

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church

Pastor John Knoester

December 15, 2019

3rd Sunday in Advent

10:30 AM Worship Service

*** Please stand in body or in spirit**

"God with us, the promise has come to be;"

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship

*** Opening Song of Praise: LUYH #76:1-4 "O Come All Ye Faithful"**

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God, Light of Light eternal,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

Refrain

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!"

Refrain

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Words: attr. John F. Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others, P.D.;

Music: attr. John F. Wade, 1743; desc. © 1947 Hymns Ancient and Modern, admin. Hope Publishing Company; CCLI #678905

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

* Opening Songs of Praise:

"Days of Elijah"

1. These are the days of Elijah.
Declaring the Word of the Lord.
And these are the days of your servant Moses.
Righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial,
of famine and darkness and sword.
Still we are a voice in the desert crying
"Prepare ye the Way of the Lord".

Chorus:

*Behold He comes riding on the Clouds,
Shining like the Sun, at the trumpet call.
Lift your voice in the year of Jubilee
and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.*

2. These are the days of Ezekiel.
The dry bones becoming as flesh.
And these are the days of Your servant David.
Rebuilding the temple of praise.
And these are the days of the harvest.
The fields are as white in the world.
And we are the laborers in the vineyard.
Declaring the Word of the Lord.

Chorus:

*"Days of Elijah" Robin Mark; © 1996 Daybreak Music LTD.
(Admin. by Integrity Music, Inc.) CCLI# 678905*

"Prepare Him Room"

Worship Team Only

1. O behold, the myst'ry now unfolds;
see the star shine on the virgin foretold.
Angels sing and light up the sky,
hope rings out in a newborn's cry;
swing wide, you ancient gates for Christ is born today!

Worship Team Only

Chorus

*Prepare Him room prepare Him room;
Let the King of glory enter in.*

All Sing

2. God with us, the promise has come to be;
this, the one the prophets were longing to see.
In the darkness a blazing light,
to the hungry the words of life;
His kingdom now is near for those with ears to hear.

Chorus (2x)

All Sing

3. Oh, our hearts, as busy as Bethlehem;
Hear Him knock, don't say there's no room in the inn.
Through the cradle, cross, and grave
see the love of God displayed;
Now He's risen and He reigns;
praise the Name above all names!

Chorus (2x)

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“This, the one the prophets
were longing to see.”

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Quiet Meditation: LUYH #61 **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** Played by Kiera Link

* Advent Song of Response: LUYH #482:1-4 **“Soon and Very Soon”**

1. Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!
2. No more crying there— we are going to see the King!
No more crying there— we are going to see the King!
No more crying there— we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!
3. No more dying there— we are going to see the King!
No more dying there— we are going to see the King!
No more dying there— we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
4. Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

Words: Andraé Crouch (b. 1945) © 1976 Bud John Songs (ASCAP),
Crouch Music (ASCAP), admin.EMICMGPublishing.com CCLI #678905

Children's Message: Marjo Rouw

*(Following the conclusion of the children's message children
ages 3- 1st grade are dismissed for Children's Worship)*

Offering: General Fund

"In the darkness a blazing light,
to the hungry the word of life;"

Scripture Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (pg. 935); Luke 3:7-18 (pg. 1016) Read by Greg & Tish Ackermann

Prayer of Illumination

Message: **"A New Day Dawning for the Lord is Mighty to Save"**

Prayer of Application

"His kingdom now is near
for those with ears to hear."

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #92:1,3 **"Joy to the World"**

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #92:4 **"Joy to the World"**

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Psalm 98; Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), 1719, P.D;
Music: Lowell Mason, 1948, P.D. CCLI #678905

Postlude

Welcome! A hearty welcome to each of you! It is a genuine joy to have everyone here for worship, for fellowship, for learning more about the Christian way and for preparing for a new week of service. God has been good to us! Let us join together to praise the Lord. After the morning service all are invited to the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

This evening is our **Candlelight Service** at 6:30 p.m. Come and join us.

Sunday School & Catechism Classes will not meet from December 22-January 19. They will resume on January 26 at 9:30 a.m.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Les Faber received a clean bill of health from his doctor. He goes in again in March. Les & Joy are grateful for the prayers of the congregation.

Family Visiting: The following is the current family visiting schedule for November & January. 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.

