

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

May 28, 2017

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

“Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea,”

Prelude: Sylvia Van Zanten

Welcome and Announcements

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: God has ascended amid shouts of joy,

People: the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

Leader: Sing praises to God, sing praises;

People: sing praises to our King, sing praises.

Leader: For God is the King of all the earth;

People: sing to him a psalm of praise.

Leader: God reigns over the nations;

People: God is seated on his holy throne.

—Psalm 47:5-8, NIV

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*** Opening Hymn: LUYH #223:1-3 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”**

1. Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own;
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.
2. Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o’er the grave,
who rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died and reigns on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.
3. Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes
at mysteries so bright.

Words: sts. 1, 3, 4 Matthew Bridges, 1851; st. 2 Godfrey Thring, 1874, alt., P.D.; Music: George J. Elvey, 1868, P.D.; CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

* Opening Songs of Praise:
Read Colossians 1:15-16

"The First Place" LUYH #15

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

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" LUYH #601

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!
2. O seed of Israel's chosen race
now ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all!
3. Let every tongue and every tribe
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all!
4. Oh, that with all the sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all!

Words: st. 1-3 Edward Perronet, 1780, alt., st. 4 John Rippon, 1787, alt., P.D.; Music: Oliver Holden, 1793, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

Prayer of Adoration

"He Is Lord" LUYH #227:1,3,4

1. He is Lord, he is Lord,
he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

3. He is Love, he is Love,
he has shown us by his life that he is Love!
All his people sing with one voice of joy
that Jesus Christ is Love.

4. He is Life, he is Life,
he has died to set us free, and he is Life!
And he calls us all to live evermore,
for Jesus Christ is Life.

Words: st. 1 Marvin Frey © 1977 Marvin Frey; sts. 2, 3, 4 anonymous;
Music: Marvin Frey © 1977 Marvin Frey; harm. Dale Grotenhuis (1931-2012);
© 1987 Marvin Frey; CCLI #678905

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

"A great High Priest whose name is Love, whoever lives and pleads for me."

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance:

Hear the good news of the gospel:
God, who is rich in mercy,
out of the great love with which he loved us
even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ—
by grace you have been saved—
and raised us up with him and seated us with him
in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
so that in the ages to come he might show
the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
In Christ, by God's grace, we are saved.
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
—based on Ephesians 2:4-7, NRSV

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Hymn of Assurance: LUYH #965 ***"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"***

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, P.D.; Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551, P.D. CCLI #678905

Our Testimony of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism - Lord's Day 18 Q & A 46 & 47

Q. 46 What do you mean by saying, "He ascended to heaven"?

A. That Christ, while his disciples watched, was lifted up from the earth to heaven¹ and will be there for our good² until he comes again to judge the living and the dead.³

¹ Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:9-11; ² Rom. 8:34; Eph. 4:8-10; Heb. 7:23-25; 9:24; ³ Acts 1:11

Q. 47 But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as he promised us?¹

A. Christ is truly human and truly God. In his human nature Christ is not now on earth;² but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit he is not absent from us for a moment.³

¹ Matt. 28:20; ² Acts 1:9-11; 3:19-21; ³ Matt. 28:18-20; John 14:16-19

God's Will for our Lives:

Leader: What is the great and first commandment?

People: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Leader: What is the second commandment like it?

People: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Leader: What does this mean?

People: Love is the fulfilling of the law.

Leader: To what does this call us?

People: To a life of faith working through love.

—based on Matthew 22:37-40

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Offering: General Fund

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #844:1-3,5 ***"Lift Up Your Hearts unto the Lord"***

1. Lift up your hearts unto the Lord,
lift up your hearts unto the Lord.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
lift up your hearts unto the Lord!
2. In Christ the world has been redeemed,
in Christ the world has been redeemed.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
in Christ the world has been redeemed.
3. His resurrection sets us free,
his resurrection sets us free.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
his resurrection sets us free.

Sing acapella

5. Sing alleluia to the Lord, Sing alleluia to the Lord.

Sing alleluia, sing alleluia; Sing alleluia to the Lord.

