

WORSHIP SERVICE
December 28, 2025

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship (from Psalm 90)

*Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout the generations.
Before the mountains were formed or you brought forth the earth and the
cosmos, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.*

**All: But the length of our days pass quickly, and then we fly away. Lord, teach
us to number our days so that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

*Leader: Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may rest in
your grace for the past, your strength for the present, and your hope for the
future.*

**All: May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us, and establish the works of
our hands.**

* Opening Song: "Be Thou My Vision"

Lift Up Your Hearts #859

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art –
thou my best thought, by day or by night;
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.

Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not nor vain, nor vain empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Opening Prayer

Song: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" vs 1, 2, 4, 6 *Lift Up Your Hearts #405*

Our God, our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal Home.

Under the shadow of your throne Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Our God, our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal Home!

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession:

Leader: Lord, a thousand years are like a day to you; but it is difficult for us to comprehend how you are not bound within the dimension of time.

All: We are so focused on the days of these lives that we often put too much importance on the things of this earth.

Leader: We worry about material things, about status and the admiration of others.

All: Give us wisdom to discern and value the things that impact eternity: our relationship with you; the lives of others; and the things that affect them both. In our Savior's name we pray, amen.

Word of Assurance (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11-14)

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.... [God] has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever

Song of Entrusting: "Be Unto Your Name"

We are a moment, You are forever Lord of the Ages, God before time
We are a vapor, You are eternal Love everlasting, reigning on high
Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Highest praises, honor and glory Be unto Your name, be unto Your name

We are the broken, You are the healer Jesus, Redeemer, Mighty to save
You are the love song we'll sing forever Bowing before You, blessing Your name
Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Highest praises, honor and glory Be unto Your name, be unto Your name
Be unto Your name

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 7:8-14

⁸The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride. ⁹Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools. ¹⁰Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?" For it is not wise to ask such questions. ¹¹Wisdom, like an inheritance, is a good thing and benefits those who see the sun. ¹²Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this: Wisdom preserves those who have it. ¹³Consider what God has done: Who can straighten what he has made crooked ¹⁴When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, no one can discover anything about their future.

Message: The End is Better Than the Beginning?

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response: "Ancient Words"

Lift Up Your Hearts #762

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart, O let the ancient words impart.
Words of life, words of hope Give us strength help us cope
In this world where'er we roam Ancient words will guide us home
Ancient words ever true Changing me changing you
We have come with open hearts O let the ancient words impart
Holy words of our faith handed down to this age
Came to us through sacrifice. O heed the faithful words of Christ.
Holy words long preserved, for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart. O let the ancient words impart
Ancient words ever true Changing me changing you
We have come with open hearts O let the ancient words impart

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "He Leadeth Me" vs 1, 3

Lift Up Your Hearts #440

He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!

Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

He leadeth me, he leadeth me; by his own hand he leadeth me:

His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine;

Content, whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

He leadeth me, he leadeth me; by his own hand he leadeth me:

His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

Postlude

* Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Randy Raak

Message: Pastor Randy Raak

Musicians: Char Verkade, Holly Raak, Alisabeth Copley

Small Groups, Committees, & Sunday School Updates

Sunday School Classes meet after fellowship time. Dec 28: no class (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 Search Committee Meeting will be Jan 8 at 6:30 pm

Next Council meeting is Jan 14 at 6:30 pm

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

TCRC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communion: Next week we will have the opportunity to celebrate the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is the family table at which we eat together and are nourished with Christ's sacrifice for us. Here (as in Baptism) we celebrate who we are - children of God – and are reminded of God's promises to be our God, to care for us, love us, and be faithful to us. All who are baptized into Christ and have made a public stand for him are welcome to the Lord's Table.

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.

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!

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 Search Committee has begun the process of looking for our next pastor. They have finished updating the TCRC church profile, and will meet next on Thursday, January 8 at 6:30 pm. Members are Jeff Kopaska (chair), Melody Franje (council liaison), Rex DeBruin, Laura Hufford, Mindy Nikkel, Lyndee Ten Pas, and Rob Barnes. Please continue to pray that God gives them guidance as they search and interview for our next pastor.

A note from Pam Whitney: Dear Trinity Family, I want to thank you for the wonderful gift I received on Sunday. It was a wonderful surprise and great gift. I loved doing my job for the Church and my Church family, and even though it was stressful at times, the rewards will always be cherished. I will continue to be a resource, and will share what I know and have learned. Thank you all again, Pam Whitney

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

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

Thank You for Giving! - Thank you for sharing God's love with people experiencing need in the World Renew offering this season. Your gift is providing help and hope for families who are facing poverty, disaster, and crisis today. Do you want to give to help people as we enter the New Year? You can go to worldrenew.net/gifts Thank you for renewing hope with us!

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.

Journey With Us in 2026 - Planning your 2026 travel? Looking for a trip with a purpose? Journey with us to see the transformative work of World Renew, while experiencing God in another country and growing in your faith. Consider Guatemala, Tanzania, Cambodia, or Nicaragua! To learn more, please visit: <https://worldrenew.net/travel>

ReFrame Ministries

KKids Corner Devotions: New Year. New You. - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "New Year. New You." at www.kidscorner.net. Start the new year with more than just fresh goals—let God's Spirit make you new from the inside out! His gifts of love, joy, peace, kindness, and more will help you shine like Jesus wherever you go. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's The Bible in One Year Plan.

Groundwork: Reflecting the Light of the World - On Epiphany, we recall the moment when the star appeared and guided the Magi to Jesus. This event signifies the extension of God's family to include Gentiles. Study Titus 2:11-15, Isaiah 60:1-5, Matthew 5:13-16, and 2 Corinthians 4:1-9 with Groundwork to discover what to expect when we encounter the transformational light of Christ and how that light affects our discipleship as members of his family. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - As one year ends and another begins, pause for a time of taking spiritual inventory with your family, friends, or on your own. Ask questions like these: Where did we see God this year? Where did we resist growth? Where do we feel God is calling us next? Consider writing a prayer of release and a prayer of commitment to guide your transition into the new year. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

VOLUNTEERS

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Greeters: | De Bruin |
| Nursery: | Megan and Jessica |
| Sound: | Bryan Van Belle |
| Children's Message: | Randy Raak |
| Congregational Prayer: | Tom Niehof |

Greeters

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 28 Megan and Jessica
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 28 Randy Raak
Jan 4 Rex De Bruin
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 28 Tom Niehof
Jan 4 Randy Raak
Jan 11 Lora Copley
Jan 18 Melody Franje
Jan 25 Randy Raak

Feb 1 Paul Kleinwolterink
Feb 8 Mark Voss
Feb 15 Rex De Bruin
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 Enfoldng – Mark Voss; Search – Jeff Kopaska; Worship – Randy Raak