

Next Week is Communion Sunday!



Creation groans

waiting for the children of God to be revealed

Creation groans

*waiting to be born again;
waiting to be released from the bondage
of sin and decay.*

Creation groans

*in wars and rumors of war, in signs and wonders.
These are the birth pangs that
come before all things are made new.*

Creation groans

*in expectation of being fully restored,
renewed, and reborn.*

We groan too

*for the Spirit of God is in us
And moving toward all that is yet to be.*

Come Celebrate!

***Christ has died, Christ is Risen,
Christ will come again!***

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Guest Pastor Erik Kamp

December 3, 2017

1st Sunday in Advent

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Prelude: Sylvia Van Zanten

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship: Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ "'The days are coming,' declares the LORD,
'when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made
to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

¹⁵ "'In those days and at that time I will make a righteous
Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is
just and right in the land.

¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live
in safety. This is the name by which it will be called:
The LORD Our Righteousness.'

* Opening Hymn: LUYH #61:1,2,4,5 ***“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”***

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.

Refrain

4. O come, thou branch of Jesse's stem,
unto thine own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Refrain

- O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Refrain

Words: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite, P.D.;
Music: French processional, 15- c. P.D.; arr. Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006
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* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

* Opening Songs of Praise:

Reading of Romans 8:18-19, 22-24a

- ¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth
comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.
- ¹⁹ The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons
of God to be revealed.
- ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning
as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.
- ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits
of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our
adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.
- ^{24a} For in this hope we were saved.

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" LUYH #56:1-4

- Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
- Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
- Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1744), P.D.; Music: Christian F. Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1861; desc. John W. Wilson © 1983
Hope Publishing Company; CCLI# 678905

"Imagine" LUYH #72 1-2

- Who hears?
Who hears the voice of the hungry, the thirsty?
Who sees?
Who sees the tears of the suffering ones?

Refrain

*Imagine a King who would come through the darkness
and walk, where I walk, full of greatness,
and call me to his side,
just like a father and child.*

2. Who knows?

Who knows the hopes that lie hidden, forgotten?
Who comes?
Who comes to lead all the children home?

Refrain

Words and Music: Keith and Kristyn Getty © 2003 Thankyou Music (PRS),
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“And Ransom Captive Israel”

Call to Confession:

Leader: We are captive, exiled, O God, because we
have, each in our own way, chosen our own
path, away from you. We are hungry for wisdom
and knowledge, because we have, too often,
substituted our judgment for yours. We are lost,
in need of guidance.

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:

Leader: God, our kind and loving Savior God, has stepped
in and saved us.

People: **God gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people,
washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus
poured out new life so generously.**

Leader: God’s gift has restored our relationship with God
and given us back our lives.

People: **And there’s more life to come—an eternity of life!**

Song of Assurance: Sing #92:5,4 ***“He Came Down”***

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.

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

Lighting of Advent Candle: Led by Sue Blom & Carson Blom

Song of Response: Sing #92:1 **"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.

*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 #67:1-3 **"Blessed Be the God of Israel"**

1. Blessed be the God of Israel,
who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us:
a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared
that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies
and all who wish us harm.
2. With promised mercy will God still
the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham,
from foes to save us all,
that we might worship without fear
and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness
to serve God all our days.
3. My child, as prophet of the Lord,
you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved
from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high
shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death
and lead us into peace.

Luke 1:68-79; Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944) © 1989 Hope Publishing Company;
Music: English folk tune; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), 1906; CCLI #678905

"Rejoice! Rejoice!"

Scripture Reading: Genesis 3:1-9 (pg. 3) Read by Terry Beezhold

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"When Heaven Walked the Earth"***

Time of Prayer

“Emmanuel Shall Come To Thee, O Israel”

* Hymn of Application: CH #635:1-3 ***“In the Garden”***

1. I come to the garden alone,
while the dew is still on the roses;
and the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
the Son of God discloses.

Chorus

*And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
and He tells me I am His own;
and the joy we share as we tarry there
none other has ever known.*

2. He speaks and the sound of His voice
is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
and the melody that He gave to me
within my heart is ringing.

Chorus

3. I'd stay in the garden with Him
tho' the night around me be falling;
but He bids me go, thro' the voice of woe;
His voice to me is calling.

Chorus

Words and Music: Charles Austin Miles, P.D. CCLI #678905

* Benediction

* Doxology: LUYH #61:6-7 ***“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”***

6. O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

7. O come, desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of peace.

Words: Psalterium Cationum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite, P.D.;

Music: French processional, 15th c. P.D.; arr. Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006 Augsburg Fortress;

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* Postlude

A sincere **welcome** to all who have come to worship the Lord! May each of us have our faith increased, our love enhanced, and our courage strengthened. May God's presence be very real as we approach the throne of grace. 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.

