

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

December 31, 2017

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

“To God be the glory, great things he has done;”

Prelude: Jill Klunder

Welcome

Call to Worship: Ephesians 3:14-19

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father,

15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth
derives its name.

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen
you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.
And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp
how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—
that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Opening Songs of Praise:

“O Church Arise” vs. 1-4

1. O Church arise and put your armour on;
hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong,
in the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
we'll stand against the devil's lies;
an army bold whose battle cry is Love,
reaching out to those in darkness.
2. Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
but to rage against the captor;
and with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
we will fight with faith and valour.
When faced with trials on every side,
we know the outcome is secure.
And Christ will have the prize for which He died,
an inheritance of nations.

3. Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
as the Son of God is stricken;
then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
for the Conqueror has risen.
And as the stone is rolled away
and Christ emerges from the grave,
this victory march continues till the day
every eye and heart shall see Him.
4. So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride,
give grace for every hurdle;
that we may run with faith, to win the prize
of a servant, good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day
when, with Christ we stand in glory.

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Read Hebrews 11:1-2

- 1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain
of what we do not see.
- 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.

“By Faith” vs. 1-5

1. By faith we see the hand of God
in the light of creation's grand design,
in the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,
who walk by faith and not by sight.
2. By faith our fathers roamed the earth
with the pow'r of His promise in their hearts
of a holy city built by God's own hand,
a place where peace and justice reign.

Chorus

*We will stand as children of the promise;
we will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

3. By faith the prophets saw a day
when the longed-for Messiah would appear
with the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death,
and rise triumphant from the grave.
4. By faith the church was called to go
in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost,
to deliver captives and to preach good news
in ev'ry corner of the earth.

Chorus

5. By faith the mountain shall be moved
And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name.

Chorus

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* Our Declaration of Trust and Greeting:

Leader: People of God, on this last Lord's Day of the year, where is our trust placed?

People: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

* We Greet Each Other

* Song of Thanksgiving: **"Ten Thousand Reasons"** vs. 1-3

Chorus:

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.*

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
it's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.

Chorus

2. You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Chorus

3. And on that day, when my strength is failing,
the end draws near, and my time has come;
still, my soul will sing Your praise unending
ten thousand years, and then forevermore!

Chorus

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.
Worship Your holy name.
Worship Your holy name.*

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*During the singing of the last verse children ages 3 – 1st grade
are dismissed to the Koinonia Room for Children and Worship.*

“So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon:

You are no longer strangers and aliens,
but you are citizens with the saints
and also members of the household of God,
built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.
In him the whole structure is joined together
and grows into a holy temple in the Lord;
in whom you also are built together spiritually
into a dwelling place for God.

—*Ephesians 2:19-22, NRSV*

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Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #605:1-2 ***“Worthy Is Christ”***

1. Worthy is Christ, worthy is Christ;
to him be praise and glory:
worthy is the Lord.
2. He gave his life, he died for me;
to him be praise and glory:
worthy is the Lord.

Words and Music: traditional Spanish, P.D.; CCLI #678905

Offering: Denominational Ministry Shares

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #755:1-3 ***“Speak, O Lord”***

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
to receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all Your purposes, for Your glory.
2. Teach us Lord full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity,
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
and the earth is filled with Your glory.

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“Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,”

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 3:20-21 (pg. 1158)

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“A Great Doxology”***

Time of Prayer

“And opened the life-gate that all may go in.”

* We Profess our Faith Together: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #604:1-3 ***“To God Be the Glory”***

1. To God be the glory, great things he has done;
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he has done.*

- O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

- Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875, alt., P.D.; Music: William H. Doane, 1875, PD.;
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* Benediction

* Parting Hymn: LUYH #956 ***“To God Be the Glory”***

To God be the glory, to God be the glory,
to God be the glory for the things he has done!
With his blood he has saved me,
with his power he has raised me—
to God be the glory for the things he has done!

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* Postlude

Psalm 81 encourages worshipers to “Sing for joy to God...shout aloud to...God.” With great joy let us approach our loving Creator. With heart, soul, strength and mind let us dedicate ourselves to God. Welcome to all who have come! 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.

Sunday School & Catechism will resume again on Sunday, January 7 at 9:30 a.m.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Harvey Haagsma would like to thank the congregation for the prayers and concerns expressed during his recent illness. We thank God for healing.

OUR CHURCH EVENTS

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

Today you will have opportunity to sign up to bring a casserole or dessert for the **Friendship House** on Wednesday, January 10. 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.

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.

ADVANCED NOTICES

The **Men's Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, January 10 at 6:30 a.m. at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington. We are studying the book of Revelation. You are welcome to join us.

Golden Hour will meet on Wednesday, January 10 (not January 3) at 1:30 p.m. We will study Jonah.

The **Cadets** will meet on Wednesday, January 10 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

Donations for Neighbors in Need: Next week, January 7, you will 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 the morning or evening to the church and place them in the basket located in the foyer and the Fellowship Hall.

