

WORSHIP SERVICE

May 3, 2026

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship (from Psalm 24:7-10)

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?

The LORD Almighty—He is the King of glory.

* Opening Song: "Come, Thou Almighty King" *Lift Up Your Hearts #492*

Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing, help us to praise:
Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, thou incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword, scatter thy foes.
Let thine almighty aid our sure defense be made,
our souls on thee be stayed; thy wonders show.

Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour:
Thou who almighty art, rule now in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore.

* Opening Prayer

* Song: "Take My Life and Let It Be" vs 1,2,4,6 *Lift Up Your Hearts #863*

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession (from Mark 4):

Merciful God, we confess that we have often failed to bear fruit for You:

We have been like the path,

ignoring and resisting your Word.

We have been like the rocky soil,

Remaining shallow and giving up when it gets too hard.

We have been like the thorny ground,

allowing our cluttered lives to choke our faith.

**Forgive us, gracious God, through the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ,
and make us like the good soil, that we may bear fruit for Your Kingdom.**

Assurance of Pardon: Ephesians 2:1,4-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins ... But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Song of Entrusting: “His Mercy Is More”

What love could remember no wrongs we have done

Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum

Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore.

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more

Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father, so tender, is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:1-20

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. ² He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ³ "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

⁹ Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

¹⁰ When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹² so that, ““they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!””

¹³ Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? ¹⁴ The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵ Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. ¹⁶ Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²⁰ Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

Message: The Mysterious Kingdom

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Prayer of Application

* Song of Response: “Your Word Sheds Light Upon My Path” LUYH #759

Your word sheds light upon my path; a shining light, it guides my feet.
Your righteous judgments to observe, my solemn vow I now repeat.
In my distress I plead with you; send help according to your word.
Accept my sacrifice of praise and make me know your judgments, Lord.
When danger brings me close to death, your law stays with me night and day.
The wicked lay a snare for me, yet from your truth I will not stray.
Your precepts are my heritage; they make my heart and soul rejoice.
To keep your statutes faithfully shall ever be my willing choice.

WE CELEBRATE GOD’S COVENANT WITH US

The Lord’s Supper

Minister: *Lift up your hearts.*

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

Congregation: It is right for us to give thanks. It is our joy and our peace, at all times and in all places, to give thanks to You, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Christ our Lord.

Minister: *We bless You for your continual love and care for every creature. We praise You for forming us in Your image and calling us to be Your people. We thank You that You did not abandon us in our rebellion against Your love, but sent prophets and teachers to lead us into the way of salvation. Above all we thank You for sending Jesus, Your Son, to deliver us from the way of sin and death by the obedience of His life, by his suffering upon the cross, and by His resurrection from the dead. We praise You that He now reigns with You in glory and ever lives to pray for us. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, Who leads us into truth, defends us in adversity, and out of every people unites us into one holy church.*

In Christ, AMEN.

The Institution 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The Memorial

All: We will do as our Lord commands. We proclaim that our Lord Jesus was sent by the Father into the world, that He took upon Himself our flesh and blood, and bore the wrath of God against our sin. We confess that He was condemned to die that we might be pardoned, and suffered death that we might live. We proclaim that He is risen to make us right with God, and that He shall come again in the glory of His new creation. This we do now, and until He comes again.

Prayer

Preparation of Elements

Minister: *The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.*

Congregation: We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.

(Distribution of the Bread)

As the bread is passed: "I Am the Bread of Life"

Lift Up Your Hearts #842

I am the Bread of life; they who come to me shall not hunger;

They who believe in me shall not thirst.

No one can come to me unless the Father draws them.

And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up, and I will raise them up on the last day.

The Bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world,

And they who eat of this bread, They shall live forever, they shall live forever.

And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up, and I will raise them up on the last day.

I am the resurrection, I am the life.

They who believe in me, Even if they die, they shall live forever.

And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up, and I will raise them up on the last day.

Yes, Lord, we believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God who has come into the world.

And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up, and I will raise them up on the last day.

Minister: Take eat, remember and believe that the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for a complete forgiveness of all our sins.

Minister: The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Congregation: The cup which we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.

(Distribution of the Cup)

Piano plays as the cup is passed.

Minister: Take drink, remember and believe that the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for a complete forgiveness of all our sins.

Prayer of Thanks

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" *Lift Up Your Hearts #936*

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,

The people of God from this dwelling take leave.

The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended

The fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,

Shall blossom in action for God and for all.

Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us

To work for your kingdom and answer your call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,

The tasks of our everyday life we will face-

Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring

Embracing God's children, the whole human race.

With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;

Unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving

Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear

Postlude

*Please stand

Message: Rev. Tom Vos

Children's Message: Rob Barnes

Musicians: Elijah Goossen, Elizabeth Hobson, Derek Ten Pas, Pam Voss

Sunday School Classes meet after fellowship time. Last day of classes for this school year is May 3.

