

# **Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!**

**Pastor John Knoester**

**December 22, 2019**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

\* Please stand in body or in spirit

*“Imagine a King who would  
come through the darkness”*

\* Welcome and Announcements

\* Call to Worship:

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I hope.

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord. O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plenteous redemption.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord. Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit. There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

—based on Psalm 130:5-7

Reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook*, © 2004, CRC Publications

\* Opening Hymn: LUYH 67:1-3 ***“Blessed Be the God of Israel”***

1. Blessed be the God of Israel,  
who comes to set us free  
and raises up new hope for us:  
a Branch from David’s tree.  
So have the prophets long declared  
that with a mighty arm  
God would turn back our enemies  
and all who wish us harm.
2. With promised mercy will God still  
the covenant recall,  
the oath once sworn to Abraham,  
from foes to save us all,  
that we might worship without fear  
and offer lives of praise,  
in holiness and righteousness  
to serve God all our days.
3. My child, as prophet of the Lord,  
you will prepare the way,  
to tell God’s people they are saved  
from sin’s eternal sway.  
Then shall God’s mercy from on high  
shine forth and never cease  
to drive away the gloom of death  
and lead us into peace.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944) © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

\* God’s Greeting/We Greet Each Other

- \* Opening Songs of Praise:  
Reading of Isaiah 32:1-2

LUYH 72:1-2 *"Imagine"*

1. Who hears?  
Who hears the voice of the hungry, the thirsty?  
Who sees?  
Who sees the tears of the suffering ones?
2. Who knows?  
Who knows the hopes that lie hidden, forgotten?  
Who comes?  
Who comes to lead all the children home?

Refrain

Imagine a King who would come through the darkness  
and walk, where I walk, full of greatness,  
and call me to his side,  
just like a father and child.

Words: Keith and Kristyn Getty © 2003 Thankyou Music (PRS), admin. worldwide at  
EMICMGPublishing.com excluding Europe which is admin. by Kingswaysongs

LUYH 86:1-3 *"Away in a Manger"*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus: look down from the sky  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care;  
prepare us for heaven to live with you there.

Words: North American, 19<sup>th</sup> c; Music: James R. Murray (1841-1905)  
Public Domain CCLI #678905

*"And walk, where I walk, full of greatness"*

Advent Candle Lighting: Feddema Family

Quiet Meditation: LUYH #61 *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* Hannah Van Hofwegen

- \* Advent Song of Response: LUYH #157:1-3 *"Meekness and Majesty"*

1. Meekness and majesty, manhood and Deity  
in perfect harmony, the Man who is God.  
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,  
kneels in humility and washes our feet.

Refrain

*Oh, what a mystery-meekness and majesty;  
bow down and worship, for this is your God.*

2. Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence,  
yet learns obedience to death on a cross,  
suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice,  
and, as they crucify, prays, "Father, forgive."

*Refrain*

3. Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,  
Love indestructible in frailty appears.  
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,  
lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne.

*Refrain*

"Meekness and Majesty" Text and Music: Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)  
© 1986, Kingsway's Thankyou Music, admin. EMI Christian Music  
Publishing; CCLI# 678905

*(During the last verse the children are invited forward  
for the children's message)*

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

Song of Preparation: "**Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**" Women's Ensemble

*"And call me to his side"*

Scripture Readings: Micah 5:2-5a (pg. 922); Luke 1:39-56 (pg. 1013) Read by Kevin & Glenda Kok

Message: "**Peace at Last**"

Time of Prayer

Sung Prayer of Application: "**In the Bleak Midwinter**"  
Sheri Link & Bob De Groot

*"Just like a father and child"*

\* Hymn of Application: LUYH 95:1-3 "**What Child Is This**"

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!
2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;

hail, hail for Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

Words: William C. Dix (1837-1898), P.D.; Music: English ballad, 16<sup>th</sup> c., P.D.;  
CCLI #678905

\* Benediction

\* Doxology: LUYH 97:1-2 **"Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace"**

1. Lord, bid your servant go in peace;  
your word is now fulfilled.  
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,  
this child so long foretold.
2. This is the Savior of the world,  
the Gentiles' promised light,  
God's glory dwelling in our midst,  
the joy of Israel.