Words: st. 1-4 from early Christian liturgy; st. 5 Linda Stassen, 1974, © 1974 Linda Stassen;

Music: Linda Stassen, 1974; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986, © 1974, 1986 Linda Stassen; CCLI #678905

“My name is graven on his hands, my name is written on his heart;”

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:6-11 (pg. 1077) Read by Clarence Klunder

Catechism Reading: Heidelberg Catechism - Lord’s Day 18 Q & A 49

Q. 49 How does Christ’s ascension to heaven benefit us?

A. First, he pleads our cause in heaven
in the presence of his Father.¹

Second, we have our own flesh in heaven—
a guarantee that Christ our head will also take us,
his members, to himself in heaven.²

Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a further guarantee.³
By the Spirit’s power we make the goal of our lives, not earthly things,
but the things above, where Christ is, sitting at God’s right hand.⁴

¹ Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1; ² John 14:2; 17:24; Eph. 2:4-6; ³ John 14:16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; ⁴ Col. 3:1-4

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“The Benefits of Christ’s Ascension”***

Time of Prayer

“I know that while in heaven he stands no tongue can bid thence depart.”

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #682:1-3 ***“Before the Throne of God Above”***

1. Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.
2. When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

3. Behold him there! The risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless righteousness;
the great unchangeable "I AM,"
the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Savior and my God,
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

Words: Charitie Lees DeCheney Bancroft (1841-1923), P.D.; Music: Vikki Cook, 1997,
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* We Confess Our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism - Lord's Day 19 Q & A 50-51

Q. 50 Why the next words:

"and is seated at the right hand of God"?

- A. Christ ascended to heaven,
there to show that he is head of his church,¹
and that the Father rules all things through Him.²

¹ Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 1:18; ² Matt. 28:18; John 5:22-23

Q. 51 How does this glory of Christ our head benefit us?

- A. **First, through his Holy Spirit he pours out his gifts
from heaven upon us his members.¹**

**Second, by his power he defends us and keeps us
safe from all enemies.²**

¹ Acts 2:33; Eph. 4:7-12; ² Ps. 110:1-2; John 10:27-30; Rev. 19:11-16

* Benediction

* Doxology: LYUH #219:1,3,4,5 ***"Jesus Shall Reign"***

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run,
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
3. People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.
4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.
5. Let every creature rise and bring
the highest honors to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

PSALM 72; Words: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt., P.D.; Music: John Hatton, (1710-1793, P.D.); CCLI #678906

* Postlude

Welcome! The psalmist wrote: "I will exalt you, my God and King. I will praise your name forever and ever" (Psalm 145:1). With a similar attitude, let us praise God joyfully. 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.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our annual **Congregational Meeting** was held this past Monday. Greg Ackermann (1-year term) & Dave Visser (3-year term) have agreed to continue to serve as Elders. Rich Knight & Mardick Stevens were selected for the office of Deacon for a 3-year term and Randy Burr has agreed to serve an additional 1-year term as Deacon. Installation of officers will be held during our morning service on June 4. The annual church budget for 2017-2018 was approved. We thank God for those who will be retiring from their offices: Brian Doss & Fred Folkertsma as Deacons. May God continue to use them in other areas of service.

This Saturday, June 3 at 10:00 a.m., a memorial service will be held for **Martin Paul** at the First Christian Reformed Church. Continue to pray for the family as they make plans for the service.

OUR CHURCH EVENTS

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

The **Elders & Deacons** will meet on Monday, May 28 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Men's Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, May 31 at 6:30 a.m. at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington. We are studying the book of Revelation. You are welcome to join us.

Church Committees: A special 'thank you' to all those who have already volunteered their time and talents to serve on the various committees of our church. The committees for the 2017-2018 church year are being formed. If you would like to be a part of a certain committee (and are not already serving a 3-year term) please let Sylvia and/or an elder know by the middle of June. Committees are listed in the back of the directory.

Mariners - Save the Date! This year's Faith and Family Night at Safeco Field is scheduled for **Friday, June 23 at 7:00 p.m.** with a fireworks show immediately after the game. Tickets will be \$15.00. per person. Last year we had approximately 40 people from our church attend and a fun evening was enjoyed by all. A sign-up sheet for this year's game is on the coffee table with the 'deadline date' for sign-ups being **June 4.**

Cookies: It is time to sign-up to bring cookies for the last Sunday of each month. If you are willing to make cookies for others to enjoy, you are encouraged to sign-up on the sheet provided on the coffee table in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to those who have provided cookies in the past months.

