

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

December 8, 2019

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

* Please stand in body or in spirit

*“For the herald’s voice is crying
in the desert far and near,”*

Prelude: Marjo Rouw

* Sung Call to Worship: LUYH 81:1,4,5 ***“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”***

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o’er all the earth;
you, who sang creation’s story,
now proclaim Messiah’s birth:

Refrain

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!*

4. Though an infant now we view him,
he will share his Father’s throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down:

Refrain

5. All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:

Refrain

Words: James Montgomery, 1816, alt., P.D.; Music: Henry Smart, 1867, P.D.

*Welcome

* Call to Worship:

LEADER: All who come from near and far,

PEOPLE: come and worship.

LEADER: All who thirst for God,

PEOPLE: come and worship.

LEADER: All whose hearts overflow with gratitude and hope,

PEOPLE: come and worship.

LEADER: All whose hearts may be filled with despair or grief,

PEOPLE: come and worship.

LEADER: All who come with doubts or questions about life in Jesus,

PEOPLE: come and worship.

LEADER: Through the grace of God's Holy Spirit,

PEOPLE: come, worship Christ, the newborn King.

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* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

* Opening Song of Worship: *"Is He Worthy?"* vs. 1-3

Soloist (Congregations responds)

1. Do you feel the world is broken? (We do.)
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do.)
But do you know that all the dark
won't stop the light from getting through? (We do.)
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do.)

Soloist (Congregations responds)

2. Is all creation groaning? (It is.)
Is a new creation coming? (It is.)
Is the glory of the Lord
to be the light within our midst? (It is.)
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is.)

Chorus 1: All Sing

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave,
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.
Is He worthy, is He worthy
of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy of this? He is.*

Soloist (Congregations responds)

3. Does the Father truly love us? (He does.)
Does the Spirit move among us? (He does.)
And does Jesus our Messiah,
hold forever those He loves? (He does.)
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does.)

Chorus 2: All Sing

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave,
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.
From ev'ry people and tribe, every nation and tongue,
He has made us a kingdom and priests
to God to reign with the Son.
Is He worthy, is He worthy
of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy, is He worthy? Is He worthy of this? He is.*

Ending

Is He worthy, is He worthy? He is. He is.

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*"Calling all to true repentance,
since the kingdom now is here."*

Advent Prayer: Led by the Van Beek Family

God of Israel, with expectant hearts we your people await Christ's coming. As once he came in humility, so now may he come in glory, that he may make all things perfect in your everlasting kingdom. For he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

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Advent Reading (Isaiah 9:6)

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God."

Advent Candle Lighting:

We light these candles as a sign of our waiting and hope for the coming of Christ.

[Light the Advent Candle in silence.]

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

Played by Ella Van Hofwegen

*[Sanctuary lights remain off while one verse of
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is played.]*

Advent Song of Response: **"Refiner's Fire"** vs. 1-2

1. Purify my heart, let me be as gold and precious silver.
Purify my heart, let me be as gold, pure gold.

Chorus:

*Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
is to be holy, set apart for You Lord.
I choose to be holy, set apart for you my Master,
ready to do Your will.*

2. Purify my heart, cleanse me from within and make me holy.
Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

Chorus x2

"Refiner's Fire" Brian Doerksen, ©1990 Mercy Publishing (Admin. by Music Services) CCLI# 678905

*Following the singing of this song children ages 3 – 1st grade
are excused to the Koinonia Room for Children and Worship*

Announcements

Offering: First Offering: General Fund; Second Offering: Benevolent Fund

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #775:1-3 **"Across the Lands"**

1. You're the Word of God the Father
from before the world began;
every star and every planet
has been fashioned by your hand.
All creation holds together
by the power of your voice.
Let the skies declare your glory;
let the land and seas rejoice.

Refrain

*You're the author of creation,
you're the Lord of everyone,
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

2. Yet you left the gaze of angels,
came to seek and save the lost
and exchanged the joy of heaven
for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer you fed the hungry,
with a word you calmed the sea;
yet how silently you suffered,
that the guilty may go free.

Refrain

3. With a shout you rose victorious,
wresting victory from the grave,
and ascended into heaven,
leading captives in your way.
Now you stand before the Father,
interceding for your own;
from each tribe and tongue and nation
you are leading sinners home.

Refrain

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*"Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!"*

Scripture Readings: Malachi 2:17-3:5 (pg. 950); Luke 3:1-6 (1016) Read by Randy & Peggy Burr

Prayer of Illumination

Message: **"Prepare the Way!"**

Time of Prayer

*"Tell her that her sins I cover and
her warfare is now over."*

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #59:1-3 **"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"**

1. Comfort, comfort now my people;
speak of peace: so says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
mourning under sorrow's load.
Cry out to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover and her warfare now is over.

