

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

January 7, 2018

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

“God, you call us to this place, where we know your love and grace.”

Prelude: Sylvia Van Zanten

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship:

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #251:1,2,4,5 ***“The Church’s One Foundation”***

1. The church’s one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.
2. Elect from every nation,
yet one o’er all the earth;
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.
4. Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore,
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.
5. Yet she on earth has union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
may live eternally.

Words: Samuel J. Stone, 1866, P.D.; Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864, P.D. CCLI #67895

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

Opening Songs of Praise:

Read Psalm 67:3-5

3 May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.

4 May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

5 May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.

"Sing Praise to the Lord, You People of Grace" LUYH #7:1-4

1. Sing praise to the Lord, you people of grace;
fill heaven with the songs that sound from this place;
since you are God's servants and meet in his name,
his wonders declare and his glory proclaim.

Refrain

Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Halle! Hallelujah!

2. His greatness exceeds what words can explain,
and his is the power no force can restrain;
with fanfares of horns and crescendos of strings
raise anthems to honor the King of all kings.

Refrain

3. Where music is made, let rhythms abound:
let cymbals and drums add weight to the sound;
with dance that is graceful and words that are clear,
bring joy to the God you adore and revere.

Refrain

4. Yield all that you are to worship the Lord—
see life as a psalm, each moment a chord;
let harmonies flourish and melodies soar—
let all that has breath praise the Lord evermore.

Refrain

PSALM 150; Words: Martin Leckebusch © 2006 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.;
Music: Swee Hong Lim, Singapore © 2000 and arr. © 2010 Swee
Hong Lim, admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik;
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"Holy Spirit, from Heaven Descended" LUYH #241:1-3

1. Holy Spirit, from heaven descended,
in the form of a dove you were seen;
with a message of love from the Father above,
giving comfort to all who believe.
How we long for your fragrance to fill us;
we confess our deep need for your grace;
shelter us with your wings, turn our heart as it sings,
lift our eyes to behold Jesus' face.

2. Holy Spirit, with flame you anointed
the believers on that Pentecost,
bringing heavenly light and imparting great might
to believers as sign to the lost.
As the tower of fire was for Israel,
fill our lives now with light from on high;
you have sealed everyone who is bought by the Son.
May our works his great name glorify.

3. Holy Spirit, flow freely among us,
sacred oil giving sight where sin blinds;
just as Aaron of old lit the lamps in the cold,
warm our hearts and illumine our minds.
You have baptized us into one body;
Living Water, now cleanse and renew.
Sanctify us, we pray, that God's Word we obey,
and to Christ may we ever be true.

Words: Philip W. Blycker (b. 1939) © 1977 Philip W. Blycker;
arr. Albert Chung © 2012 Philip W. Blycker

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

“Here your hospitality makes of us one family,”

Call to Confession:

Our Lord Jesus said:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it:

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

As God has instructed us in these great commandments,
and because we have not lived in full obedience,

let us now confess our sins to God, trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord.

—based on *Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV*

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Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon:

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts
of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
People of God, all of us together have received God's mercy in Christ.
In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed, and made to be a community united in faith.
Thanks be to God.

—based on *1 Peter 2:9-10, NRSV*

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God's Will For our Lives: Colossians 3:12-15

- 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
- 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have
against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
- 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them
all together in perfect unity.
- 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
since as members of one body you were called to peace.
And be thankful.

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: General Fund

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #531:1-3 ***"God, You Call Us to This Place"***

1. God, you call us to this place,
where we know your love and grace.
Here your hospitality
makes of us one family,
makes our rich diversity
richer still in unity,
makes our many voices one,
joined in praise with Christ your Son.
2. Now assembled in Christ's name,
all your mercies to proclaim—
in the hearing of your word,
in our prayer through Christ the Lord,
in the ministries we share,
learning how to serve with care—
in the Spirit let us be
one in faith and unity.
3. In the water we were born
of the Spirit in the Son.
Now a priestly, royal race
rich in every gift of grace—
called, forgiven, loved, and freed,
for the world we intercede:
gather into unity
all the human family.

