

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

March 26, 2017

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

“Blessed Jesus, at your word we are gathered all to hear you.”

Prelude: Marjo Rouw

Welcome and Announcements

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to examine our souls,

People: for we have not only met temptation, we have felt its grip.

Leader: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to mend our ways,

People: for we have not only committed sin, we have felt its sting.

Leader: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to rend our hearts,

**People: for we have not only witnessed forgiveness,
we have felt its power. O come, let us worship the Lord!**

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*** Opening Hymn: LUYH #264:1-3 “Lift High the Cross”**

Refrain

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

1. Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Refrain

2. All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.

Refrain

3. From north and south, from east and west we raise
in growing unison our song of praise.

Refrain

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*** God’s Greeting / We Greet Each Other**

*** Opening Songs of Praise:**

Read Psalm 95:1-2

¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

² Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” LUYH #521:1-3

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount— I’m fixed upon it—
mount of God’s unchanging love.
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I’ve come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.
3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I’m constrained to be!
Let that grace now like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here’s my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt., P.D.; Music: J. Wyeth’s *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813, P.D.; CCLI # 678905

“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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“Let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear you.”

God's Will for Our Lives:

Leader: Hear, O people of God, the law that the Lord speaks in your hearing this day, that you may know his statutes and walk according to his ordinances.

People: **Teach us, O Lord, the grace of your law, and give us life by your Word.**

Leader: The God who saved us in Jesus Christ gave this law, saying: I am the Lord your God! You shall have no other gods before me.

People: **We will worship the Lord our God and serve only him.**

Leader: You shall not make yourself an image of anything to worship it.

People: **Living no more in bondage to earthly gods, we will worship the Lord our God in spirit and in truth.**

Leader: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord.

People: **We will use the holy name of God with reverence, praising him in everything we do and say.**

Leader: You shall observe the Sabbath by keeping it holy, for in six days you shall labor and do all your work.

People: **This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Leader: You shall honor your father and mother, that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving to you.

People: **As children we will be obedient to our parents in the Lord; as parents we will correct our children and guide them in the training and instruction of the Lord; we will respect the lawful authorities appointed by God.**

Leader: You shall not murder.

People: **We will be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave us.**

Leader: You shall not commit adultery.

People: We will use our bodies in ways that are holy and honorable, and abstain from immorality and impurity.

Leader: You shall not steal.

People: We will do what we can for our neighbor's good, and work faithfully so that we may share with the poor.

Leader: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

People: We will speak the truth with our neighbor in love, render judgments that are true and make for peace, and not devise in our hearts any evil against anyone.

Leader: You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

People: We will be content whatever the circumstances through the strength of Christ within us.

Leader: Thus we must love our neighbor as ourselves.

People: For the Lord requires of us to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. Amen!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance:

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
so that we, free from sins, might live for righteousness;
by his wounds we have been healed.

—from 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24, NRS

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Song of Assurance: **"Embrace the Cross"** Men's Quartet

Embrace the cross where Jesus suffered,
though it will cost all you claim as yours.
Your sacrifice will seem small beside the treasure;
eternity can't measure what Jesus holds in store.
Embrace the love the cross requires;
cling to the One whose heart knew ev'ry pain.
Receive from Jesus fountains of compassion;
only He can fashion your heart to move as His.
O wondrous cross, our desires rest in you.
O Lord Jesus, make us bolder
to face, with courage, the shame and disgrace
You bore upon Your shoulder.
Embrace the life that comes from dying,
come trace the steps the Savior walked for you.
An empty tomb concludes Golgotha's sorrow,
endure then 'til tomorrow your cross of suffering.
Embrace the cross, embrace the cross, the cross of Jesus.

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Following the conclusion of this song, children ages 3-first grade are dismissed to the Koinonia room for Children & Worship.

Offering: General Fund

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #763:1-3 ***“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”***

1. Blessed Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you.
By your gospel pure and holy,
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.
2. All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night
with your beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
you must work all good within us.
3. Glorious Lord, yourself impart;
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
open lips and ears and heart;
help us by your Spirit’s leading.
Hear the cry your church now raises;
Lord, accept our prayers and praises.

Words: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1663; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt., P.D.;
Music: Johann R. Ahle, 1664, P.D.; CCLI # 678905

“By your gospel pure and holy,”

Scripture Reading: John 8:31-59 (pg. 1060) Read by Mardy & Kristi Stevens

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Before Abraham Was Born, I Am!”***

Time of Prayer

“Teach us, Lord, to love you solely.”