2. For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling all to true repentance, since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him
and the hills bow down to greet him.
3. Then make straight what long was crooked;
make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

Words: Isaiah 40:1-5; vers. Johannes G. Olearius, 1671; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt., P.D. CCLI# 678905

*(During the singing the children will return and the elders
are invited forward to serve communion)*

We Celebrate Communion Together

- Words of Institution
- Prayer of Thanksgiving
- Invitation
- Distribution
- Songs of Thanksgiving *(As the elements served)*
 - LUYH #96:1-3 **"What Feast of Love"** (Tune: LUYH #95)
 1. What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the King,
the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!
 2. What light of truth is offered here,
what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life,
what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the King,
the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing!
The Word of God is given!
 3. What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the King,
the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

Words: Delores Dufner, OSB (b. 1939) © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin.
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Music: English ballad, 16th c. P.D. CCLI# 678905

LUYH #844:1-5 ***“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.
4. Therefore we celebrate the feast,
therefore we celebrate the feast.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
therefore we celebrate the feast.

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,
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LUYH #595 ***“Holy, Holy, Holy, My Heart”*** - English

Holy, holy, holy,
my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart pours out my praise to you;
you are holy, Lord.

Words: Spanish traditional; English tr. Sing! A New Creation (2001); Dutch tr. Robert De Moor (b. 1950);
French tr. Otto Selles (b. 1964) © 2001 Faith Alive Christian Resource OneLicense.net License A-711218

- We share communion together

Response of Praise

Closing Prayer

* God's Blessing

* Closing Hymn: ***“Joy Has Dawned Upon the World”*** vs. 1-3

1. Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation;
God's salvation now unfurled-hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
but a humble gift of love: Jesus born of Mary.
2. Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels,
as the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place shaped the earth in darkness,
cling now to a mother's breast-vulnerable and helpless.

3. Shepherds bow before the Lamb gazing at the glory.
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story-
gold a King is born today; incense, God is with us;
myrrh, His death will make a way, by His blood He'll win us.

4. Son of Adam, Son of Man, given as a ransom.
Reconciling God and man-Christ our mighty Champion!
What a Savior, what a Friend, what a glorious mystery!
Once a babe in Bethlehem-now the Lord of history.

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* Postlude

Welcome to everyone! We are so glad you chose to worship with us this Lord's Day. Today, we are having Holy Communion. Please reflect in reverence as we symbolize the body of Christ and His redemption for us. *The Lord's Supper is a table of grace. All those who have received the grace of Christ and confess Him as Lord and Savior of their life are warmly invited to participate. Yet, know too that there is also 'grace' from this community of faith for those who do not yet confess Christ as Lord. And if that's the case then we encourage you not to partake until you have the genuine desire to receive God's grace and are ready to proclaim Christ as your Lord.* After joining us in worship, please join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Kurt Selles from Back to God Ministries International will be speaking at our evening service today at 6:30 p.m.

Next Sunday evening, December 15, we will have our **Candlelight Service** at 6:30 p.m. Come and join us.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Wilma De Boer**. Wilma passed away this past Tuesday. The memorial service will be held on Tuesday, December 17 at 12:30 p.m. at First CRC. Continue to pray for the family as they make plans in the coming days. May they experience God's peace at this time.

New Members! At its recent meetings the council had the privilege of receiving the membership transfers of Bob De Groot from Crosspoint CRC of Chino, CA and Harmen and Susan De Jong and their daughter Katherine from Bethel CRC in Lynden, WA. We want to warmly welcome them into our church family and we look forward to publicly introducing them to the church body on a Sunday morning in the near future!

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!

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 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)

Today, following the morning service, you will have an opportunity to sign up for a casserole, or dessert to bring for the **Friendship House** this week. Servers are also needed. Any monetary donations to help with expenses will be accepted also. Please bring the food to the church kitchen on Wednesday, December 11 by 4:00 PM. Have your casseroles cooked and hot.

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

Youth Group will meet tonight at 6:15 PM.

The **Council** will meet on Monday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Men's Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30 a.m. at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington.

The **Cadets** will meet on December 11 at 7:00 p.m.

ADVANCED NOTICES

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 4 at 6:30 PM.

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.

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 jknoes14@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

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.

