

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

November 15, 2020

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

"In Christ alone my hope is found;"

Prelude

Welcome

***Sung Call to Worship: "O Church Arise":1, 3, 4 (Getty)**

1. O Church arise and put your armour on;
hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong,
in the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
we'll stand against the devil's lies;
an army bold whose battle cry is Love,
reaching out to those in darkness.

3. Come see the cross,
where love and mercy meet,
as the Son of God is stricken;
then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
for the Conqueror has risen.
And as the stone is rolled away
and Christ emerges from the grave,
this victory march continues till the day
every eye and heart shall see Him.

4. So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride,
give grace for every hurdle;
that we may run with faith, to win the prize
of a servant, good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day
when, with Christ we stand in glory.

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* Call to Worship:

Leader: Loving God, we come to you in worship and thanksgiving. You are greater than we can understand;

People: open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths you have shown to us in Jesus.

Leader: You are more loving than our hearts can respond to;

People: help us to give ourselves to you in worship so that we learn what you want us to be.

Leader: You are wiser than we can know;

People: still our minds as we worship you so that we can understand the things you are saying to us.

Leader: Loving God, in Jesus you chose to come to the world in humility.

You chose the path the world saw as foolish.
You used what the world considered weak.

People: We worship and adore you. Amen

* Opening Song of Praise: LUYH #521:1-3

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

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
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* God's Greeting

"He is my light, my strength, my song—"

Announcements

Call to Confession: (Based on Isaiah 30)

God's Word assures us: If we say that we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just
will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all
unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess
our sin to God. —based on 1 John 1:8-9, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance (Based on Isaiah 53):

Leader: Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been
revealed? He grew up before him like a young
plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he
had no form or majesty that we should look at
him, nothing in his appearance that we should
desire him.

People: **He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with
infirmity; and as one from whom others hide
their faces he was despised, and we held him
of no account. Surely he took up our
infirmities and carried our diseases,**

yet we considered him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

Leader: But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

People: All we like sheep have gone astray, we have all turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

God's Law: (Based on Philippians 2)

If then there is any encouragement in Christ,
any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit,
any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete:
be of the same mind, having the same love,
being in full accord and of one mind.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,
but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

Let each of you look not to your own interests,
but to the interests of others. —Philippians 2:1-4, NRSV

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

1. Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause your Word to come alive in me;
give me faith for what I cannot see;
give me passion for your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.
2. Holy Spirit, come abide within,
may your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin,
in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace;
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

3. Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
giving life to all that God has made,
show your power once again on earth,
cause your church to hunger for your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;
lead us on the road of sacrifice,
that in unity the face of Christ
may be clear for all the world to see.

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"This cornerstone, this solid ground,"

Scripture Readings: Psalm 23:1-6, Matthew 18:10-14, John 11:21-27, John 14:1-4

Psalm 23:1-6: ¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³ he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Matthew 18:10-14: ¹⁰ "See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. ¹¹ (See Footnote) ¹² "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? ¹³ And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. ¹⁴ In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.

John 11:21-27: ²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." ²⁵

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

John 14:1-4: ¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

Prayer of Illumination

Our Lord and our God, now as we hear your Word, fill us with your Spirit. Soften our hearts that we may delight in your presence. Sharpen our minds that we may discern your truth. Shape our wills that we may desire your ways. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Message: ***"Psalm 23 for 2020 – Safety Forever"***

Time of Prayer

"Firm through the fiercest drought and storm."

* Song of Application: *"The Lord's my Shepherd":1-3*

1. The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want
He makes me lie in pastures green
He leads me by the still, still waters
His goodness restores my soul

Chorus

And I will trust in You alone
And I will trust in You alone
For Your endless mercy follows me
Your goodness will lead me home

Descant (sung as echo to chorus)

I will trust I will trust in You
I will trust I will trust in You
Endless mercy follows me
Goodness will lead me home

2. He guides my ways in righteousness
And He anoints my head with oil
And my cup it overflows with joy
I feast on His pure delights

Chorus

Descant (sung as echo to chorus)

3. And though I walk the darkest path
I will not fear the evil one
For You are with me
And Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know

Chorus & Descant (2x)

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We Celebrate Communion Together

Summary of the Scriptural Teaching (Based on I Corinthians 11:23-26)

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Gracious God, we bless you for your continual love and care for every creature. We praise you for forming us in your image and calling us to be your people. We thank you that you did not abandon us in our rebellion against your love, but sent prophets and teachers to lead us into the way of salvation. Above all we thank you for sending Jesus, your Son, to deliver us from the way of sin and death by the obedience of his life, by his suffering upon the cross, and by his resurrection from the dead. We praise you that he now reigns with you in glory and ever lives to pray for us. We thank you for the Holy Spirit, who leads us into truth, defends us in adversity, and out of every people unites us into one holy church. Amen.

We Affirm our Faith: (Based on Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 75, 80

Leader: Our Lord commands all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup in true faith and in the confident hope of his return to glory.

People: **In this supper God declares to us that our sins have been completely forgiven through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which he himself finished on the Cross once for all.**

Leader: He also declares to us that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ, who with his very body is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father, where he wants us to worship Him.

People: **Alleluia! Amen.**

Songs of Response: 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 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, ©
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LUYH #840:1 *“Behold the Lamb”*

1. Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
slain for us- and we remember
the promise made that all who come in faith
find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of peace
around the table of the King.