Children and Worship meets during the service, after the Children's Message.

Roots Youth Group meets weekly on Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm

Young Adult Ministry meets on Fridays and Sundays throughout the year.

Contact Derek Ten Pas to get connected.

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. Contact Kelly Hobson for details.

Women's Bible Study meets on the first Monday of the month; next meeting is May 4 at 9:00 am at the Ames Sixty Forward Center. Contact Pam Voss for details.

Pub Theology meets the last Sunday of the month at The Mucky Duck.

Hymn Sing meets monthly on a Sunday. Next meeting is **May 17** at 5:00 pm.

Congregational Meeting to appoint new council members on May 3, after service.

Regular Council Meeting: May 13 at 6:45 pm.

TCRC ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week, we welcome Rev. Tom Vos to lead us in worship and share a message from Mark chapter 4. We look forward to Rev. John Byker joining us next week.

Communion: This Sunday, 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.

The special offering on May 10 will be for Tyler and Christina Helfers. Tyler and Christina are in Stellenbosch, South Africa, where Tyler serves as pastor to Stellenbosch International Fellowship (SIF), an international church that exists to be a global family in Christ, serving students, migrant workers, and refugees from around the world. Please consider a gift in support of Tyler and Christina's work to reach out to non-Christians with the Gospel, and to disciple Christians to be witnesses to Christ and the Kingdom in all areas of life

At this time each year, we give thanks for those who have faithfully served on Council and look ahead to selecting new leaders. We are grateful for the service of our outgoing elders, Joel Copley and Naomi Friend, and our outgoing deacons, Donna Bergman and Christopher 't Hoen. We thank them for their dedication and faithful work in serving our congregation. At its most recent meeting, Council approved nominees for new elders and deacons: elder – Brian Sterenberg and Mark Irvin; deacon – Ben Marcus, Laura Hufford, and Mindy Nikkel.

A congregational meeting will be held on May 3, immediately following the service, to

appoint two elders and two deacons for two-year terms. We expect the meeting to conclude in time for Sunday School.

Adult Sunday School Classes: This week, we look forward to finishing this semester's God's World - The Wonders of Science series with Derek ten Pas. Derek is a water and wastewater treatment design engineer. He uses God's intelligent design of chemical, biological, and physical properties of water to help make dirty water clean! Derek will present on the basics of water and wastewater treatment, his career experiences, and how engineering and his faith intersect.

This week is our last day of Sunday School for this school year. Thank you to all the teachers who made it happen: thank you Rachel and Megan for leading the K-5th graders, thank you Melody for leading the middle-schoolers, and thank you Rob B. for taking a leadership role in the high school group after Randy retired in January.

Mother's Day is May 10: We give thanks to God for the gift of mothers and all women who nurture faith and life in our congregation and community. We recognize and celebrate not only biological mothers, but also grandmothers, adoptive mothers, spiritual mentors, and all who reflect Christ's love through care and guidance. We honor the strength, wisdom, and faith that shape generations. Mothers play a vital role in the life of the church; teaching, encouraging, serving, and helping to pass on a living faith.

Join us as we offer a prayer of thanksgiving for mothers, reflect on God's faithfulness across generations, and encourage and support one another in our shared calling

We also acknowledge that this day can be difficult for some. We hold in prayer those who grieve, those who long to be mothers, and those with complicated family relationships.

As we worship together, let us give thanks for God's enduring love shown through the lives of faithful women.

Year-end Celebration on May 17: We will gather together after the morning service to celebrate the graduates in our church family and the close of our school year with a BBQ-Potluck Lunch. Burgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, cake, and punch will be provided (with vegetarian options available). Those with the last name beginning with A-N, please bring salads; last names beginning with O-Z, please bring sides. Everyone is welcome!

Congratulations to the graduates in our church family! Eli Hufford – Ames High School; Maggie VanDyk – Gilbert High School; David Copley – Dordt University; Beth VanDyk – Coe College. May the Lord bless your next endeavors!

The May Hymn Sing will be held on May 17 at 5:00 pm and will feature hymns celebrating Ascension Day. We hope you will join us! After the May event, hymn sings will be taking a break for the summer, resuming in Fall 2026.

From Areopagus Director Lora Copley:

Dear Trinity Church, After much prayer and a year of deliberation, Joel and I believe the Lord is leading me to step down as director of Areopagus Campus Ministry. We are deeply grateful to the Lord for these past four years; for what we've shared with the students (now friends) and the Iowa State community.

