

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

* Please stand if you are able.

***“Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;”***

Prelude: Sylvia Van Zanten

Sung Call to Worship: ***“Holy Is Your Name”*** vs. 1-5

Solo—Danielle Van Zanten

1. My soul is filled with joy
as I sing to God my Savior:
you have looked upon your servant,
you have visited your people.

Refrain—All Sing

*And holy is your name
through all generations!
Everlasting is your mercy
to the people you have chosen,
and holy is your name.*

Solo

2. I am lowly as a child,
but I know from this day forward
that my name will be remembered,
for all will call me blessed.

Refrain—All Sing

Solo

3. I proclaim the power of God,
you do marvels for your servants;
though you scatter the proud-hearted,
and destroy the might of princes.

Refrain—All Sing

Solo

4. To the hungry you give food,
send the rich away—empty.
In your mercy you are mindful
of the people you have chosen.

Refrain—All Sing

Solo

5. In your love you now fulfill
what you promised to your people.
I will praise you Lord, my Savior,
everlasting is your mercy.

Refrain—All Sing

Words: Luke 1:46-55; David Haas (b. 1957) © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc.;
Music Irish traditional; arr. David Haas (b. 1957) © 1989 GIA Publications;
All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-711218

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship:

Pastor: All God's people—
Boys and girls, women, men:

People: Come and worship!

Pastor: Shepherds, Magi, saints, and angels:

People: Come and worship! Come and worship!

Pastor: All who need the Savior, all who long for comfort:

**People: Come and worship, come and worship Christ,
the newborn King!**

Reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook*, © 2004, CRC Publications

* Opening Hymn: LUH 81:1,2,4,5 "**Angels, from the Realms of Glory**"

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!*

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:

Refrain

4. Though an infant now we view him,
he will share his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down:

Refrain

5. All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:

Words: James Montgomery, 1816, alt., P.D.; Music: Henry Smart, 1867, P.D.

* God's Greeting/ We Greet Each Other

* Opening Songs of Praise:

Read John 1:14

"Meekness and Majesty" LUYH #157:1-3

1. Meekness and majesty, manhood and Deity
in perfect harmony, the Man who is God.
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility and washes our feet.

Refrain

*Oh, what a mystery-meekness and majesty;
bow down and worship, for this is your God.*

2. Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence,
yet learns obedience to death on a cross,
suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice,
and, as they crucify, prays, "Father, forgive."

Refrain

3. Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,
Love indestructible in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,
lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne.

Refrain

Text and Music: Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) © 1986, Kingsway's Thankyou Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing CCLI# 678905

"What Child Is This" LUYH #95:1-3

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail for Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Words: William C. Dix (1837-1898), P.D.; Music: English ballad, 16th c., P.D.;
CCLI #678905

***"You, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth;"***

Call to Confession:

Leader: We are coming unraveled, O God, pulled apart from every angle, because we have each chosen our own way, forgetting the common good, the universal good, your true good. We are in need of a way back from the messes we make for ourselves, because we have, too often, rejected your way to true peace, true wholeness. We are lost, and we need Christ to come quickly.

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.

Words of Assurance:

The good news of Advent is that Jesus Christ has come into the world, has led the way through death that we may have life, and is coming again to make all things new. Hear these words of assurance from Romans 5: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!"

Song of Assurance: Sing! #92:2,5 ***"He Came Down"***

2. He came down that we may have peace,
he came down that we may have peace,
he came down that we may have peace.
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.

Text and Music: Cameroon traditional; tr. And arr. John Bell; 1990,
WGRG the Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. OneLicense.net License #A-711218

Advent Candle Lighting: Led by Jim & Michele Feddema

Today we light the candle of Love. "Dear Friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. *1 John 4:7-9*

Song of Response: Sing! #92:4 ***"He Came Down"***

4. He came down that we may have love,
he came down that we may have love,
he came down that we may have love.
Hallelujah forever more.