This morning we welcome **Pastor Erik Kamp** as he leads us in our worship. May God's Spirit work in each of our lives as we worship Him together.

Following is a schedule for our evening services for December:

12-3: Potluck / Caroling (5:45 pm)

12-10: No Service

12-17: Candle Light Service (6:30 pm)

12-24: No Service

12-31: No Service

Potluck & Caroling: This evening we have our potluck. The food will be set out at **5:45 p.m.** and we will begin eating at **6:00 p.m.** . Following the potluck we will go Christmas caroling at Heather Village and then come back and enjoy hot chocolate and dessert.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sunday School Service Opportunity (and Adults!): For the month of November we are focusing on making care packages for our college age young adults and older. We want them to know that we care about them. Some ideas might be baked goodies, homemade gifts, letters/cards of encouragement, gift cards, etc. You may place your items in the labeled basket that will be on the table across from the kitchen **December 3.**

Thank you for your prayers, cards and other expressions of sympathy in the passing of Dennis' brother, Norman. It is comforting to know that others understand and we appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Dennis and Melba De Kok and family

Thank you to those who donated blood this past Monday. There were a total of **44** wonderful blood donors that came in to donate blood. **Thank you blood donors! This was another great turnout! Your support is greatly appreciated!** These donations will help many patients in our community hospitals and clinics. Thanks to all the donors for sharing your good health and for taking the time to make a difference in many lives.

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 1:26s-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"

Angel Tree is a ministry of Prison Fellowship where churches buy gifts for a child who has a parent in prison. Today there is a table in the fellowship hall where there are gift suggestions for Angel Tree for those who would like to purchase a gift for a child of a prisoner. You may spend \$25.00 on each child. There are 5 more Angel Trees gifts that need to be purchased. You may also donate cash toward the purchase of a gift and we then would purchase the gift for the child for you. Please return the gifts to the church office by December 10.

Today you will have opportunity to sign up to bring a casserole or dessert for the **Friendship House** on Wednesday, December 13. Servers are also needed. There will be a table in the Fellowship Hall where you can sign up and pick up a recipe. Monetary donations are accepted also. Any questions? Give Glenda Kok a call.

Cookies Needed: We will be serving coffee and cookies after the Candlelight Service on December 17. If you are willing to bring some cookies or bars, please sign-up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

The **Fellowship Group** will meet on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.

GEMS will meet on Wednesday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m.

The **Golden Hour** will meet on Wednesday, December 5 at 1:30 p.m. Study Micah 7.

The **Small Group Ministry** will meet at the home of Hank & Sylvia Van Zanten on Friday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. Please study lesson 2 ahead of time. Group 2 will not meet on December 15, so you are invited to join the first group on December 8. Please call the Van Zanten's if you are coming.

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

The **Council** will meet on Monday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Men's Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, December 13 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 **Cadets** will meet on Wednesday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Our **Candlelight Service** will be held on Sunday, November 17 at 6:30 p.m.

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

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Today, you have opportunity again to bring your donations of canned and non-perishable items for the food drive for **"Neighbors in Need"**. Please bring your donations in and place them in the baskets located in the foyer and the Fellowship Hall.

Wonderful Counselor: In the famous passage in Isaiah 9:6, the prophet begins by describing the Messiah as our Wonderful Counselor. As we look toward Jesus Christ's birth, join us in studying Isaiah 9:2-6, John 14:15-17, and John 16:12-15 to discover the divine wisdom and help we receive from Jesus Christ our Messiah. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

The Knights Before Christmas: When Liz and Lucille see a homeless family in front of church, they tell Liz's dad. The church decides to help them, but then they find out that all is not what it seems. Check out KC's Gifts of Kindness Advent Calendar and Devotional and invite your whole family to join you in giving daily gifts of kindness at www.kidscorner.net.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENT

Sunday, December 17: *Blue Christmas Service @ 6:30 pm* at Faith Community Fellowship, 1427 Monte Vista Drive, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. This service is for anyone who is experiencing grief of some kind....a loss of a loved one, a dream, a job, or something else in your life that has happened. This service is focused on hope for the future. Invite someone you know who can benefit from this service

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUN	11:45 am	Choir Practice
	5:45 pm	Evening Potluck/Caroling
	7:45 pm	Youth Group
MON	7:00 pm	Fellowship Committee Meeting
TUES	7:00 pm	Vida Nueva
WED	1:30 am	Golden Hour
	6:30 pm	GEMS
FRI	7:00 pm	Small Group Ministry