Groundwork: Mighty God - As we continue to anticipate and think about the birth of Jesus Christ, we encounter Isaiah's second name for our Messiah: Mighty God. Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 9:6-7 and Colossians 2:15 to discover how a baby who will later appear weak as he dies on a cross really is our Mighty God. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

It's a Givin' Thing - Liz and Lucille are trying to get the perfect gift for one another—with surprising results. And how can Scooter demonstrate a giving spirit when he meets a lizard without a home? 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 Peace. Through Jesus Christ, God gives us peace. In what area of your life do you most need God's peace? How might you be a peacemaker this week? Wonder and talk about that this week. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUN	10:30 AM	Morning Service
	11:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	6:15 PM	Young People
	6:30 PM	Evening Service
MON	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
TUES	7:00 PM	Vida Nueva Bible Study
WED	6:30 AM	Men's Breakfast Bible Study at Sheri's
	4:00 PM	Friendship House
	7:00 PM	Cadets

NURSERY

Today: Julie Speck, Kyler Houck, Jordan Feddema

Next Week: Briana Vander Kooy, Nathan Van Beek, Kennedy Donaldson

Candlelight Service: Juli Oostra, Julissa Oostra, Rayahna Oostra

GREETERS

Today - Rovers: Elders Dave Visser & Henry Hammingh

AM: Hank & Sylvia Van Zanten, Greg & Beth Boon

Next Week Rovers: Keith & Jean Rasmussen

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

Candlelight Service: Larry & Margaret Vander Pol

USHERS

Today: Henry Hammingh, Wiebe Van der Hoek, Henry Van Zanten Jr.

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

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

SOUND SYSTEM

Today: Tim Hibma, Henry Hammingh

Next Week: Henry Van Zanten, Devin Van Zanten

Candlelight Service: Tim Hibma

PROJECTION

Today: Hannah Van Hofwegen

Next Week: Josh Hammingh

Candlelight Service: Tim Hibma

VIDEO TAPING

Today: Brandon Speck

Next Week: Mike Hibma

Candlelight Service: Carson Blom

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Today: Teacher: Marjo Rouw

Assistants: Johnna Van der Hoek, Kayla Van Hofwegen

Next Week: Teacher: Heather Van Hofwegen

Assistants: Julie Speck, Trevor Blom

COFFEE HOSTS

Today: Henry & Sharon Kuipers, Joe LeClair, Keith & Jean Rasmussen

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

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: Sylvia Van Zanten

Next Week: Vida Nueva

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Today: Tim Van Hofwegen

Accompanist: Shirley Boonstra

Next Week: None

TRANSPORTATION CARE TEAM

December 8: Henry & Jayne Hammingh

December 15: Shirley Boonstra

OFFERING:

December 8

AM: General Fund

Second AM Offering: Benevolent Fund

PM: Faith House

December 15

AM: General Fund

PM: Neighbors in Need

6:30 P.M. Worship Service

Pianist: Shirley Boonstra

Welcome/Announcements

Prayer for Worship

Opening Songs of Praise: Led by Tim Van Hofwegen

"Love Divine, Love Excelling" LUYH #351:1,3,4

"Soon and Very Soon" LUYH #482:1-3

"Beautiful Savior" LUYH #17:1,3,4

Message: ***Back to God Ministries International – Kurt Selles***

Time of Prayer

Offering: Faith House

* 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 CONCERN:

We express our Christian sympathy to the family of **Wilma De Boer**. Wilma passed away this past Tuesday. A memorial service will be held on 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:

Elaine Hammingh had surgery this week and had a plate put in her upper arm. She will begin therapy in a few weeks. Pray for complete healing for Elaine.

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.

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:

Calvin Theological Seminary: Christmas festivities - As the seminary celebrates cultures and food at our annual "Christmas around the World" dinner, remember our international students from 26 countries and Puerto Rico, and their families back home. Pray for students and families who are able to travel home for the holidays, and those who cannot.

Resonate Global Mission: Sierra Leone - Resonate missionary Istifanus Bahago in Sierra Leone gives thanks for the Kabala Christian School. Started more than a decade ago, the school provides Christ-centered education, and through this community children from Muslim homes are coming to Christ and sharing the gospel with their peers and parents! Praise God!

Chaplaincy and Care Ministry: Counselors - Pastoral counselors have additional specialized training and credentials in counseling. Instead of circulating through an institution and visiting with folks at all levels of comfort or crisis; these chaplains often spend their day in an office seeing people with acute personal, psychological, and/or family issues. Please pray for them as they express the love of Christ in this unique environment.

Disability Concerns: Fellowship - The good news is for everyone! Pray that churches will warmly welcome all worshipers attending Advent and Christmas events this month, including children and adults who are hard of hearing or visually impaired and people with mobility impairments, developmental disabilities such as autism, and mental illnesses.

Resonate Global Mission: Church planters - Pray for Resonate church plant partners throughout Canada and the United States as they engage people in their communities this Christmas season. People who do not know Jesus may be more open to learning more about him. Ask the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts.

Back to God Ministries International: Russian ministry - Artur said that he was planning to commit suicide when he found our program on the radio at his home in Siberia. As he listened, he felt the darkness and pain in his life begin to lift. He later called the radio station to thank them for broadcasting the program and told them his story. Pray that Artur will continue to find hope in Christ as well as support from his community.