WORSHIP SERVICE
November 22, 2026
A Service of Thanksgiving

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude
Welcome
*God's Greeting
*We Greet One Another
*Call to Worship: Psalm 65:9-13

You take care of the earth and water it, making it rich and fertile.

The river of God has plenty of water; it provides a bountiful harvest of grain, for you have ordered it so.

You drench the plowed ground with rain, melting the clods and leveling the ridges. You soften the earth with showers and bless its abundant crops.

You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance

The grasslands of the wilderness become a lush pasture, and the hillsides blossom with joy.

The meadows are clothed with flocks of sheep, and the valleys are carpeted with grain. They all shout and sing for joy!

*Opening Song: "Come, You Thankful People, Come" *Lift Up Your Hearts* #473

Come, you thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, does provide for our needs to be supplied;
come, with all his people come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown:
first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his harvest home;
he himself in that great day all offense shall take away,

give his angels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to your final harvest home;
gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin
there, forever purified, in your presence to abide;
come, with all your angels come, raise the glorious harvest home.

*Opening Prayer

*Song: "Let All Things Now Living" *Lift Up Your Hearts* #5

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who guides us and leads to the end of our days.
His banners are o'er us, his light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

His law he enforces; the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise,
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Lord, you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not always loved you.

You constantly call us, but we have not always listened.

You ask us to love, but we sometimes walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns.

We see evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed, but do not always call on you for assistance. We are sometimes numbed to the sin around us, or dismissive of your mercy and love.

God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit in truth.

We admit our sin, and we ask for your forgiveness.

Assurance of Pardon: 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever.

Song of Entrusting: "In Our Lives, Lord, Be Glorified" *Lift Up Your Hearts* #861

In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In our lives, Lord, be glorified today.

In our homes, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In our homes, Lord, be glorified today.

In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

The Setting: Slides of Thessalonica

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. **13** Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. **14** And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. **15** Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.
16 Rejoice always, **17** pray continually, **18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

19 Do not quench the Spirit. **20** Do not treat prophecies with contempt **21** but test
them all; hold on to what is good, **22** reject every kind of evil.
23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May
your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ. **24** The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.
25 Brothers and sisters, pray for us. **26** Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. **27** I
charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and
sisters.
28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Message: "Give Thanks in All Circumstances"

I. The Circumstances – Not Always Easy
II. The Focus of our Thankfulness
III. The Results of Thankfulness

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response: "Give Thanks" *Sing! A New Creation* #216

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "We are strong!"
let the poor say, "We are rich
because of what the Lord has done for us!"

And now let the weak say, "We are strong!"
let the poor say, "We are rich
because of what the Lord has done for us!"

Give thanks. Give thanks.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Blessing

*Closing Song: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" *Lift Up Your Hearts* #348

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;

thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow –
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Postlude

*Please stand

Children's Message: Christopher 't Hoen
Message: Rev. Tom Niehof
Musicians: Andrew Friend, Alisabeth Copley, Elizabeth Hobson, Derek Ten Pas

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SUNDAY SCHOOL, SMALL GROUP, AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **By the Fire, In the Word** meets on Sundays at 8:15 am in the fellowship hall for scripture reading and discussion. All are welcome! Contact Joel Copley for details.
- **Children and Worship** (age 3–2nd grade) meets during the service, after the children's message.

- **Sunday School Classes** for all ages meet weekly at 10:50 am; no class on Nov 29- Thanksgiving break.
- **Areopagus** meets on Sundays at 6:00 pm for scripture reading and a meal in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Roots Youth Group** (grades 6-12) meets weekly on Wednesdays, 7-8:30 pm.
- **Pub Theology** meets the last Sunday of the month at The Mucky Duck; next meeting is Nov 29 at 7:00 pm.
- **Women's Bible Study** meets monthly on Monday mornings at the Ames Sixty Forward Center; next meeting is Dec 7 at 9:00 am. See Pam Voss for details.
- **Breakfast Club** meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at the Lincoln Center Hy-Vee at 8:30 am.
  Contact Mary Kuyper for details.
- **Young Adult Ministry** meets on Fridays and Sundays throughout the year.
  Contact Derek Ten Pas to get connected.
- **Intergenerational Sunday School and Potluck Lunch**: THIS Sunday, November 22.
- **Regular Council Meeting**: December 9 at 6:30 pm.