* Hymn of Application: LYUH #15:1-2 ***“The First Place”***

1. Jesus, the perfect picture of the unseen God.
Maker of things we cannot comprehend.
Wisdom, the earth displays your strength and beauty.
Sovereign, yes, every throne knows you are God.

Refrain

*Every inch of this universe belongs to you, O Christ.
For through you and for you it was made.
Your creation endures by the order of your hand.
So you must have in all things the first place.*

2. Victor, over sin and death you triumphed.
Firstborn, you’ve shown us life beyond the grave.
Bridegroom, we long for you in expectation.
Jesus, your church rejoices to proclaim.

Refrain X 2

Words and Music: Matthew Westerholm © 1999 Matthew Westerholm;
arr. Greg Scheer © 1999 Matthew Westerholm; CCLI# 678905

* Benediction

* Doxology: LYUH #264:4-5, 7 **"Lift High the Cross"**

Refrain

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

4. O Lord, once lifted on the tree of pain,
draw all the world to seek you once again.

Refrain

5. Let every race and every language tell
of him who saves our lives from death and hell.

Refrain

7. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory!

Refrain

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* Postlude

Welcome! We invite all of you to praise God with hearts and hands and voices. Let us be mindful of the wonders God has given us. Come rejoice in God and together sing praises to His name. Reach out in warmth to all who have gathered in the house of the Lord. 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.

Pastor Joe Strong will lead us in our morning worship service next Sunday, April 2.

Sunday School & Catechism will not meet on April 2, 9, 16. They will resume again on April 23 at 9:30 a.m..

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We, the family of Hank Haagsma would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our church family, for their prayers, cards, and support during Hank's illness and passing. Blessed be the tie that binds.

Jill, Harvey, & John

OUR CHURCH EVENTS

Choir will meet after the service today for practice.

The **Youth Group** will meet at 7:45 p.m. today in the Youth Group Room.

Blood Draw: A blood draw will be held on Monday, March 26, from 12:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. (closed from 2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.) at First CRC Church in the Fellowship Hall.

Our **Church Potluck** will be held on Sunday, April 2, after the morning service. Please bring a 9x13 inch hot dish (enough to feed 12-15), and salad or dessert. Table service is provided as well as juice and coffee.

A reminder to those parents that are registering their children with **Mount Vernon Christian School** for the school year

2017-2018 and participate in the Christian Education Fund. The registration form must indicate that First CRC is your "support group." Pledge forms for 2017-2018 will be distributed shortly and should be returned by May 14, 2017. Also all pledges for school year 2016-2017 need to be paid in full by May 31, 2017. If you have any questions please contact Katie Jungquist (428-3818).

75th Anniversary: If you have any historical photos of First CRC from its beginning in 1942 to the present day, the 75th Anniversary Committee would like to use them during our weekend of celebration on May 12-14, 2017. If you are willing to allow the use of or copies of your photos, please label them with your name and drop them off at the church office or put them mailbox #19 (Greg Boon) before April 1. Examples: Fellowship Hall (first place of worship); building of the church or education wing; society members; organ installation; parsonages, pastors, Bible study groups, church picnics, VBS, GEMS, Cadets, etc. If you know the dates of important events in the life of First CRC, please put that information in mailbox #19 or leave at the church office.

Easter Lilies and Bibles: Once again members are invited to place an Easter lily or a Gideon Bible in memory of a loved one. If you would like to order a lily please call or leave a message for Sylvia at the church office (336-2405) by Monday morning, April 9. Cost for the lily is not known yet. Bibles can be ordered through Tuesday, April 11, and can be purchased for \$5.00. Make checks payable to the First Christian Reformed Church and turn the money into the church office. Lilies may be taken home after the Easter services.

Church Library Survey: Please complete the survey about our church library that is in your church mailbox by April 9. Put the completed survey in the box on the shelf by the mailboxes designated 'Church Library Survey'. Your answers and comments will be greatly appreciated.

FAMILY VISITING: The following is the family visiting schedule for **March & April 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.