A Light Shining in Darkness: In the Bible, the coming of the Messiah is often associated with light. Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 9:2-3, Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20, Matthew 5:14-16, and Revelation 22:1-5 to see what this theme means for our understanding of Christ's light and how we live while waiting for his second coming. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Hollywood: The school play is coming up and Liz is sure that he will not only have the lead role but also be asked to direct. That doesn't happen, but Miss Wattle does give him the role of Old Ben which Liz still uses to be a "star"—with sunglasses, a chinchilla beret, silk scarf, and bodyguard. This causes Chamy and Miss Wattle to "fire" Liz and replace him with Morrie. Liz finally realizes that he once again has fallen to pride. Check out the "God is Faithful" Memory Jar Activity at www.kidscorner.net as you look ahead to the New Year!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

TUES 7:00 pm Elders Meet
7:00 pm Vida Nueva
WED 6:30 pm GEMS
7:00 pm Deacons Meet

NURSERY Today:

AM Infants & Toddlers

Beth Boon, Kayla Van Hofwegen, Devin Van Zanten

Next Week:

AM Infants & Toddlers

Pam Van Zanten, Emma Droog, Carson Blom

GREETERS

Today - AM Rovers: Greg & Tish Ackermann

AM: Jerry & Marion Ekkelkamp, Larry & Maxine Greidanus

Next Week - AM Rovers: Rich & Elly Cuperus

AM: John & Dena Klunder,

Martha Haarsma, Katie Jungquist

USHERS

Today: Kermit Houck, Darin Kuipers, Tim Van Hofwegen

Next Week: Henry Van Zanten Jr, Kermit Houck, Larry Greidanus

SOUND SYSTEM

Today AM: Tim Hibma

Next Week AM: Matt De Groot

PROJECTION

Today AM: Kendall Van Zanten

Next Week AM: Devin Van Zanten

VIDEO TAPING

Today AM: Brandon Speck

Next Week: Mike Hibma

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Today AM:

Teacher: Julie Houck

Assistants: Brooke Knoester, Emma Droog

Next Week AM:

Teacher: Heather Van Hofwegen

Assistants: Monica Droog, Rayahna Oostra

LIBRARY:

Today AM: Jean Rasmussen

COFFEE HOSTS

Today AM:

Jack & Trudy Van Klaveren, Hank & Sylvia Van Zanten, Greg & Tish Ackermann

Next Week AM:

Greg & Tish Ackermann, Agnes Bollema, Randy & Peggy Burr

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: None

Next Week: Jayne Hammingh & Josh Hammingh

TRANSPORTATION CARE TEAM

Next Week: Shirley Boonstra

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Next Week: Greg Boon

Accompanist: Sylvia Van Zanten

OFFERING: January 7, 2018

AM: General Fund

PM: Skagit Valley Young Life



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

NEW CONCERN:

Betty Postma returned home from the hospital last Sunday. She is not eating much and is becoming increasingly weak. She is not experiencing a significant amount of pain or discomfort, but she is sleeping a lot. Most importantly she is experiencing a lot of peace and is quite ready to meet her Savior. It probably comes as no surprise that she is still expressing her concern for others over herself. Betty's sister Sylvia and her brother-in-law Clarence from Idaho are now staying with her and Hospice is also involved in her care. If you do visit her it's probably best to keep the visit very short. ... In the meantime, please continue to pray for Betty, for her family, and for all those involved with her care.

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 17 radiation treatments in January. Pray that radiation will be effective in treating the rest of the mass in her chest. Emily had a MRI done on her hips this past week because she continues to have pain there. We thank God that the test was normal. The pain can be side effects of medicines. Continue to pray for Emily and the family.

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

Back to God Ministries International: Haiti - Odno, a volunteer with our French ministry team, suspended his work with our Haitian staff and stopped praying after the recent death of his 12-year-old son. He was angry with God. After attending a leaders' conference this year, Odno experienced a renewing of his relationship with Jesus. Pray for Odno as he continues to mourn his son's death, and pray that the Lord will continue to strengthen his faith.

Resonate Global Mission: Diaspora ministries - Praise God for new opportunities to share the gospel with new groups of people who have moved to North America in recent years. May we join God in the new things he is doing (Isa. 43:19). Pray specifically for church plants and ministry leaders who are working with new immigrants to North America.

Sustaining Congregational Excellence: Grant projects - Smaller churches have submitted grant requests for a ministry project they'd like to pursue. The projects are intended to foster health within the church and/or its community. Please pray for the SCE team as they review proposals and make decisions, and may the new ministry projects bless all who become involved in them.

Candidacy Committee: Waiting candidates - Synod 2017 approved 74 persons as new or extended candidates, and the process for each of them finding a call can take quite a while. They are waiting, discerning, and seeking for God to lead. Please join them in prayer, and offer a word of encouragement to any current candidate you may know. (For a list of candidates, see crcna.org/candidacy.)

Resonate Global Mission: West Africa - A group of Fulani believers disciplined by Resonate missionaries in West Africa recently celebrated the new family they have in Christ. They adapted a traditional Fulani baby-naming ceremony to incorporate the truths of the Christian faith. Praise God for the ways he is deepening the faith of Fulani Christians.

Back to God Ministries International: China - A Chinese reader, Moon, was feeling lost and alone. After reading articles by Chinese ministry leader Jerry An on a social media platform, Moon shared, "They are really right to the point and uplifting my heart." Thank God for the variety of media we can use in sharing his reassuring message to Chinese speakers.

World Renew: Syria - About 13.5 million people in Syria are in dire need of food assistance. Food production has hit a record low, and prices have risen high. Families are exhausted of finances and nutrients. The organization One Day's Wages will match every dollar donated to World Renew's work in Syria, up to \$100,000. Please ask God to provide all the resources needed by the people suffering in Syria.