Words: Delores Dufner (b. 1939) © 1993 The Sisters of St. Benedict, admin.
OCP Publications; Music: Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. after Johann S. Back (1685-1750), P.D.
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“Makes our rich diversity richer still in unity,”

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16 (pg. 1158) Read by Kendall Van Zanten

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Growing in Spiritual Maturity in Unity Together”***

Time of Prayer

“Makes our many voices one, joined in praise with Christ your Son.”

* We Profess our Faith Together: Lord’s Day 21 Q&A 54-55 (GH pg. 883)

Q. 54 What do you believe concerning “the holy catholic church”?

**A. I believe that the Son of God through his Spirit and Word,¹
out of the entire human race,²
from the beginning of the world to its end,³
gathers, protects, and preserves for himself
a community chosen for eternal life⁴ and united in true faith.⁵
And of this community I am⁶ and always will be⁷ a living member.**

1 John 10:14-16; Acts 20:28; Rom. 10:14-17; Col. 1:18

2 Gen. 26:3b-4; Rev. 5:9

3 Isa. 59:21; 1 Cor. 11:26

4 Matt. 16:18; John 10:28-30; Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 1:3-14

5 Acts 2:42-47; Eph. 4:1-6

6 1 John 3:14, 19-21

7 John 10:27-28; 1 Cor. 1:4-9; 1 Pet. 1:3-5

Q. 55 What do you understand by “the communion of saints”?

**A. First, that believers one and all,
as members of this community,
share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts.¹**

**Second, that each member
should consider it a duty
to use these gifts readily and cheerfully
for the service and enrichment
of the other members.²**

1 Rom. 8:32; 1 Cor. 6:17; 12:4-7, 12-13; 1 John 1:3

2 Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:20-27; 13:1-7; Phil. 2:4-8

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #727:1-3 ***“Christian Hearts in Love United”***

1. Christian hearts in love united:
search to know God’s holy will.
Let his love, in us ignited,
more and more our spirits fill.
Christ the head, and we his members—
we reflect the light he is.
Christ the master, we disciples—
he is ours, and we are his.

2. Grant, Lord, that with your direction,
 "Love each other" we comply.
 Help us live in true affection,
 your love to exemplify.
 Let our mutual love be glowing
 brightly so that all may view
 that we, as on one stem growing,
 living branches are in you.
3. Come, then, living church of Jesus,
 covenant with him anew.
 Unto him who conquered for us
 may we pledge our service true.
 May our lives reflect the brightness
 of God's love in Jesus shown.
 To the world we then bear witness:
 we belong to God alone.

Words: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1723, tr. composite, P.D.;
 Music: Moravian Chorale Book manuscript, Herrnhut, 1735, P.D.

* Closing Prayer

* Benediction

* Parting Hymn: LUYH #256:1-4 ***"They'll Know We Are Christians"***

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
 We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
 and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
 Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
 We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
 and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

Refrain

3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
 We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
 and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

Refrain

Sing acapella

4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
 and all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,
 and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us all one.

Refrain

Words: Peter Scholtes (b. 1938) © 1966, 1967 F.E.L. Church Publications, Ltd.,
 assigned 1991 to Lorenz Corporation; Music: Peter Scholtes; arr. Dennis
 Fitzpatrick © 1966, 1967 F.E.L. Church Publications, Ltd., assigned 1991 to
 Lorenz Corporation; CCLI # 678905

* Postlude

In *1 Timothy 1:17* we read: “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever.” We welcome everyone and invite all to join in offering honor and glory to God. Worshiping with hearts and hands and voices, we can each experience inspiration today. 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.

We will meet for our *evening service* today at 6:30 p.m.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls and expression of concerns in our recent ailments. We thank God for healing.

Hans & Aileen Meischke

OUR CHURCH EVENTS

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we begin this New Year we return to our study of Ephesians, which is essentially a miniature doctrine of the Church. Whereas the first half of Paul’s letter focuses on the *nature* of the Church and its *purpose* – the second half deals more with the practical ways in which God’s purpose is fulfilled in the Church. Unity, maturity, personal renewal etc. was not only important to the spiritual health of the early believers, but is just as important for us today. May God bless us as we continue our study in the weeks ahead.