Text and Music: Cameroon traditional; tr. And arr. John Bell; 1990,
WGRG the Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.
OneLicense.net License #A-711218

Offering: General Fund

Offering: ***"How Great Our Joy"*** Instrumental Ensemble

*After the song, children ages 3-first grade
are dismissed to the Koinonia room for Children & Worship.*

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #87:1,2,4,5

“Once in Royal David’s City”

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all;
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and meek, and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heaven above:
and he leads his children on
to the place where he has gone.
5. Not in that poor lowly stable
with the oxen standing by
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Words: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848, P.D.; Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849, P.D.; CCLI #678905

“Come and worship, come and worship,”

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20 (pg. 1014) Read by Bob De Groot

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Waiting for Heaven to Come Down”***

Time of Prayer

“Worship Christ, the newborn King!”

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #82:1-3

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

1. Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?

Refrain

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

Words: French, 18th c.; tr. Crown of Jesus Music, 1862, alt., P.D.
Music: French, 18th c. P.D; CCLI #678905

* Benediction

* Doxology: ***"Joy Has Dawned Upon the World"*** vs. 1-4

1. Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation;
God's salvation now unfurled-hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
but a humble gift of love: Jesus born of Mary.
2. Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels,
as the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place shaped the earth in darkness,
cling now to a mother's breast-vulnerable and helpless.
3. Shepherds bow before the Lamb gazing at the glory.
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story-
gold a King is born today; incense, God is with us;
myrrh, His death will make a way, by His blood He'll win us.
4. Son of Adam, Son of Man, given as a ransom.
Reconciling God and man-Christ our mighty Champion!
What a Savior, what a Friend, what a glorious mystery!
Once a babe in Bethlehem-now the Lord of history.

Words & Music by Stuart Townend & Keith Getty, © 2004 Thankyou Music;
All rights Reserved. CCLI# 678905

* Postlude

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever" (Psalm 118:1). We **welcome** everyone to this hour of worship! Let us offer our gratitude and praise to our Creator. May this be a time of inspiration and joy for us all. 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.

There will be no **evening service** today or December 31.

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

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We would like to thank you as a congregation for your prayers and support that you have shown to us during this time of treatment for Emily. Continue to pray as Emily continues her treatment with radiation which will begin in January. We thank God for providing for our needs.

Sandi & Emily Curry

As we approach another holiday season we are again truly grateful for your commitment to the Luke Society. We consider ***First Christian Reformed Church*** to be an ally in bringing hope to this broken world. We are so thankful for your partnership and financial support which enables Luke Society directors to use their gifts in health care as a tool for bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations.

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).

Our 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*"

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

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.

The ***Today*** devotional for January/February are available for you to pick up on the walkway shelf or the shelves by the mailboxes.

ADVANCED NOTICES

The **Elders** will meet on Tuesday, January 2 at 7:00 p.m.

GEMS will meet on Wednesday, January 3 at 6:30 p.m.

The **Deacons** will meet on Wednesday, January 3 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Prince of Peace: What does it mean to declare and proclaim Jesus as the Prince of Peace? Considering the present brokenness and pain in our world, when can we expect this peace to prevail? Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 9:2-7 and Isaiah 11:1-9 to discover the meaning of this final title Isaiah gives the Messiah. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Mary's Miracle: Kids Corner presents this dramatic presentation of the miracle of Jesus as seen through the eyes of Mary. Check out KC's new Christmas coupon book for a great gift idea at www.kidscorner.net.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUN	11:45 am	Choir Practice
MON	10:00 am	Christmas Day Service
TUES	7:00 pm	Vida Nueva
WED	6:30 am	Men's Bible Study at Shari's

NURSERY

Today: AM Infants & Toddlers

Jill Klunder, Rylee Kuipers, Jordan Feddema

Christmas Day Service: Annette LeClair, Kylie Boon

Next Week: AM Infants & Toddlers

Beth Boon, Kayla Van Hofwegen, Devin Van Zanten

GREETERS

Today - AM Rovers: Keith & Jean Rasmussen

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

Christmas Day Service:

Rovers: Larry & Margaret Vander Pol

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

Next Week - AM Rovers: Greg & Tish Ackermann

AM: Jerry & Marion Ekkelkamp, Larry & Maxine Greidanus

USHERS

Today: Larry Greidanus, Henry Hammingh, Tim Hibma

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

Next Week: Kermit Houck, Darin Kuipers, Tim Van Hofwegen

SOUND SYSTEM

Today AM: Mardick Stevens

Christmas Day Service: Kendall Van Zanten

Next Week AM: Tim Hibma

PROJECTION

Today AM: Nathan Van Beek

Christmas Day Service: Devin Van Zanten

Next Week AM: Kendall Van Zanten

VIDEO TAPING

Today AM: DJ Droog

Christmas Day Service: Mike Hibma

Next Week: Brandon Speck

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Today AM:

Teacher: Julie Houck

Assistants: Brooke Knoester, Emma Droog

Next Week AM:

Teacher: Heather Van Hofwegen

Assistants: Beth Boon, Hannah Van Hofwegen

LIBRARY:

Today AM: Jean Rasmussen

Next Week AM: Michelle De Kok

COFFEE HOSTS

Today AM:

Minne & Trudy Van der Hoek, Larry & Margaret Vander Pol, Bryan & Deanna Van Beek

Next Week AM: Jack & Trudy Van Klaveren, Hank & Sylvia Van

Zanten, Greg & Tish Ackermann

Cookies: Maxine Greidanus, Jayne Hammingh, Brooke Knoester

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: None

Next Week: Betty Postma?, Jill Haagsma

TRANSPORTATION CARE TEAM

Next Week: Betty Postma?

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Next Week: None

OFFERING: December 31, 2017

AM: General Fund



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.

NEW CONCERN:

Betty Postma was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday with a clot in her leg and pneumonia. She is scheduled to begin chemo on Tuesday. Pray for Betty as this time and give the doctors wisdom in treating her.

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 will begin radiation in January. They will be done daily for a month. We give God thanks that the tumor has shrunk considerably from the 4 rounds of chemo treatment. Pray that radiation will be effective in treating the rest of the mass in her chest. Continue to pray for Emily and the family.

Pray for **college students** as they do a lot of traveling throughout the holiday season.

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: Anchorage, Alaska- Praise God! A student heard the Christmas story for the first time at Parachute Ministries, a teen club and resource center, and he was struck by the fact that Mary was shamed for seemingly having a child out of wedlock—a situation he could relate to. Pray that the Christmas story will continue to reach new listeners with the good news of God's love.

Faith Formation Ministries: Parents - To help parents face the many challenges of being "faith formation shepherds" in their homes, we are beginning to develop resources and other supports, and we invite you to join with us in praying for Spirit-led wisdom, discernment, and courage for all Christ-following parents.

Resonate Global Mission: Costa Rica - One new way God is working in Costa Rica is through a chess club led by Resonate's Micah Schuurman. Each week, kids come to learn new chess strategies, make new friends, and talk about their challenges. Pray that this ministry will continue to open doors to God's kingdom work.

World Renew: Malawi - In Malawi, many young women are engaged in transactional sex work because of desperate circumstances. The Stepping Stones program of our partner Word Alive Commission introduces girls to mentors who help them understand life skills and the risks of transactional sex. Please ask God to provide wisdom for all involved in this program.

Back to God Ministries International: Indonesia - Praise God that many followers of tribal religions have come to know Christ through our remote Indonesian radio listener communities. Stefanus, a listener community coordinator, asks, "Pray that in the midst of limitations we can be a witness of Christ in this place."

Resonate Global Mission: Vancouver, B.C. - Praise God for the new ways he is meeting people through church plants in community spaces like hotels, gardens, and malls. Pray that through The Tapestry Marpole, a new church plant near Vancouver, new believers will see how the good news of the gospel applies to them.

Youth Unlimited: SERVE, search, and finances - Please pray for the leadership and preparations needed as 27 churches plan to host SERVE experiences next summer. And as we are in the process of searching for an executive director, please ask God to clearly identify who that is. In addition, ask God to continue to bless us with the necessary finances to accomplish his plans in the coming year.