NURSERY

Today: AM Infants & Toddlers

Juli Oostr, Kennedy Donaldson, Trevor Blom

Next Week: AM Infants & Toddlers

Julie Houck, Kylie Boon, Kyler Houck

GREETERS

Today - AM Rovers: Greg & Tish Ackermann

AM: Duane & Trudy Van Dyke, Tim & Heather Van Hofwegen

Next Week - AM Rovers: Darrel Lagerwey & Henry Hammingh

AM: Jack & Trudy Van Klaveren, Hank & Sylvia Van Zanten

USHERS

Today: Larry Greidanus, Henry Hammingh, Tim Hibma

Next Week: Darin Kuipers, Kendall Van Zanten, Henry Van Zanten, Jr.

SOUND SYSTEM

Today AM: Matt De Groot

Next Week AM: Mardick Stevens

PROJECTION

Today AM: Nathan Van Beek

Next Week AM: Nathan Van Beek

VIDEO TAPING

Today AM: Tim Hibma

Next Week AM: Carson Blom

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Today AM:

Teacher: Marjo Rouw

Assistants: Johnna Van der Hoek, Cody Hilsinger

Next Week AM:

Teacher: Marjo Rouw

Assistants: Julie Speck, Josh Hammingh

LIBRARY:

Today AM: Elly Cuperus

Next Week AM: Melba De Kok

COFFEE HOSTS

Today AM: Kevin & Glenda Kok, Darin & Michelle Kuipers, Henry & Sharon Kuipers

Next Week AM: Joe & Annette LeClair, Betty Postma, Bob & Andy

Pippel

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: Devin Van Zanten, Sylvia Van Zanten

Next Week: Jayne Hammingh, Brooke Knoester

TRANSPORTATION CARE TEAM

Next Week: Henry & Jayne Hammingh

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Next Week: None

OFFERING: December 10, 2017

AM: General Fund

PM: None



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.

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Continue to keep **Hans & Aileen Meischke** in your prayers as Aileen recuperates from a broken arm and Hans from a recent surgery.

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

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 home in Clear Lake; **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.

OTHER CONCERNS:

Jill Haagsma's son, **Harvey** had surgery this past Thursday. We give thanks to God that the surgery went well. Pray for God's healing for Harvey.

Continue to keep **Emily Curry** and her family in your prayers. She will finish her 4th round of chemo on December 4. They will do a scan in about 2 weeks to see how the cancer is responding to the treatment. Pray for strength for each day and for healing.

Calvin Theological Seminary: Christmas - As the seminary celebrates cultures and many different foods at our annual "Christmas Around the World" dinner, remember in prayer our international students from 30 countries. Pray for students and families who are able to travel home for the holidays—and for those who will remain in the states.

Back to God Ministries International: Burkina Faso - Samira, 14, recently came to faith in Christ as her Savior after practicing Islam since childhood. Pray for our French team as they disciple her, and ask that her Christian faith may grow and her relationship with Jesus may be strengthened.

Centre for Public Dialogue: Indigenous neighbors - There are probably Indigenous people living in the same town or city as your church. Your church building stands on the traditional territory of an Indigenous nation. What do the biblical calls to reconciliation and justice mean for your church in this context? God, show us a way forward. Give us opportunities to connect with Indigenous neighbors and learn their stories.

World Renew: Tanzania - Mr. Muhabe and his family have farmed in Kolotambe, Tanzania, since 1998. Last year he took Conservation Agriculture training offered by the African Inland Church of Tanzania, a World Renew partner. Since then, he has seen his crop quadruple, thanks to the information and perspective he gained through the program, which has benefited many other families too. Praise God for providing food and development for this community.

Worship Ministries: Learning - More than 100 CRC worship leaders, planners, and pastors are meeting in Worship Peer Learning Groups to study, share, and pray for each other. Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen and encourage them in serving their churches well. Pray also that this experience will deepen and enrich the worship of their churches.

Back to God Ministries International: Japan - Give thanks that Atsuko Tamaru could attend worship for the first time this past summer. Though she has many questions about the Christian faith, she regularly listens to our radio program and shares, "I would like to walk in touch with Christianity." Pray for increased understanding of the grace she is freely given as she learns more about Jesus.

Resonate Global Mission: New things - God promises that he will redeem all his people! “See, I am doing a new thing!” he says in Isaiah 43:19. Ask God to work in the “new things” taking place through Resonate Global Mission—such as planting and equipping new churches and living out the gospel for new groups of people.