In Christ,

Pastor John

January 7: Growing in Spiritual Maturity in Unity Together–Eph. 4:1-16

January 14: Putting Off the Old and Being Made New – Eph. 4:17-24

January 21: Speaking Truth in Love – Eph. 4:25-32

February 4: Imitators of God – Eph. 5:1-7

February 11: Children of Light – Eph. 5:8-21

A few more people are needed to make the designated casserole or dessert for the *Friendship House*. We will be serving them on Wednesday, January 10. Please have your food to the church by 4:00 p.m. Another way to help is by donating money to help with extra expenses. Please pick up a recipe after the morning service from the table in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you.

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 at 1:30 p.m. We will study Jonah 1:1-3.

The *Cadets* will meet on Wednesday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m.

ADVANCED NOTICES

The *Executive Committee* will meet on Monday, January 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Golden Hour will meet on Wednesday, January 17 at 1:30 p.m. We will study Jonah 1:4-17.

GEMS will meet on Wednesday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m.

We are having a **Safe Church Training** event for all church volunteers in our youth programs. Join us as we talk about guidelines for keeping our youth safe on Wednesday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m., here at church. Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall during the next couple weeks. The nursery is available upon request if needed for the 31st meeting. All are welcome, and those who volunteer with Children & Worship, GEMS, Cadets, Sunday School, Youth Group, and Nursery volunteers are strongly encouraged to attend. Jayne Hammingh and Dennis DeKok will provide more information for you as we get closer to the January 31 meeting. You are welcome to ask Jayne and Dennis questions in advance if you desire.

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.

The Magi: After Christmas, the church calendar turns to Epiphany. Join us in studying Matthew 2:1-11 to explore the story of the Magi, whose visit marks the beginning of the season of Epiphany. Discover what this story about sharing news of a Savior with these Gentile wise men teaches us about God and his greater mission. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Close Encounters: Liz's preoccupation with his video games causes him to imagine the worst when he and Lucille get lost in the woods. Is it really aliens from Planet Xenon? Check out KC's "God is Faithful" Memory Jar Activity as you begin this new year! Happy New Year!

Short-term Volunteers: - Are you 18 to 24 years old and interested in embarking on a short-term volunteer opportunity with life-long impact? World Renew's Global Volunteer Program provides opportunities to live, work, eat, and play in an international community while exploring how God wants you to use your talents and skills for His purpose. For more information, contact Andrew at globalvolunteer@worldrenew.net.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUN	6:30 pm	Evening Service
TUES	7:00 pm	Vida Nueva
WED	6:30 am	Men's Bible Study at Shari's in Burlington
	1:30 pm	Golden Hour
	4:00 pm	Friendship House
	7:00 pm	Cadets

NURSERY

Today: AM Infants & Toddlers

Pam Van Zanten, Emma Droog, Carson Blom

Next Week: AM Infants & Toddlers

Beth Boon, Rayahna Oostra, Jase Hilsinger

GREETERS

Today - AM Rovers: Rich & Elly Cuperus

AM: John & Dena Klunder, Martha Haarsma, Katie Jungquist

Next Week - AM Rovers: Dennis & Melba De Kok

AM: Clarence & Eleanor Klunder, Jeannette Folkertsma, Jill Klunder

USHERS

Today: Henry Van Zanten Jr, Kermit Houck, Larry Greidanus

Next Week: Tim Van Hofwegen, Henry Hammingh, Tim Hibma

SOUND SYSTEM

Today AM: Matt De Groot

Next Week AM: Tim Hibma

PROJECTION

Today AM: Devin Van Zanten

Next Week AM: Josh Hammingh

VIDEO TAPING

Today AM: Mike Hibma

Next Week: Carson Blom

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Today AM:

Teacher: Heather Van Hofwegen

Assistants: Monica Droog, Rayahna Oostra

Next Week AM:

Teacher: Pam Van Zanten

Assistants: Shanna Visser, Devin Van Zanten

COFFEE HOSTS

Today AM:

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

Next Week AM:

Rich & Elly Cuperus, Michelle De Kok, Wayne & Rhea Doss

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: Brooke Knoester, Sunee Lagerwey