This is a natural time for transition, and we trust our Good Shepherd will provide the right next leader. The board has updated the job description and will begin the search process this coming week. My final day in the role will be July 12. Thank you, dear church, for your steady support and encouragement—and especially for your care for our students over the years. We look forward to what God will continue to do through the Areopagus ministry. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Yours gratefully in Christ, Lora A. Copley

If you have an announcement to share, please submit it to the church office by 10:30 am on Thursdays in order to be included in the announcements for the week. If you leave a written message in the office, please include your name in case a follow-up is necessary. Thank you!

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions: Why Compare When You're Already You? - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Why Compare When You're Already You?" at www.kidscorner.net. God made every kid one-of-a-kind, and that's something to celebrate! When we remember that God loves us just as we are, we can use our special gifts to share His love with others. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible Story coloring pages available on the KC activities page.

Groundwork: How to Live in Christ - Keeping laws and customs won't benefit our salvation at all, but that doesn't mean our actions don't matter. Join Groundwork as we study Galatians 5-6 to examine Paul's description of how we should live in Christ. Together, we'll discuss the Fruits of the Spirit and what grateful Christian living looks like as we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

We're Hiring! US Donor Relations Manager with ReFrame Ministries - The successful candidate will develop relationships and implement a strategy with existing and potential donors that will increase financial support and resources, engage current constituents, and cultivate potential donors in support of the ministry. This is a full-time, hybrid position based in Grand Rapids, Mich., or Chicago, Ill. Learn more and apply by May 6, 2026. Apply at crcna.pinpointhq.com

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - This week marks Teacher Appreciation Week in the United States and Canada. One of the most significant glimpses of Jesus' teaching that we have in the Bible can be found in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5–7). This week spend some time reading and reflecting on this important message as you sit under the teaching of Jesus. Then think of people in your life who have taught you about Jesus. Send them a quick note of thanks for helping you to learn about God. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

CRC Heritage Fund

The Cure for Your Real Estate Headaches - If you have real estate that you no longer need or care to manage, consider giving all or part of it to CRCNA Ministries. You'll reduce your costs and headaches, while repurposing valuable property for ministry. Is giving real estate a good option for you? Learn more at crcna.org/heritagefund or call Josh Remer, CRCNA Planned Giving Advisor at 616-223-5885.

World Renew

Join Us in Supporting Moms and Babies Next Week - The first 1,000 days of a child's life are the most important. But in many countries, pregnant mothers and their babies don't get the care they need. That's why World Renew equips local communities around the world to deliver life-saving care. Together, we can share God's love and help babies grow up healthy and strong in the first 1,000 days. Learn more or give online at worldrenew.net/first1000days

VOLUNTEERS

Sound: Rex De Bruin
Greeter: Saldaña
Nursery: Sue and Kathlyn
Children's Message: Rob Barnes
Congregational Prayer: Tom Kuyper

Sound Tech

May 3	Rex De Bruin	Jun 7	Rex De Bruin
May 10	Bryan Van Belle	Jun 14	Bryan Van Belle
May 17	Rob Barnes	Jun 21	Brian Sterenberg
May 24	Brian Sterenberg	Jun 28	Rob Barnes
May 31	Tom Whitney		

Greeters

May 3	Saldaña	Jun 7	VanDyk
May 10	Sander/Bassham	Jun 14	Verkade
May 17	Sterenberg	Jun 21	Whitney
May 24	't Hoen	Jun 28	Voss
May 31	Ten Pas		

Nursery

May 3	Sue and Kathlyn	Jun 7	Lyndee and Kenzie
May 10	Mindy and Natalie	Jun 14	Rachel and Sue
May 17	Megan and Kristy	Jun 21	Melody and Elizabeth
May 24	Judy and Cassie	Jun 28	Jessica and Brianna
May 31	Mary and Pam		

Children's Message

May 3	Rob Barnes	May 17	Laura Hufford
May 10	Derek Ten Pas	May 24	Lora Copley

May 31 Christopher 't Hoen
Jun 7 Jeff Kopaska
Jun 14 Rex De Bruin

Jun 21 Rob Barnes
Jun 28 Laura Hufford

Congregational Prayer

May 3 Tom Kuyper
May 10 Paul Kleinwolterink
May 17 Mark Voss
May 24 Rex De Bruin
May 31 Joel Copley

Jun 7 Melody Franje
Jun 14 Jeff Kopaska
Jun 21 Lora Copley
Jun 28 Tom Niehof

Lora Copley, Areopagus Campus Ministry Director: director@isu-areopagus.org or 505-387-6861

Tina VanDyk, Office Administrator: office@amestrinity.org

Office Hours: Tue & Thu, 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; Search – Jeff Kopaska; Technology – Rex De Bruin; Outreach and Enfolding – Mark Voss; Worship – Laura Hufford