

WORSHIP SERVICE

JANUARY 4, 2026

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

*Call to Worship

Leader: The prophets foretold: "Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west." Isaiah 43:5

All: And so it was, "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'" Matthew 2:1-2

Leader: Then, before he ascended to heaven, Jesus told his followers, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

All: And so it will be when he returns: "People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God." Luke 13:29

*Opening Song:

"As with Gladness, Men of Old" vs 1, 3, 4 *Lift Up Your Hearts* #105

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore your splendor see.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare;
so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
and, when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed lives at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.

*Opening Prayer

Song: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Lift Up Your Hearts #521

Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount – I'm fixed upon it mount of God's unchanging love
Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood
Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee;
prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Holy Father, you have blessed us in many ways. Help us to not take these blessings for granted or feel entitled to them.

All: Dear Jesus, we still have so much to learn from you. Help us to learn even more as we put your teachings into practice.

Leader: Holy Spirit, open our eyes and our minds. Help us to grasp the importance of both knowledge and obedience, of honoring your holiness even as we love our neighbor.

All: We praise you and thank you for your majesty and your grace, for your love and redemption. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Word of Assurance (John 16:7-13)

But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment.... I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Song of Entrusting:

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord” vs 1,2,4

Lift Up Your Hearts #737

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!

Thou art the potter, I am the clay.

Mold me and make me after thy will,
while I am waiting, yielded and still.
Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Search me and try me, Master today!
Open mine eyes, my sin show me now,
as in thy presence humbly I bow.
Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: John 14:12-27

¹²Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

¹⁵"If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

²²Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"

²³Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

²⁵ “All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Message: God, Improv, and the Art of Living - Let the Wind Blow

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response: “Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God” *Lift Up Your Hearts* #746

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul.

Bring the presence of the risen Lord to renew my heart and make me whole.

Cause your Word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see;

give me passion for your purity; Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within, may your joy be seen in all I do.

Love enough to cover every sin, in each thought and deed and attitude.

Kindness to the greatest and the least, gentleness that sows the path of peace.

Turn my striving into works of grace; Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation’s birth, giving life to all that God has made,

show your power once again on earth, cause your church to hunger for your ways.

Let the fragrance of our prayers arise; lead us on the road of sacrifice,

that in unity the face of Christ may be clear for all the world to see.

WE CELEBRATE GOD’S COVENANT WITH US

The Lord’s Supper

Communion Song: “Behold the Lamb”

Lift Up Your Hearts #840

Behold the lamb, who bears our sins away, slain for us –

and we remember the promise made that all who

come in faith find forgiveness at the cross. So we

share in this bread of life, and we drink of his

sacrifice as a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

The body of our savior, Jesus Christ, torn for you –

eat and remember the wounds that heal; the death that

brings us life paid the price to make us one. So we

share in this bread of life, and we drink of his

sacrifice as a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you –
drink and remember he drained death's cup, that all may
enter in to receive the life of God.

So we share in this bread of life and we drink of his
sacrifice as a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond –
and to remember our call to follow in the
steps of Christ as his body here on earth. As we
share in his suffering, we proclaim Christ will
come again! And we'll join in the feast of heaven
around the table of the king.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song:

“May the Mind of Christ, My Savior” vs 1,4,5 *Lift Up Your Hearts #334*

May the mind of Christ, my Savior, live in me from day to day,
by His love and power controlling all I do and say.

May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea.
Him exalting, self abasing: this is victory.

May we run the race before us, strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus as we onward go.

Postlude

* Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Rex De Bruin

Message: Pastor Randy Raak

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

Small Groups, Committees, & Sunday School Updates

Sunday School Classes meet after fellowship time. Classes resume on Jan 4.

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 7 at 6:30 pm

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

TCRC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communion: Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. All who are baptized into Christ and have made a public stand for him are welcome to the Lord's Table, to receive the nourishment and refreshment of the bread and cup of the Lord "as sure signs" in remembrance of Christ's body and blood poured out for us in his once-for-all sacrifice on the cross.

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.

Opening on the board for Ames Ecumenical Housing: A replacement is needed to take the place of Raak on the board. Could this be you? Contact Holly for more details and to find out how to get connected.

Thank you to everyone who purchased the poinsettias that adorned our sanctuary during December! The plants are now ready to go home with you. Please take yours with you this week.

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.

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 email 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 as soon as 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

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Renew

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

Kids Corner Devotions: Love: God's Most Powerful Gift - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Love: God's Most Powerful Gift" at www.kidscorner.net. You were made to love and be loved—God made you special and gave you a heart that can share kindness, hope, and joy with others. When you choose love every day, you show strength, shine like Jesus, and make the world a brighter place! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's The Bible in One Year Plan.

Groundwork: God's Covenants and Our Salvation - At times, we experience tension when trying to discern the relationship between God's grace and our works in relation to our salvation. Join Groundwork as we study Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 15:1-18, Genesis 17:1-11, Matthew 26:26-29, and Hebrews 8:6-13 to let God's covenants provide a deeper understanding of how he works, his gift of grace, and what he expects from us as his people.

Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Resonate Global Mission

Go Deeper in Faith Through a Trip with Resonate - Come on a journey with Resonate Global Mission—starting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, through Guatemala, and ending in Costa Rica as we visit stops along the route of people on the move. Together we will learn from their faith, hear their stories and connect them to our own, and learn to better love our neighbors as ourselves. The trip is April 17-28, 2026 with an application deadline of January 31, 2026. Learn more and let us know you're interested at www.resonateglobalmission.org/move

Indigenous Ministry

Truth, Reconciliation, and Exchanging Hearts - Calvin Theological Seminary's Truth, Reconciliation, & Exchanging Hearts course offers a focused look at Canada's Indigenous history and practical guidance for ministry leaders pursuing reconciliation. Deadline to apply is January 30. Learn more: <https://loom.ly/l4i8mul>

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Epiphany (January 6) reminds us that Jesus was revealed to the Magi, who were considered outsiders and seekers. This week ask God to show you someone who might feel like an outsider or seeker. How can you reflect Christ's light and love to them? Sometimes the simplest act—an invitation, a kind word, a prayer—can be a guiding light in a weary world. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

Calvin University

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Greece - (April 3-13, 2026) Travel by motor coach (6 days) and cruise ship (3 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu

The January Series - The January Series at Calvin University returns on January 19, 2026. Join us in-person or online. Speaker lineup and registration (for online viewing) can be found at www.calvin.edu/january

VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Franje
Nursery: Judy and Kenzie
Sound: Rob Barnes
Children's Message: Rex De Bruin
Congregational Prayer: Randy Raak

Greeters

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

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

Jan 4 Rex De Bruin
Jan 11 Lora Copley
Jan 18 Jeff Kopaska
Jan 25 Stacy Hertz

Feb 1 Christopher 't Hoen
Feb 8 Rob Barnes
Feb 15 Lora Copley
Feb 22 Laura Hufford

Congregational Prayer

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

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00 am–3:00 pm

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