Next Week: Devin Van Zanten, Sylvia Van Zanten

TRANSPORTATION CARE TEAM

Next Week: Larry & Maxine Greidanus

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Next Week: Kayla Van Hofwegen

Accompanist: Sylvia Van Zanten

OFFERING: January 14, 2018

AM: General Fund

PM: Skagit Valley Young Life

6:30 P.M. Worship Service

Pianist: Sylvia Van Zanten

Welcome/Announcements

Prayer for Worship

Opening Songs of Praise: Led by Greg Boon

"God of the Ages" LUYH #281:1,2,4

"Rejoice, O Pure in Heart" LUYH #353:1-4

"Hours and Days and Years and Ages" LUYH #401:1,2,4

Catechism Reading: Lord's Day 43 Q&A 112

Q. 112 What is God's will for you in the ninth commandment?

A. God's will is that I never give false testimony against anyone, twist no one's words, not gossip or slander, nor join in condemning anyone without a hearing or without a just cause.¹

**Rather, in court and everywhere else,
I should avoid lying and deceit of every kind;
these are devices the devil himself uses,
and they would call down on me God's intense anger.²
I should love the truth, and speak it candidly,
and openly acknowledge it.³**

**And I should do what I can
to guard and advance my neighbor's good name.⁴**

1 Ps. 15; Prov. 19:5; Matt. 7:1; Luke 6:37; Rom. 1:28-32

2 Lev. 19:11-12; Prov. 12:22; 13:5; John 8:44; Rev. 21:8a; 3 1 Cor. 13:6; Eph. 4:25; 4 1 Pet. 3:8-9; 4:8

Scripture Readings: Exodus 20:16, Prov. 12:22, John 8:42-47, James 3:1-12, Eph. 4:25,

Message: **"Taming Our Tongues"**

Time of Prayer

Offering: Skagit Valley Young Life

Song of Application: LUYH #754:1,3,5 **"Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak"**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #965 **"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**



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 CONCERN:

Betty Postma continues to become weaker each day. She is under the care of Hospice. Pray for Betty and her family at this time and may they experience God's love around them.

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:

Pray for our Missionaries: Marcia Bleeker with Wycliffe in Chad, Africa; Kris & Becky Johnson with East Central Ministries in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Joe Strong working with Hispanics in Skagit & Whatcom County; Jon & Trista Vander Wal with Wycliffe in Papua New Guinea; Naji Umran & Anne Zaki with Resonate Global Missions in Egypt.

Disability Concerns: Mental health - For many people in North America, the short days and long nights of winter parallel and even deepen an inner darkness of depression and other mental health challenges. Ask God to give grace, peace, and strength to people for whom this season is especially difficult.

Resonate Global Mission: Campus ministry - Campus ministry leaders across North America and around the world are gearing up for a second semester of ministry and discipleship. Pray that students' new schedules will bring new opportunities to get involved and learn more about the Christian faith.

Back to God Ministries International: Middle East - Praise God for his faithfulness! We recently signed a partnership agreement with Words of Hope and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Egypt to forward our mission of gospel proclamation to the Arabic-speaking world. Pray that this new partnership will bear much fruit in the years to come.

Calvin Theological Seminary: January term - Pray for students and faculty during their January term courses, including a travel course to Israel/Palestine. Pray also for new students coming in for the next semester, starting January 29.

Our Journey 2020: Church and Community - Many Christian Reformed churches are being challenged by changes in their communities. Pray that congregations will seek opportunities to meet their neighbors and to listen, learn from, and serve them so that—in the words of the CRC's ministry plan—"by our presence we will become channels for the love of Christ and the Holy Spirit's life-giving transformation."

Resonate Global Mission: Latin America - Justin Bordogna will begin a new assignment January 3 toward improving the English-language skills of Latin American missionaries. Pray that through this training, Latino missionaries can become more effective in cross-cultural assignments around the world.

World Renew: Disaster Response Services (DRS) - Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico in Sept. 2017. Due to ongoing power outages and a lack of resources, organizations struggle to host guests and volunteers from outside locations. Please keep asking God to help all who need assistance in Puerto Rico.