NOVEMBER-JANUARY 2019/2020 FAMILY VISITS		
Elder	Deacon	Family
Dave V	Jack VK	Boonstra, Shirley
Dave V	Jack VK	De Groot, Marjean
Kevin K	Randy B	De Vries, Alice
Kevin K	Randy B	Haarsma, Martha
Henry VZ	Mardick S	Klunder, Clarence & Eleanor
Henry VZ	Mardick S	Rasmussen, Keith & Jean
Tim VH	Brad DK	Kok, Kevin & Glenda
Tim VH	Brad DK	Pippel, Bob & Andy
Darrel L	Dan VK	Reehoorn, Sally
Darrel L	Dan VK	Van Zanten, Hank & Sylvia
Pastor John	Rich C	Vander Kooy, Daniel & Briana
Pastor John	Rich C	Vander Veen, Henry & Anjean
Henry H	Mardy S	VanDyke, Duane & Trudy
Henry H	Mardy S	Visser, Dave & Nancy

Thanks to all who volunteered to buy gifts for **Angel Tree** again this year. Please return the wrapped gifts to the church office by December 15 and put the Angel Tree sticker with the name of the child on the outside of the gift wrap.

Thank you from the Sees! We have been so blessed by the First Christian Reformed family. Thank you for the meals you have cooked, the cards you have sent, and the baby basket that was filled to overflowing with surprises for Bailey. We have been truly blessed!

Walkway Shelf: Copies of the Fall 2019 Newsletter from Tierra Nueva can be found on the walkway along with a newsletter from the Hansen's, who are missionaries to Skagit Valley College.

OUR CHURCH EVENTS

Dear Friends,

In our Reformed tradition we often speak of Scripture as the unfolding drama of God's covenant of grace. Nowhere is this more evident than in the many OT prophecies that are later fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Throughout this Advent season we're going to hear some of these familiar OT prophecies as they are also addressed to us today – the people of God who are waiting for the second coming. In Advent, our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all the OT promises is heightened. We long for the day in which the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away. This is God's plan – come quickly Lord Jesus!

December 15: *"Mighty to Save"* (Zephaniah 3:14-20, Luke 3:7-18)

December 22: *"Peace at Last"* (Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:39-56)

December 29 – *"The Boy in the Temple"* (1 Samuel 2:18-20,26; Luke 2:41-52)

Choir will meet for practice in the sanctuary after coffee time today.

Youth Group will meet tonight at 7:45 PM.

Golden Hour will meet Wednesday, December 18 at 12:30 p.m. for our Christmas get together. We will not have a lesson that day.

GEMS will meet Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30 PM.

ADVANCED NOTICES

Potluck & Caroling: On Sunday, December 22, we are having a potluck at 6:00 p.m. and at around 6:30 p.m. we plan to go caroling. We will return to church after caroling and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate. Please sign up on the sheet provided in the Fellowship Hall if you plan on coming.

Faith Community Fellowship invites you to join them for a Candlelight Service on December 24 at 5:30 pm. Childcare is provided.

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

Post High Young Adults: You are invited to a night of pizza and fellowship at Coconut Kenny's (1060 S. Burlington Blvd.- southwest end of the Fred Meyer parking lot) on **Thursday, December 26 at 6:30 p.m.** Please let Pastor John know by December 20 if you are coming (cell # 360-941-5902 or e-mail to jknoces14@hotmail.com).

Save the Date: The movie "**Overcomer**" will be shown in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, January 3 at 6:30 p.m. Invite your friends and neighbors to come.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Groundwork: Everlasting Father—As Isaiah continues to describe the Messiah, he calls him "Everlasting Father." Join us as we study Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 1:16-18, and John 14:1-11 to find out what this title would have meant to its original Israelite audience and why it really is an appropriate title for Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Beyond Belief: What if you had been there the night Jesus was born? Liz and friends find themselves in Bethlehem reliving the incredible Christmas story. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for future episodes. Download Kids Corner's Christmas puzzle and game giveaway The Bible Challenge Activity Book 4.

Advent At-Home Faith Formation Tip: During Advent, we light the candle of Joy. Joy is not a fleeting happiness, but an attitude of the heart that springs from gratitude. What brings you joy? How might you spread joy to others? Wonder and talk about that this week. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)

Pregnancy Choices is looking to hire a Staff Nurse part time - 20 hours per week. For more information, please contact our Nurse Manager, Darcy, at (360) 428-4777. Pregnancy Choices is a AAAHC accredited pregnancy medical clinic serving the Skagit Valley for over 28 years. Come join our team!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUN	10:30 AM	Morning Service
	11:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:45 PM	Young People
	6:30 PM	Evening Service
TUES	7:00 PM	Vida Nueva Bible Study
WED	12:30 PM	Golden Hour
	6:30 PM	GEMS Christmas Party