Words: Scripture, from Luke 2:29-32; Nunc dimittis; tr. James Quinn, S.J., (b. 1919), alt.,  
1969, 1989, © James Quinn, S.J., admin. Selah Publishing Company, Inc.; OneLicense.net License #A-711218

\* Postlude

**Welcome!** Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy." Those are the words of the psalmist in Psalm 5:11. Whoever you are, wherever you are from, we welcome you and we invite you to "be glad" with us about God's goodness and mercy. Let us "ever sing for joy" and praise God with profoundly grateful hearts. 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.

**Sunday School & Catechism Classes** will not meet for several weeks. They will resume on January 26 at 9:30 a.m.

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

### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

**Thanks** to all who bought gifts for the Angel Tree program. May your generosity be blessed by God.

#### **Address Change:**

Case Lanting  
c/o Olympic Place Room #102  
20909 Olympic Place NE  
Arlington, WA 98223

**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

### **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 1: *"Signs of the Times"* (Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 21:25-36)

December 8: *"Prepare the Way!"* (Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6)

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.

**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 p.m. Childcare is provided.

**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 today if you are coming (cell # 360-941-5902 or e-mail to [jknoes14@hotmail.com](mailto:jknoes14@hotmail.com)).

### **ADVANCED NOTICES**

The **Elders & Deacons** will meet on Monday, December 30 at 7:00 p.m.

**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: Prince of Peace**—What does it mean to declare and proclaim Jesus as the Prince of Peace? Considering the present brokenness and pain in our world, when can we expect this peace to prevail? Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 9:2-7 and Isaiah 11:1-9 to discover the meaning of this final title Isaiah gives the Messiah. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Mary's Miracle:** Have you ever wondered what Mary thought about the very first Christmas? Was she scared, excited, or happy? Listen to this dramatic presentation seen through the eyes of Mary. 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.

**Make a Resolution That Sticks** - Start 2020 with a deep dive into God's majestic Word through Psalm 119. With quick daily devotions from Today, grow in your relationship with God through Bible reading and prayer. Psalm 119 devotions begin January 1, 2020. Subscribe now at TodayDevotional.com.

**Advent At-Home Faith Formation Tip:** During Advent, we light the candle of Love. Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection were all characterized by love. In return, we are to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." Consider how your family or household might do those things more fully in the coming year. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; [crcna.org/FaithFormation](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation))

**Christmas Day At-home Faith Formation Tip:** Today we light the Christ candle to remind ourselves that the light of Christ has come into the world. Light a Christ candle in your own home today as you celebrate. Consider lighting a candle at each mealtime in the coming week (or year!) to remind you that Jesus is always with you. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; [crcna.org/FaithFormation](http://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
	6:00 PM	Potluck
	6:30 PM	Caroling
TUES	7:00 PM	Vida Nueva Bible Study
WED	10:00 AM	Christmas Day Service

