

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

*** Please stand if you are able.**

“O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!”

Prelude: Jill Klunder

Ministry of Music: ***“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”*** Men’s Quartet

The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
and they said that His name was Jesus, Jesus.

And unto us a blessed Child is born,
And unto us a blessed Child is born,
And unto us a blessed Child is born,
and they said that His name was Jesus, Jesus.

And He will be the Savior of the world,
And He will be the Savior of the world,
And He will be the Savior of the world,
And they said that His name was Jesus, Jesus.

*He come down He come from the glory,
He come down He come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory,
He come down He come from the glorious kingdom.
He come down He come from the glory,
He come down He come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory,
He come down He come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh yes, believer, oh yes, believer, Oh yes, believer,
He come from the glorious kingdom.*

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*** Welcome and Announcements**

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: He came as a baby in a manger.

People: O come, let us adore him.

Leader: He came in a lowly stable.

People: O come, let us adore him.

Leader: Shepherds brought their worship.

People: O come, let us adore him.

Leader: Angels sang his praise.

People: O come, let us adore him.

Leader: Magi brought their gifts.

People: O come, let us adore him.

Leader: What shall we do?

People: O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord! Amen.

* Opening Hymn: LUYH #76:1-3 ***“O Come, All Ye Faithful”***

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God, Light of Light eternal,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

Refrain

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
“Glory to God, all glory in the highest!”

Refrain

Words: attr. John F. Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others,
P.D.; Music: attr. John F. Wade, 1743; desc. © 1947 Hymns Ancient and Modern,
admin. Hope Publishing Company; CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting/ We Greet Each Other

* Opening Songs of Praise:

Reading based on Luke 1:46-50

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” LUYH #88:1-4

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
3. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) P.D.;
Music: Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908) P.D.

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" HFOG #197:1 & 3

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
3. For lo, the days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when the new heaven and earth shall own
the Prince of Peace their King,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Words by Edmund H. Sears; Music by Richard S. Willis; P.D. CCLI #678905

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" LUYH #78:1,2,4,

1. Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega—he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore.
2. O that birth forever blessed,
when a virgin, blest with grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race;
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.
4. Let the heights of heaven adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing:
powers, dominions, bow before him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413); tr. Composite, P.D.;
Music: Plainsong mode V, 13th c; arr. Paul G. Bunjes (1914-1998); arr. © 1982 Concordia Publishing House; CCLI #678905

"O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!"

Call to Confession:

Leader: We have locked ourselves out, O God.
Each of us, in our own way, has locked
ourselves out of relationships, has locked
ourselves out of opportunities, has locked
ourselves out of our true home, because
we are too arrogant, or too stubborn, or
simply too human. We have filled our lives
and our world with darkness and death,
because we have, all too often, put our
own judgment and desires over yours.
We are lost, in need of light and hope and joy.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us.**
Come, Lord Jesus; guide us and deliver us.
Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: Titus 3: 4-7

⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,
⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done,
but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing
of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,
⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,
⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become
heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Song of Assurance: Sing #92:1,5 ***"He Came Down"***

1. He came down that we may have hope,
he came down that we may have hope,
he came down that we may have hope.
Hallelujah forever more.
5. He came down that we may have life,
he came down that we may have life,
he came down that we may have life.
Hallelujah forever more.

Advent Candle Lighting: Led by Kevin & Glenda Kok

Today we light the candle of Joy. "Surely God is my
salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the
Lord, is my strength and my defense; he has become
my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the
wells of salvation. In that day you will say: 'Give praise
to the Lord, call on this name; make known among the
nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name
is exalted. Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious
things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud
and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy
One of Israel among you'". *Isaiah 12:2-6*

Song of Assurance: Sing #92:3 ***“He Came Down”***

3. He came down that we may have joy,
he came down that we may have joy,
he came down that we may have joy.
Hallelujah forever more.

