the Kids Corner Christmas Collection of devotions, Bible stories, crafts, and activities.

Groundwork: The Light of the World Among Us - Together, let's explore the moment Isaiah's anticipation of light turns to the reality of the light of the world among us. Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20, John 8:12, Ephesians 5:8-9, and Revelation 22:5 to discuss Jesus Christ's birth, life, and the hope he brings, uncovering the profound meaning of Christ's light shining in our world and how we live as children of light. GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - It's almost Christmas Day! How many different ways can you think of to say "Merry Christmas!" to people who know the story of Christmas and to people

who don't know the story? And how might you say "Merry Christmas!" to God this week in a way that reflects love back to our Creator? Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Bergman
Nursery: Mindy and Cassie
Sound: Tom Whitney
Children's Message: Randy Raak
Congregational Prayer: Jeff Kopaska

Greeters

Dec 21	Bergman	Feb 15	Friend
Dec 28	De Bruin	Feb 22	Hallihan
Jan 4	Franje	Mar 1	Hertz
Jan 11	Copley	Mar 8	Irvin
Jan 18	Hobson	Mar 15	Nancy Klemme
Jan 25	Voss	Mar 22	Kleinwolterink
Feb 1	Hubert	Mar 29	Kopaska
Feb 8	Hufford		

Nursery

Dec 21	Mindy and Cassie	Feb 15	Donna and Kathlyn
Dec 28	Megan and Pam N	Feb 22	Sue and Natalie
Jan 4	Judy and Kenzie	Mar 1	Mindy and Kristy
Jan 11	Mary and Sue	Mar 8	Megan and Cassie
Jan 18	Lyndee and Elizabeth	Mar 15	Judy and Pam N
Jan 25	Rachel and Clayton	Mar 22	Mary and Kenzie
Feb 1	Melody and Brianna	Mar 29	Lyndee and Sue
Feb 8	Jessica and Alisabeth		

Children's Message

Dec 21	Randy Raak	Jan 25	Stacy Hertz
Dec 28	Laura Hufford	Feb 1	Rex De Bruin
Jan 4	Rex De Bruin	Feb 8	Laura Hufford
Jan 11	Lora Copley	Feb 15	Lora Copley
Jan 18	Jeff Kopaska	Feb 22	Jeff Kopaska

Congregational Prayer

Dec 21	Jeff Kopaska	Jan 25	Randy Raak
Dec 28	Tom Niehof	Feb 1	Paul Kleinwolterink
Jan 4	Randy Raak	Feb 8	Mark Voss
Jan 11	Lora Copley	Feb 15	Rex De Bruin
Jan 18	Melody Franje	Feb 22	Joel Copley

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 Enfolding – Mark Voss; Search – Jeff Kopaska; Worship – Randy Raak