### NURSERY

Brooke Knoester, Carson Blom, Hannah Van Hofwegen

**Christmas Day:** Sheri Link Family

**Next Week:** Shanna Visser, Trevor Blom, Kayla Van Hofwegen

### GREETERS

**Today - Rovers:** Greg & Tish Ackermann

**AM:** Alice De Vries, Wayne & Rhea Doss

**Christmas Day:** Rich & Elly Cuperus

**Next Week Rovers:** Dennis & Melba De Kok

**AM:** Brian Doss, Fred Folkertsma, Jeannette Folkertsma, Jill Klunder

### USHERS

**Today:** Henry Van Zanten, Tim Hibma, Wiebe Van der Hoek

**Christmas Day:** Wiebe Van der Hoek, Henry Hammingh,

Larry Greidanus

**Next Week:** Henry Hammingh, Tim Van Hofwegen, Larry Greidanus

## **SOUND**

**Today:** Mardick Stevens

**Christmas Day:** Tim Hibma

**Next Week:** Henry Van Zanten, Devin Van Zanten

## **PROJECTION**

**Today:** Devin Van Zanten

**Christmas Day:** Josh Hammingh

**Next Week:** Tim Hibma

## **VIDEO TAPING**

**Today:** Tim Hibma

**Christmas Day:** Mike Hibma

**Next Week:** Brandon Speck

## **CHILDREN & WORSHIP**

**Today:**

Teacher: Darrel & Sunee Lagerwey

Assistants: Briana Vander Kooy, Jacob Feddema

**Next Week:**

Teacher: Michele Feddema

Assistants: Brooke Knoester, Adriana Speck

## **COFFEE HOSTS**

**Today:** Larry & Margaret Vander Pol, Bryan & Deanna Van Beek,  
Jack & Trudy Van Klaveren

**Next Week:** Greg & Tish Ackermann, Agnes Bollema, Randy & Peggy Burr

**Cookies:** Sheri Link, Juli Oostra, Jean Rasmussen

## **VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE**

**Today:** Vida Nueva

**Next Week:** Vida Nueva

## **MINISTRY OF PRAISE**

**Today:** None

**Next Week:** Hank Van Zanten

Accompaniment: Melba De Kok

## **TRANSPORTATION CARE TEAM**

**December 22:** Dennis & Melba De Kok

**December 29:** Larry & Maxine Greidanus

## **OFFERING:**

**Christmas Day:** Neighbors in Need

**December 29:**

**AM:** General Fund

**PM:** Denominational Ministry Shares (Undesignated gifts go to Classis Pacific Northwest)



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

**NEW CONCERN:**

**Duane Van Dyke** was admitted to hospital this past Wednesday for pneumonia. Pray for strength for each day. Pray for strength for Trudy also as she cares for him.

**CONTINUING REQUESTS:**

Remember those in prayer that have lost loved ones recently.

Continue to pray for healing of **Elaine Hammingh'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 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 Homeplace 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.

**Pray** for our missionaries and the work that they do.

**OTHER REQUESTS:**

**Raise Up: Educational Care: Training** - November and December have been busy months for teachers enrolled in Educational Care training. Pray for receptive hearts and open minds as teachers are challenged to integrate their faith with professional practice. Pray also that the trainers may have safety and stamina as they travel to their training sites.

**Youth Unlimited: Cohort** - Please pray for five churches in southern Ontario that have joined Youth Unlimited and Faith Formation Ministries in exploring how they can build intergenerational mentoring connections in their church communities. We are excited to see what God will do through this initiative as we seek to become churches that involve people of all ages and life stages.

**World Renew: Nicaragua** - With ongoing political turmoil and civil unrest, the Nicaraguan economy continues to suffer, causing loss of jobs, increased cost of basic goods, and an increasingly precarious situation for many families. Please pray for relief from the continuing economic crisis affecting every family there in one way or another. Pray also for life-sustaining rains that will allow for abundant harvests.

**Resonate Global Mission: Germany** - Resonate missionaries Mary Buteyn and David Kromminga in Germany give praise for the one-on-one faith conversations that David has been having with a man from Syria. Please ask the Holy Spirit to work in this man's heart so that he will know the grace and peace of Christ.



***Back to God Ministries International: 80-year anniversary*** - Today marks 80 years since the first broadcast of The Back to God Hour. Since then, this ministry has grown from producing a single radio program to providing multimedia publications, broadcasting, and internet distribution in 10 languages worldwide. Praise God for the many ways media can be used to spread the good news around the world.

***Faith Formation Ministries: Encounters*** - Please join us in praying for people who will encounter the gospel through special worship gatherings during Advent and Christmas. Pray that the Spirit will usher many into a new (or renewed) relationship with Jesus Christ. Pray also that churches will be receptive to people whose faith journey is marked with pain, doubts, and uncertainties.