TCRC ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we gather for our Thanksgiving service, Rev. Tom Niehof will share a message from 1 Thessalonians 5:12–28. Paul's words remind us to rejoice, pray, give thanks, and encourage one another as we live out our faith.

The special offering this week is for Tyler and Christina Helfers at Stellenbosch International Fellowship (SIF) where Tyler serves as pastor to an international church in Stellenbosch, South Africa. The church 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.

Please return your Peter Fish this Sunday, November 22.

Adult Sunday School will not meet November 22 or 29. We hope to see you on December 6 to discuss Mark 15.

Intergenerational Sunday School THIS week. Sunday School for all ages will meet in the Fellowship Hall this week for an engaging, table-style discussion with hands-on activities for everyone. Come connect with one another as we continue exploring God's Word together and stay for the potluck lunch afterward!

Potluck Lunch THIS week. Following our Sunday School time, we will continue to fellowship together over a potluck lunch. Please bring something to share, based on your last name: A-H bring salads; I-S bring a main dish; T-Z bring desserts.

There will not be Sunday School on Nov 29 for Thanksgiving break. Adult and youth classes will resume on December 6.

Help us celebrate the Advent/Holiday season with a poinsettia plant to decorate the sanctuary. The cost is $12 for a 6.5" potted poinsettia. To reserve a plant, please sign up on the list on the table outside the church office. Please pay for your plant at time of order with a check to TCRC and place in the collection basket with "poinsettia" noted the memo line, or place cash in an envelope with your name and "poinsettia" noted on the envelope. (Flowers cannot be paid for online.) Last day to order is Sunday Nov 22. Plants may be taken home after the Dec 27 service. Questions? Contact: Pam Voss.

The Outreach Committee is collecting toys for The Salvation Army! We invite you to help make the holidays brighter for local children by donating new, unwrapped toys for children aged newborn to 12 years old. Toys, games, clothing, and books will be collected through Sunday, December 6, and can be placed in the collection box in the church entryway. Questions? Please contact Mark Voss.

UFO is a group that works on their Un-Finished Objects–quilting, knitting, mending, organizing recipes, preparing class work, relaxing, etc. We have devotions, prayer, and refreshments. UFO meets 6:30 - 8:30ish on the 3rd Monday of the month. Persons can host, share devotions, or bring refreshments if they wish. You are invited to join us and/or ask questions about UFO! NOTE: UFO will take a break from meeting Nov - Feb so meet with us in March 2027! See you then! Contact Kelly Hobson for details.

Council met with Matt Haken and with Lee Yantis last Thursday and approved each of their requests to become members of Trinity CRC. Welcome, Matt and Lee! We are blessed to have each of you here at Trinity.

Council has received and approved the request of Randy and Holly Raak to transfer their membership from Trinity to Bethel CRC of Edgerton, MN. Also, Pastor Randy's credentials will be sent to Bethel CRC as he has accepted a call from that church to support him in his current mission.

Financial Report for Oct 2026: Total income was $18,804, with a breakdown of general offerings–$15,310, bank interest–$774, Ames Christian School rent–$2,000. 81% of the budgeted income has been received, and 77% of the budgeted expenses have been spent. Special Offering for Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance totaled $2,565 and the Building Fund totaled $13,423.05.

Worship Volunteers Needed! If are willing to play an instrument, lead singing, run the sound system, and/or give a children's message during worship service please see Laura Hufford. We need more volunteers.

Please submit announcements 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 include your name in case a follow-up is necessary. Thank you!

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions: Thanksgiving Prayers - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Thanksgiving Prayers" at www.kidscorner.net. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 encourages us to "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." We're typically pretty good at thanking God for the "big" things in life, but it can be more difficult to remember to give thanks for our day-to-day blessings. How do we build a lifelong habit of thanks? Check out the new Kids Corner Devotions app at https://kidscorner.net/app

Groundwork: Prayer and Community - It is common to pray together as Christians. We pray in church, before meals, and with our Bible study groups. Why do we pray together and what difference does it make? Join Groundwork as we study Acts 2:42-47, Acts 4:23-31, Ephesians 6:18, Psalm 13:1-6, James 5:13-16, and Revelation 8:1-5 to why we pray communally and how corporate prayer can powerfully impact our faith. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - In Liturgy of the Ordinary (IVP 2016), Tish Harrison Warren writes, "In my daily life I've developed habits of impatience—of speeding ahead, of trying to squeeze more into my cluttered day. How can I live as one who watches and waits for the coming kingdom when I can barely wait for water to boil?" As the Advent season draws near, how might you more fully embrace the discipline of waiting in your everyday home life? Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