MARCH - APRIL 2017 FAMILY VISITS	
Elder	Family
Dave V	Jim & Michele Feddema
Dave V	Marge Eskes
Greg A	Keith & Jean Rasmussen
Greg A	Case Lanting
Greg B	Kevin & Glenda Kok
Greg B	Marjean De Groot
Henry H	Kermit & Julie Houck
Henry H	Hans & Aileen Meischke
Darrel L	Dave Visser
Darrel L	Hank & Anjean Vander Veen
Pastor John	Shirley Boonstra
Pastor John	Michelle De Kok
Dennis D	Jill Klunder
Dennis D	Sally Reehoorn

ADVANCED NOTICES

The **Men's Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, April 5 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: Our **Good Friday Service** will be a combined service with Faith Community Fellowship. It will be held on April 14 at 7:00 p.m. at First CRC.

The Board of **Northwest Hispanic Ministry** invites you to a free dinner and a time to rejoice as Joe Strong shares how God is changing lives and building His kingdom here in Western Washington. Our banquet locations and times are Friday, April 28th at 6:00 p.m. First Christian Reformed Church, 701 W. Blackburn Rd., Mt. Vernon and Saturday, April 29th at 5:30 p.m. at Third Christian Reformed Church in Lynden. Reserve the date and plan to attend. Bring a friend. You will not be disappointed.

HYMN SING: COMING SOON. Sunday, April 30, at 4:00, our church will be hosting a "Hymnspiration". This will be an evening of singing Hymns for all ages. Plan to come for an evening of Praise and Worship with family and friends! Everyone is welcome!

Save the Date: Mariner's Game on June 23.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Next week, April 2, 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.

Why Have You Forsaken Me? "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me!?" might be the most famous of Jesus' words from the cross. Join Groundwork as we study Mark 15:33-39 to unearth the meaning of these words, what was happening in this moment of Jesus' agony, and what it means for us yet today. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Get Out of Line: Grandpa teaches Liz how to be creative illustrating one of the classic parables in the Bible. Subscribe for free at getkidscorner.com. Find more great resources for kids and parents at kidscorner.net. This month's offer includes an Easter story puppet show craft.

Available Free in the Digital Library: "I Believe: Getting Ready to Profess My Faith" is available free to all in the CRC through the Digital Library (crcna.org/Library). This study guide is for teens who are preparing to make public profession of faith. Through discussion, action, and relationship-building with a mentor, they will learn to express what they believe and grow in their walk with God.

Profession of Faith Free Resources: Profession of faith flows from our deep identity as people who have been adopted into God's family through baptism. Check out "What Does Baptism Mean? Talking Points for Parents" in the "Building a Culture of Commitment" section of the new online Professing Our Faith toolkit. Visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits to access these free resources that Faith Formation Ministries has gathered from CRC churches and other excellent sources.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUN	11:45 am	Choir Practice
	4:00 pm	Vida Nueva
	7:45 pm	Youth Group
MON	12:00 pm	Blood Drive at First CRC
	7:00 pm	Elders & Deacons Meet
TUES	7:00 pm	Vida Nueva

NURSERY:

Today: Infants & Toddlers

Juli Oostra, Jase Hilsinger, Rayahna Oostra

Next Week: Infants & Toddlers

Elly Cuperus, Josie Droog, Cody Hilsinger

GREETERS:**Today:**

Rovers: Dennis & Melba De Kok

AM: Rich Knight, Kevin & Glenda Kok

Next Week:

Rovers: Keith & Jean Rasmussen

AM: Henry & Sharon Kuipers, Joe & Annette LeClair

USHERS

Today: Tim Van Hofwegen, Kermit Houck, Henry Hammingh

Next Week: Darin Kuipers, Tim Van Hofwegen, Larry Greidanus

SOUND SYSTEM

Today: Kendall Van Zanten

Next Week: Mardick Stevens

PROJECTION

Today: Devin Van Zanten

Next Week: Nathan Van Beek

VIDEO TAPING

Today: Tim Hibma

Next Week: Tim Hibma

CHILDREN & WORSHIP**Today:**

Teacher: Sue Blom

Assistants: Beth Boon, Hannah Van Hofwegen

Next Week:

Teacher: Marjo Rouw

Assistants: Monica Droog, Rayahna Oostr

LIBRARY:

Today: Michelle De Kok

Next Week: Elly Cuperus

COFFEE HOSTS

Today: Hank & Sylvia Van Zanten, Alice De Vries, Wayne & Rhea Doss

Next Week: Church Potluck

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: Marjean De Groot, Alice De Vries

Next Week: Jayne Hammingh, Brooke Knoester

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Next Week: Marjean De Groot

Accompanist: Shirley Boonstra

OFFERING: April 2, 2017

AM: General Funds

PM: Pregnancy Choices

6:30 P.M. Worship Service

Pianist: Marjo Rouw

Welcome/Announcements

Prayer for Worship

Opening Songs of Praise: Led by Kayla Van Hofwegen

"Take My Life and Let It Be" LUYH #863:1,2,4

"Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" LUYH #796:1 & 3

"In Christ Alone" LUYH #770:1,3,4

Catechism Reading: Lord's Day 20 Q&A 53

Q 53. What do you believe concerning "the Holy Spirit"?