Don't forget to turn in your pledges for the **Christian Education Fund!** They are due **today.**

A set of **car keys** was found after the congregational meeting this past Monday. If they are yours please call the church office at 336-2405.

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.

MAY-JUNE 2017 FAMILY VISITS	
Elder	Family
Dave V	Henry & Pam Van Zanten
Dave V	Greg & Tish Ackermann
Greg A	Pastor John & Brooke Knoester
Greg A	Sue & Eliot Blom
Greg B	Terry & Joni Beezhold
Greg B	Steve & Teci Greydanus
Henry H	Wilma Paul
Henry H	Karen Staat
Darrel L	Clarence & Lona Vander Griend
Darrel L	Rich & Elly Cuperus
Pastor John	Mardy & Kristine Stevens
Pastor John	Randy & Peggy Burr
Dennis D	Adrianna Swanson
Dennis D	Marjo Rouw

ADVANCED NOTICES

Our **Church Potluck** will be held on Sunday, June 4, after the morning service. Please bring a 9x13 inch hot dish (enough to feed 12-15), and a salad. **Please do not bring a dessert. There are ice-cream bars that will be used.** Table service is provided as well as juice and coffee.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Donations for Neighbors in Need: Next week, June 4, 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.

Recognizing Good News in Prophetic Judgment: Habakkuk's list of "Woe to..." sins is easily recognized in our own world. Yet the prophet is not without hope. Join our Groundwork discussion on Habakkuk 2:20 to discover the good news in Habakkuk's condemning list of sins. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Tent Terrors: While on a camping adventure, Liz and the gang must face their own fears of braving the wilderness. But are those things that go bump in the night a bear? An owl? Or some pranking friends? Who will win the battle of bravery, and who's a scaredy-cat? Subscribe for free at getkidscorner.com. At www.kidscorner.net, download two of our best free resources: the KC Sketch book and the KC Summer Fun Book.

Need a weekend get away that recharges your soul? Warm Beach Camp offers campsites, cabins, and lodge rooms. You can enjoy the buffet in the dining hall or cook over an open fire. **Cascade Family Bible Camp** is scheduled for July 6-10. Register soon. Forms are available online at www.cascadefamilybiblecamp.org. First time registrants will receive 50% off registration.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUN	4:00 pm	Vida Nueva
	7:45 pm	Youth Group
MON	7:00 pm	Elders & Deacons Meet
TUES	7:00 pm	Vida Nueva
WED	6:30 am	Men's Bible Study at Shari's
SAT	10:00 am	Memorial Service for Marty Paul

NURSERY:**Today: Infants & Toddlers**

Julie Speck, Lexi Blom, Rayahna Oostra

Next Week: Infants & Toddlers

Briana Vander Kooy, Carson Blom, Emma Droog

GREETERS:**Today:**

Rovers: Keith & Jean Rasmussen

AM: Henry & Pam Van Zanten, Greg & Beth Boon

Next Week:

Rovers: Larry & Margaret Vander Pol

AM: Randy & Peggy Burr, Brian Doss, Fred Folkertsma

USHERS

Today: Tim Hibma, Darin Kuipers, Tim Van Hofwegen

Next Week: Larry Greidanus, Kermit Houck, Kendall Van Zanten

SOUND SYSTEM

Today: Tim Hibma

Next Week: Mardick Stevens

PROJECTION

Today AM: Josh Hammingh

Next Week: Devin Van Zanten

VIDEO TAPING

Today: DJ Droog

Next Week: Tim Hibma

CHILDREN & WORSHIP**Today:**

Teacher: Heather Van Hofwegen

Assistants: Monica Droog, Carson Blom

Next Week: ?