World Renew

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Launch - You are invited to join World Renew for the launch of this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign. This global virtual gathering will take place on Tuesday, November 24 at 9:00 AM EST. World Renew's 2026 theme, "Courageous Faith! Ensure Justice, Protect Survivors, and End Impunity" calls us to stand with others around the world working to end gender-based violence. Through prayer, Scripture, stories from around the world, and practical actions, we will explore how courageous faith can help us build communities where all people can flourish in dignity. Please register to attend this event: worldrenew.net/events

Harvest Hope With Us on Giving Tuesday - This Giving Tuesday, you have the opportunity to extend Christ's compassion and harvest hope for farming families worldwide. As farmers navigate extreme weather, poor soil, and limited access to resources, World Renew is providing training and support so they can build lasting food security. With your gifts, you can help farmers grow stronger harvests and have enough to feed their families and communities. Learn more and give by December 1 at worldrenew.org/givingtuesday

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VOLUNTEERS

Sound: Tom Whitney
Greeter: Saldaña
Nursery: Donna and Natalie
Children's Message: Christopher ‘t Hoen
Congregational Prayer: Lora Copley

Sound Tech

Nov 22 Tom Whitney
Nov 29 Rex De Bruin
Dec 6 Brian Sterenberg
Dec 13 Bryan Van Belle
Dec 20 Rex De Bruin
Dec 24* Tom Whitney
Dec 27 Brian Sterenberg

Greeters

Nov 22 Saldaña
Nov 29 Sanders/Bassham
Dec 6 Sterenberg
Dec 13 ‘t Hoen
Dec 20 Ten Pas
Dec 27 VanDyk
Jan 3 Verkade
Jan 10 Voss
Jan 17 Whitney
Jan 24 Yoder
Jan 31 Barnes

Nursery

Nov 22 Donna and Natalie
Nov 29 Sue and Kathlyn
Dec 6 Mindy and Alisabeth
Dec 13 Megan and Kristy
Dec 20 Lyndee and Cassie
Dec 27 Sue and Mary
Jan 3 Rachel and Pam
Jan 10 Jessica and Kenzie
Jan 17 Melody and Elizabeth
Jan 24 Donna and Brianna
Jan 31 Sue and Natalie

Children’s Message

Nov 22 Christopher ‘t Hoen
Nov 29 Rex De Bruin
Dec 6 Derek Ten Pas
Dec 13 Lora Copley
Dec 20 Laura Hufford
Dec 27 Jeff Kopaska
Jan 3 Christopher ‘t Hoen
Jan 10 Rex De Bruin
Jan 17 Derek Ten Pas
Jan 24 Lora Copley
Jan 31 Laura Hufford

Congregational Prayer

Nov 22 Lora Copley
Nov 29 Paul Kleinwolterink
Dec 6 Mark Voss
Dec 13 Rex De Bruin
Dec 20 Tom Niehof
Dec 27 Jeff Kopaska
Jan 3 Joel Copley
Jan 10 Melody Franje
Jan 17 Lora Copley
Jan 24 Paul Kleinwolterink
Jan 31 Mark Voss

Contact Information

Dan Gregory, Areopagus Campus Ministry Director:
director@isu-areopagus.org; 847-989-9648
Tina VanDyk, Office Administrator: office@amestrinity.org; 515-292-4676
Office Hours: Tue & Thu, 9:00 am–3:00 pm

Elders: A-G = Paul Kleinwolterink; H-K = Melody Franje;
L-S = Mark Irvin; T-Z = Brian Sterenberg
Deacons: A-G = Derek Ten Pas; H-K = Mindy Nikkel;
L-S = Mark Voss; T-Z = Laura Hufford

Committee Chairs: Building & Grounds – Jim Bergman; Education – Christopher ‘t Hoen; Endowment – Paul Kleinwolterink; Fellowship – Sue Fee; Outreach and Enfolding – Mindy Nikkel; Search – Jeff Kopaska; Technology – Rex De Bruin; Worship – Laura Hufford