**A. First, he as well as the Father and the Son,
is eternal God.¹**

**Second, he has been given to me personally,²
so that, by true faith,
he makes me share in Christ and all his blessings³
comforts me,⁴
and will remain with me forever.⁵**

¹ Gen. 1:1-2; Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4

² 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; Gal. 4:6

³ Gal. 3:14

⁴ John 15:26; Acts 9:31

⁵ John 14:16-17; 1 Pet. 4:14

Scripture Readings: Various Texts

Message: ***"The Holy Spirit – Who He is and What He does"***

Time of Prayer

Offering: Tierra Nueva

Song of Application: LUYH #746:1-3 ***"Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"***

* 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.

NEW CONCERNS:

Annette LeClair went in for a biopsy this past Tuesday and was scheduled to have a port put in for her upcoming chemo treatments. The current plan is to receive chemo once every three weeks beginning sometime after the 30th of this month. Please continue to pray for Annette and the entire family throughout the days ahead.

Betty Postma has a few tests that still need to be done. She will begin chemo in the middle of April and receive a treatment once every 3 weeks for a total of 6 treatments. Continue to pray for healing for Betty.

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Continue to pray for those who have recently lost a loved one.

SHUT INS:

Nell Annema at Creekside in Burlington, **Grace Faber** at home in Mount Vernon; **Helena Kuiper** at Creekside in Burlington; **Mary Koopmans** at home 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.

PRAISES:

Congratulations to **Eliot & Sue Blom**, who will celebrate 25 years of marriage on March 27. May God continue to bless them.

OTHER CONCERNS:

Continue to pray for **Marlene De Groot** as her cancer is advancing rapidly. Pray that Marlene and family members experience God's presence close beside them.

Centre for Public Dialogue: Healing -It is heartbreaking to hear the many reports of Indigenous youths taking their own lives because of the hopelessness they see around them. The legacy of residential schools and other government policies has a heavy cost in Indigenous communities today. *Lord, heal our nation. Creator God, teach us to live together on this land.*

Disability Concerns: Down Syndrome Day - March 21 is World Down Syndrome Day. Give thanks to God for the people in your life, your church, and your community who have Down Syndrome. Pray that parents who are expecting children who have Down Syndrome will decide to keep them, and that their local churches and community will support them in their choice.

Christian Reformed Home Missions: Parachute Ministry, Anchorage, Alaska -

Pray for Jake Hubers as he directs this new ministry focusing on street outreach to youths throughout the city of Anchorage; building relationships with community partners; and connecting young people with needed resources. Pray for new leaders to come forward to serve as interns in this unique ministry.

Christian Reformed World Missions: Mexico - As part of their ministry in Tijuana, Abe and Elaine Lee lead marriage seminars for couples from surrounding churches and from the local community. Pray that these seminars will bring the joy of Christ into each participant's marriage. Pray that participants will share what they learn with friends and family.

World Renew: Uganda - World Renew's water and sanitation response in the Bidibidi refugee camp is nearly complete; 750 communal latrine blocks have been built to serve 37,500 people. This camp has seen a huge influx in refugees

fleeing from violence in South Sudan. Please pray for these people and for the development of peaceful resolutions in their homeland.

Urban Aboriginal Ministries: Winnipeg, Man. - Pray for the community served by the Indigenous Family Centre. May the children grow up feeling safe and loved, and may local families have enough support for raising children. Pray also that the staff serving the community may have wisdom and discernment in helping with the needs of community members.

Sustaining Congregational Excellence: Renewal - SCE Health and Renewal grants allow smaller churches to engage in a project that will foster health in their congregation and/or community. Currently 16 congregations are focusing on renewal, and 17 are launching a new ministry. Pray that congregants and their surrounding communities may be enriched and encouraged through these efforts.