Text and Music: Cameroon traditional; tr. And arr. John Bell; 1990,
WGRG the Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.
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*At the conclusion of this song children ages 3 – 1st grade are
dismissed to the Koinonia Room for Children and Worship.*

Offering: General Fund

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #383:1-4 ***“My Spirit Glorifies the Lord”***

1. My spirit glorifies the Lord;
in God my Savior I rejoice,
for he beheld my humble state
and in his love made me his choice.
2. All generations from now on
shall call me blest and spread my fame,
for he has done great things for me—
mighty and holy is his name.
3. His mercy shall extend to those
who fear the Lord from age to age;
he has revealed his mighty arm,
scattering the proud in all their rage.
4. He brought down rulers from their thrones,
but lifted those of low degree.
He filled the hungry with good things,
but empty sent the rich away.

Words: Luke 1:46-55; vers. Dewey Westra, 1931; rev. *Psalter Hymnal*, 1987,
© 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources; CCLI #678905

“Come and behold him, born the King of angels”

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38, 46-55 (pg. 1013) Read by Jill & Mardick Stevens

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“When Heaven Came Back”***

Time of Prayer

“O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord”

* Song of Application: LUYH #69:1-4 ***“My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout”***

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!*

2. Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

4. Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.

Refrain

Luke 1:45-55: Words: Rory Cooney (b. 1952), based on the *Magnificat*,
© 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Irish traditional; arr. Rory Cooney
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* Call to Service and Benediction

*Doxology: LUYH #93:1-3 ***“Go Tell It On the Mountain”***

Refrain

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

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

Refrain

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

Refrain

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

Refrain

Words: African American spiritual, 19th c., P.D.; Music: African American
Spiritual, 19th c.; arr. ©2012 Faith alive Christian Resources; CCLI #678905

*Postlude

Welcome! The psalmist wrote: “I will exalt you, my God and King. I will praise your name forever and ever” (Psalm 145:1). With a similar attitude, let us praise God joyfully. After joining us in worship, join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Our ***Candlelight Service*** will be held this evening at 6:30 p.m.

There will be no ***evening service*** held on December 24 and 31.

There will be no ***Sunday School & Catechism*** on December 24 and December 31. It will resume again on January 7 at 9:30 a.m.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

New Address for Bev Van Slageren:

165401 Hanks Road
Grandview, WA 98930
Phone: 509-882-4337

The board at ***New Earth Recovery*** would like to thank those who made cookies and pies for our Christmas Carol Hymn Sing. We appreciate it very much. We also thank First CRC for the use of the church for this event.

OUR CHURCH EVENTS

Dear Friends in Christ,

Advent is a season of expectation and longing for the coming of the Lord. For four weeks we prepare to once again hear the announcement of the angel: *"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord"* (Luke 2:10-11).

Out theme this Advent season is the great theme of the Bible: the reunion of earth and heaven. Over the course of the next four weeks we will journey from the moment when heaven and earth were separated to the moment when they will at last be reunited again. The journey begins in sorrow and longing; but it ends in joy and reunion.

Listed below is the tentative outline for the series itself. As always, you are encouraged to read the text ahead of time in preparation for our Sunday morning study. May God bless us as we make our way to the reunion together.

In Christ,

Pastor John

December 3 AM: Genesis 3:1-9 - *"When Heaven Walked the Earth"*

December 10 AM: Isaiah 25:6-9 – *"Longing for Redemption & Reunion"*

December 17 AM: Luke 1:26-38, 46-55 – *"When Heaven Came Back"*

December 24 AM: Luke 2:8-14 – *"Waiting for Heaven to Come Down"*

December 25 AM: Revelation 21:1-5 – *"When Heaven Comes to Stay"*

Choir will meet for rehearsal after the morning service.

Youth Group will meet this evening at 7:45 p.m. This is for all high school students. They meet in the Youth Group room in the Education Wing.

GEMS will meet on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. This will be their Christmas Party.

Church library Information: Beginning in January our church library will become 'self-check-out'. The library will continue to be open after our morning worship service. Instructions regarding how to check out a book or DVD will be posted in the library. Return books/DVDs in the 'return box' outside the library. If you have questions please contact Melba De Kok at 360 424-9308 or email to dmdekok@hotmail.com.

Copies of *"Today's Christian Living"* are available to pick up on the walk way shelf.

FAMILY VISITING: The following is the family visiting schedule for **October—December 2017**. If your family is included in the list, please expect a call from the listed Elder to arrange the day and time for the visit. If you have questions about the schedule please call the listed Elder or call Henry Hammingh at 360-424-3019.