NURSERY

Today: Briana Vander Kooy, Nathan Van Beek, Kennedy Donaldson

Candlelight Service: Juli Oostra, Julissa Oostra, Rayahna Oostra

Next Week: Brooke Knoester, Carson Blom, Hannah Van Hofwegen

GREETERS

Today - Rovers: Keith & Jean Rasmussen

AM: Henry & Pam Van Zanten, Shirley Boonstra, Marjean De Groot

Candlelight Service: Larry & Margaret Vander Pol

Next Week Rovers: Greg & Tish Ackermann

AM: Alice De Vries, Wayne & Rhea Doss

USHERS

Today: Henry Hammingh, Tim Van Hofwegen, Larry Greidanus

Candlelight Service: Tim Van Hofwegen, Henry Van Zanten, Tim Hibma

Next Week: Henry Van Zanten, Tim Hibma, Wiebe Van der Hoek

PROJECTION

Today: Josh Hammingh

Candlelight Service: Tim Hibma

Next Week: Devin Van Zanten

VIDEO TAPING

Today: Mike Hibma

Candlelight Service: Carson Blom

Next Week: Tim Hibma

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Today: Teacher: Heather Van Hofwegen

Assistants: Julie Speck, Trevor Blom

Next Week: Teacher: Darrel & Sunee Lagerwey

Assistants: Briana Vander Kooy, Jacob Feddema

COFFEE HOSTS

Today: Marinus & Jill Rouw, Mardick & Jill Stevens, Minne Van der Hoek

Next Week: Larry & Margaret Vander Pol, Bryan & Deanna Van Beek, Jack & Trudy Van Klaveren

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: Vida Nueva

Next Week: Vida Nueva

TRANSPORTATION CARE TEAM

December 15: Shirley Boonstra

December 22: Dennis & Melba De Kok

OFFERING:

December 15

AM: General Fund

PM: Neighbors in Need

December 22:

AM: General Fund



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 CONCERN:

The memorial service for **Wilma De Boer** will be held this Tuesday, December 17 at 12:30 PM at First Christian Reformed Church. Please continue to keep Wilma's loved ones in your prayers as they make plans to celebrate her life and homegoing on that day. Pray too for all those who are grieving the loss of loved ones during this special time of the year.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Continue to pray for healing of **Elaine Hamming's** arm.

Adelaida Vega (Michelle Kuiper's mother) recent scan showed that her cancer continues to shrink. She will continue with chemo once every three weeks. Continue to pray for healing.

Continue to pray for **Ryanne Vander Pol** as she continues with her IV therapy and some radiation treatments.

Pray for those who are traveling home from college and for those who will be traveling over the Christmas time of the year.

PRAISE:

Les Faber received a clean bill of health from his doctor. We give thanks to God for the good news.

SHUT INS:

Nell Annema at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley; **Mary Koopmans** at Where the Heart Is in Burlington; **Case Lanting** at Arlington Health & Rehab Center; **Wilma Paul** at Life Care Center in Sedro-Woolley; **Sally Reehoorn** at Creekside in Burlington; **Adrianna Swanson** at Creekside in Burlington; **Bev Van Slageren** at family in Grandview, WA; **Duane Van Dyke** at Where the Heart Is in Burlington; **Lona Vander Griend** at Home Place in Burlington.

OTHER REQUESTS:

Resonate Global Mission: Middle East - A Resonate missionary in the Middle East is training pastors to reach out and build relationships with local imams. Ask the Holy Spirit to work through these relationships and conversations so that more people may know the truth of Jesus.

Centre for Public Dialogue: Peace - In this Christmas season please pray that together as the church we would be instruments of shalom, particularly by advocating for policies that protect people who are marginalized in this world.

Safe Church Ministry: Families - Holidays mean family; pray for hurting families. Pray that the loving power of our Lord, Immanuel, "God with us," will overcome dysfunction, abuse, and denial that many people experience within their own families. May the church be a place where all are safely welcomed and healing begins.

Resonate Global Mission: Japan - Resonate missionaries Kim and Michael Essenburg, who serve in Japan, give thanks that people in Japan are becoming Christians! Ask God to continue using international Christian schools to reach people in Japan with the good news of Jesus.

Back to God Ministries International: Spanish ministry - Members of our Spanish ministry team recently met a man named Marcos, who watches our video programs in Guatemala. Praise God for Marcos's testimony of how he has seen God work through the biblical teachings presented in the programs. Pray that he will continue to think critically about what God's Word means for him.

World Renew: Child health - In vulnerable areas where World Renew serves, many infants and young children do not have access to safe water or appropriate nutrition. This can lead to lifelong health issues. Please pray for these children and for the work our partners are doing to educate and support families with small children during their first 1,000 days of life (pregnancy through age 2).

Resonate Global Mission: Michigan - Leaders of a Resonate ministry partner in Michigan ask you to pray for Muslims in the community. Ask God to raise up more people to share the gospel with them—and with people of all nationalities and faith traditions.