LIBRARY:

Today: Jean Rasmussen

Next Week: Michelle De Kok

COFFEE HOSTS

Today: Agnes Bollema, Randy & Peggy Burr, Rich & Elly Cuperus

Next Week: Church Potluck

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: Alice De Vries, Marjean De Groot

Next Week: Jayne Hammingh, Brooke Knoester

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Next Week: Tim Van Hofwegen

Accompanist: Shirley Boonstra

OFFERING: June 4, 2017

AM: General Fund **PM:** Friendship House

6:30 P.M. Worship Service

Pianist: Sylvia Van Zanten

Welcome / Announcements

Prayer for Worship

Opening Songs of Praise: Led by Katie Jungquist

"Amid the Thronging Worshipers" LUYH #511:1 & 3

"Dwell in Me, O Blessed Spirit " LUYH #745:1 & 2

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" LUYH #590:1-4, 8

Catechism Reading: Lord's Day 22 Q&A 57-58

Q. 57 How does "the resurrection of the body" comfort you?

A. Not only my soul will be taken immediately after this life to Christ its head,¹ but even my very flesh, raised by the power of Christ, will be reunited with my soul and made like Christ's glorious body.²

¹ Luke 23:43; Phil. 1:21-23; ² 1 Cor. 15:20, 42-46, 54; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2

Q. 58 How does the article concerning "life everlasting" comfort you?

A. Even as I already now experience in my heart the beginning of eternal joy,¹ so after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart has ever imagined: a blessedness in which to praise God forever.²

¹ Rom. 14:17; ² John 17:3; 1 Cor. 2:9

Scripture Readings: Various Texts

Message: **"A Resurrected Body for Life Everlasting"**

Time of Prayer

Offering: Love INC

Song of Application: LUYH #206:1,2,4, 5 **"Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing"**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #965 **"Praise God"**



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

NEW CONCERN:

Our condolences to **Duane and Trudy Van Dyke** in the passing away of Trudy's sister, Jo Boer of Sheldon, IA this past Thursday. Please keep Jo's husband and the entire extended family in your prayers in the coming days as they grieve their loss, but also celebrate Jo's homegoing.

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Wilma Paul continues to be at Mira Vista after having had hip surgery. Pray for a swift and complete recovery for Wilma.

Continue to pray for **Chris Van Sweden** as she recovers from having a recent heart attack and stent inserted. Pray for strength.

Continue to pray for **Annette LeClair** and **Betty Postma** as they both continue with their chemo treatments. May God give them strength for each day.

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.

OTHER CONCERNS:

Pray for **students and teachers** as the school year is quickly coming to a close. Ask God to help each one to do their best in all that they do.

Back to God Ministries International: Argentina - Sonia, who listens to our Spanish programs and reads the Cada Dia devotional, asks prayers for her family. "They are far from the Lord," she writes. "As the programs reflect Christ and shine his light into my everyday life, pray that I can share the great love that God has been showing me for more than 30 years."

World Renew: Tanzania - East Africa has been experiencing a drought, and some of the areas served by World Renew's Tanzanian partner organizations have been especially hard hit. The rainy season has now begun again. Pray that rains will continue to fall in due time and in sufficient quantity so that farmers will see good harvests this season.

Cadets: International Camporee - The International Cadet Camporee is planned for July 12-19 in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Over 1,000 men and boys will gather to spend time together and learn about how God is seeking each of us. Pray for the boys preparing to attend, and pray that the counselors may build exemplary relationships with the boys in their groups during this event.

Back to God Ministries International: Brazil - Pray for Hiago, who shared our Portuguese resources with his colleagues at work. "There are people of all religions in my office," he reported. "Everyone enjoyed the studies." Pray that God will use these resources to bring Hiago's coworkers to faith in Jesus.

Christian Reformed Home Missions: University of Guelph, Ont. - Pastor Jamie VanderBerg shares Jesus with students from various faith traditions or none at all. Pray for him and our more than 35 other campus chaplains who meet students at a crucial point in their life journey, bringing the grace of God into situations of challenge and learning.

Christian Reformed World Missions: Missionary scholars - Some CRWM missionaries are studying for degrees and taking online classes in addition to their regular ministry work. Pray for peace of mind and focus during stressful times in these study programs.

Centre for Public Dialogue: Sesquicentennial - As Canada remembers and celebrates 150 years of confederation, it's important to recognize both the joy and the pain in our history. Let us pray with thanks for the gift that Canada is, and with lament for the injustices of colonialism and assimilation toward First Peoples. Lord God, our Creator, may the next 150 years be characterized by reconciliation!