	OCTOBER — DECEMBER 2017 FAMILY VISITS
Elder	Family
Dave V	Minne & Trudy Van der Hoek
Dave V	Marinus & Jill Rouw
Greg A	Jeff & Monica Droog
Greg B	Hilsinger, Nick & Kristi
Greg B	Jerry & Marion Ekkelkamp
Henry H	Greg & Beth Boon
Henry H	Mardick & Jill Stevens
Darrel L	Randy & Juli Oostra
Darrel L	Henry & Sharon Kuipers
Pastor John	Jill Haagsma
Pastor John	Larry & Maxine Greidanus
Dennis D	Steve & Katie Jungquist
Dennis D	Chris Van Sweden

ADVANCED NOTICES

Christmas Day Service will be held on Monday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.

The **Men's Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, December 27 at 6:30 a.m. at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington. We are studying the book of Revelation. You are welcome to join us.

Save the Date: Take a moment to mark **Friday, March 9** on your 2018 calendar! This will be the date of the 1st Annual **"Taste of Italy Night"** at First CRC! Think you have a good lasagna recipe? Do you love a great salad? Are you ready to test your Italian cooking skills against a bunch of other wanna-be Italians? If so, then begin making your recipe plans now. Various awards and prizes will be given for the best-tasting lasagna, most delicious salad, etc.. Just imagine layer upon layer of soft buttery pasta with the delicious combination of juicy seasoned tomatoes mixed with ground meat perfectly seasoned with softened onions with just the right amount of cottage cheese - all mixed perfectly together with hot, cheesy mozzarella cheese topped with a crunchy Parmesan cheese crust. ... Are you hungry yet!?

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Everlasting Father: Isaiah continues to describe the Messiah, he calls him "Everlasting Father." Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 1:16-18, and John 14:1-11 to find out what this title would have meant to its original Israelite audience and why it really is an appropriate title for Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Beyond Belief: Liz and friends find themselves in Bethlehem reliving the Christmas story. Check out KC's new Christmas coupon book for a great gift idea at www.kidscorner.net.

Dominican Republic Church Construction: Join together with the local church in Los Alcarizos, Dominican Republic to construct a new church building. Their current building is too small, in very poor shape, and has little ventilation. Church members have been gathering materials together and are really hoping for a team to come and help them this year. For more information visit resonateglobalmission.org/go or contact Bill Thornburg - bthornburg@crcna.org. Deadline for application is January 5, 2018.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUN	11:45 am	Choir Practice
	7:45 pm	Youth Group
TUES	7:00 pm	Vida Nueva
WED	1:30 pm	Golden Hour
	6:30 pm	GEMS's Christmas Party

NURSERY

Today: AM Infants & Toddlers

Jeannette Folkertsma Cody Hilsinger, Kendall Van Zanten

Candlelight Service: Michele Feddema, Jordan Feddema

Next Week: AM Infants & Toddlers

Jill Klunder, Rylee Kuipers, Jordan Feddema

Christmas Day Service: Annette LeClair, Kylie Boon

GREETERS

Today - AM Rovers: Rich & Elly Cuperus

AM: Henry & Pam Van Zanten, Greg & Beth Boon

Candlelight Service:

Rovers: Dennis & Melba De Kok

PM: Shirley Boonstra, Marjean De Groot

Next Week - AM Rovers: Keith & Jean Rasmussen

AM: Alice De Vries, Grace Feddema, Wayne & Rhea Doss

Christmas Day Service:

Rovers: Larry & Margaret Vander Pol

PM: Les & Joy Faber, Brian Doss, Fred Folkertsma

USHERS

Today: Kermit Houck, Wiebe Van der Hoek, Tim Van Hofwegen

Candlelight Service: Kermit Houck, Wiebe Van der Hoek, Tim Van Hofwegen

Next Week: Larry Greidanus, Henry Hammingh, Tim Hibma

Christmas Day Service: Larry Greidanus, Henry Hammingh, Tim Hibma

SOUND SYSTEM

Today AM: Henry Van Zanten, Jr.

Candlelight Service: Tim Hibma

Next Week AM: Mardick Stevens

Christmas Day Service: Kendall Van Zanten

PROJECTION

Today AM: Tim Hibma

Candlelight Service: Josh Hammingh

Next Week AM: Nathan Van Beek

Christmas Day Service: Devin Van Zanten

VIDEO TAPING

Today AM: Mike Hibma

Candlelight Service: Brandon Speck

Next Week: DJ Droog

Christmas Day Service: Mike Hibma

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Today AM:

Teacher: Julie Houck

Assistants: Briana Vander Kooy, Devin Van Zanten

Next Week AM:

Teacher: Julie Houck

Assistants: Brooke Knoester, Emma Droog

LIBRARY:

Today AM: Joy Faber

Next Week AM: Jean Rasmussen

COFFEE HOSTS

Today AM:

Keith & Jean Rasmussen, Marinus & Jill Rouw, Mardick & Jill Stevens

Candlelight Service: Fellowship Committee

Next Week AM: Minne & Trudy Van der Hoek, Larry & Margaret Vander Pol, Bryan & Deanna Van Beek

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: None

Next Week: None

TRANSPORTATION CARE TEAM

Next Week: Tim & Heather Van Hofwegen

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Next Week: None

OFFERING: December 24, 2017

AM: General Fund

Christmas Day: Love Inc.



People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Call the church office at (336-2405) or e-mail: secretary@firstcrcmv.com by Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

SHUT INS:

Nell Annema at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley, **Marge Eskes** at home in Mount Vernon; **Mary Koopmans** at Where the Heart Is in Burlington; **Wilma Paul** at Mountain Glen Retirement Center in Mount Vernon; **Adrianna Swanson** at Creekside in Burlington; **Bev Van Slageren** at family in Grandview, WA; **Duane Van Dyke** at Where the Heart Is in Burlington; **Chris Van Sweden** at Country Meadows in Sedro-Woolley, and **Rena Wester** at the Lynden Manor.

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Pray for **Annette LeClair** as she continues with treatments. Please continue to keep Annette and her entire family in your prayers.

OTHER CONCERNS:

Emily Curry recently had a PET scan done and it showed that there was no cancer activity. The mass in her chest has shrunk. She will begin radiation in January for 4-6 weeks to get rid of the rest of the mass. Continue to pray for Emily and the family.

Pray for **college students** as they begin traveling home for Christmas in the next weeks. Pray for safety and that they may enjoy time with family and friends.

Chaplaincy and Care: Industry - A growing number of chaplains work in industrial and corporate settings, serving the needs of employees who may not have a spiritual support network to draw from in times of crisis. Interacting with employees in their work environment requires unique communication and relationship skills. Please pray for these chaplains and the people they serve.

Resonate Global Mission: Lincoln, Neb. - Ask God to guide new and established churches alike as they look for new ways to engage members of their community in the gospel. Pray for F Street Neighborhood Church leaders who recently launched a new cooking class for members of their youth group.

World Renew: Bangladesh - In recent months, over 500,000 Rohingya refugees have fled violence in Myanmar. Along with psychological trauma, they are experiencing a shortage of food and water. As World Renew offers assistance in this crisis, ask God to provide comfort, healing, and resources to all these refugees in Bangladesh.

Back to God Ministries International: Ukraine - Give thanks that our joint Reformation 500 rally with local churches in Kiev made a strong impact on the people who attended. About 350,000 people heard the gospel and learned about the ministries of the Protestant/Evangelical churches in the Ukrainian capital and beyond. Glory to God!

Resonate Global Mission: Local mission leaders - Praise God for the new ministry connections being made across the CRC and around the world through Resonate's local mission leaders. May the gifts and knowledge of these leaders be multiplied across North America and around the world.

World Renew: Africa - Please pray for ongoing relief efforts in response to drought and conflicts in eastern and southern Africa. Many families are deprived of food and water. In response, World Renew has received support to assist over 45,000 people in affected areas. Please ask God to provide all the resources and strength needed by the people suffering from deprivation in this region.

Safe Church Ministry: Holiday season - Though many of us think of warm family gatherings during the holidays, one young woman's fear of being with her family again and facing abuse, denial, dysfunction, and hurt led her to contact our office for advice. Tragically, she is not the only one in that painful place. Pray for healing within families during this holiday season.