*(During the singing of these songs the elders will be coming down
the aisles to serve the elements to those who have difficulty
opening the individual sets in the holders in the pews.)*

Invitation

LUYH #840:2 *“Behold the Lamb”*

2. The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
torn for you- eat and remember
the wounds that heal; the death that brings us life
paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of love
around the table of the King.

The Cup:

LUYH #840:3 *"Behold the Lamb" v. 3*

3. The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
shed for you- drink and remember
He drained death's cup, that all may enter in
to receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of grace
around the table of the King.

Prayer of Gratitude

* LUYH #840:4 *"Behold the Lamb"*

4. And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
to respond - and to remember
our call to follow in the steps of Christ
as His body here on earth.
And as we share in His suffering,
we proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
around the table of the King.

*"Behold the Lamb" Words and Music: Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart
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* We Profess our Faith: (Based on Psalm 23)

Leader: Holy God, our praise can never match the
wondrous measure of your mercy.
Our lips can never express the depth of
gratitude that our hearts feel.
In your providence we have been kept,
of your bounty we have received,
and under the shadow of your wings our souls
have learned to rejoice.

**People: You have led us through each decision of our
lives. Your goodness and mercy have
followed us all our days.**

Leader: By green pastures we have been led.
In the dark valley we have not walked alone.

People: Our comfort has been in your rod and staff.

Leader: We thank you that we are made to be dependent, that none of us can live without you. But most of all we thank you that you are dependable, naming us one by one, knowing each of our needs, and supplying all that we require and more, out of your eternal mercy.

People: Hear us, O God, as our hearts, at their best and at their humblest, give you the glory that belongs to your name. In you we find our steadfast and unfrightened hope through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #770:1-4 *"In Christ Alone"*

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on the cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

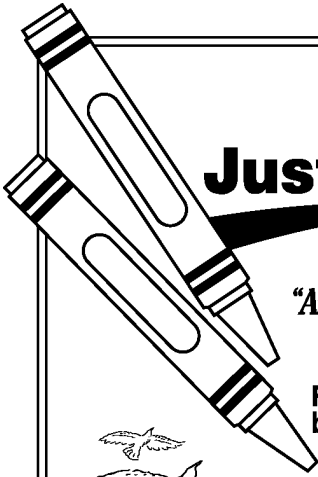
3. There in the ground His body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then, bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am His and He is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no human plan,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'til He returns or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!
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Postlude

Welcome! Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life." Our Savior invites us to His table, a table of love that has been prepared for us. Jesus, Our Savior, lived, died and lives again for each one of 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.* Let us worship our God today and praise Him for His love.

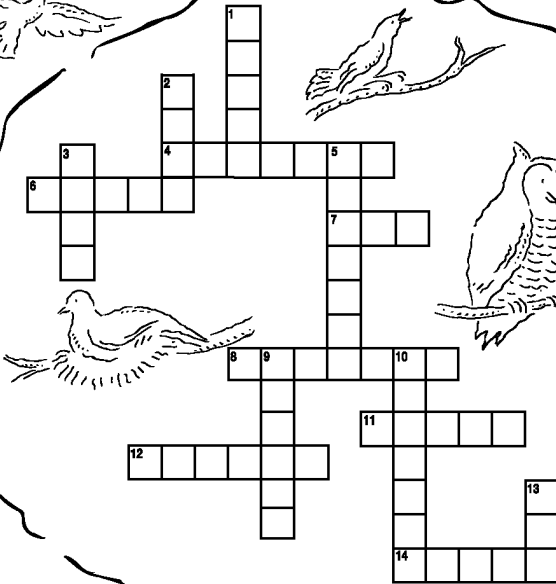
	Today	Next Week
Sound:	Henry Van Zanten	Henry Hammingh
Video:	Carson Blom	Tim Hibma
Projection:	Josh Hammingh	Hannah Van Hofwegen
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund



Just for KIDS

"And God said, ...let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." Genesis 1:20

Find the bird mentioned in each of the verses below. Fit it into the boxes in the puzzle.



1. Numbers 11:31, 32
2. Genesis 8:8
3. Job 39:26
4. Leviticus 11:13
5. Mark 14:30
6. Job 39:27
7. Leviticus 11:16

8. Matthew 10:29-31
9. Leviticus 12:6
10. Job 39:13
11. Psalm 104:17
12. Leviticus 11:18
13. Matthew 23:37
14. Leviticus 11:19

1. Quail 2. Dove 3. Hawk 4. Vulture 5. Rooster 6. Eagle 7. Owl
 8. Sparrow 9. Pigeon 10. Ostrich 11. Stork 12. Osprey 13. Hen
 14. Heron



How can we PRAY for you? 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 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

NEW REQUESTS:

Adelaida Vega's cancer has become active again and unfortunately the new treatment is not as effective as was hoped for. A recent DNA blood test seems to indicate that this cancer may have also been with her since she was born. Adelaida is now currently taking some new medication pills with the hope that they can control the cancer in the weeks and months to come. Please continue to pray for her and her family.

Rinie Rouw: Recently Rinie met with his cardiologist. Following various fitness tests it was determined that his oxygen level and blood pressure remain in the normal level and the new medicine regime has stabilized his left ventricle disease. Rinie now has more endurance is less winded after exertion than he was before. His next appointment will be in approximately 3 months to see if an angioplasty is still advisable. Rinie and Jill are grateful for these results and continue to covet your prayers for the weeks and months to come.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

A brief update here on Chris Vander Wekken - his brain tumor is cancerous and also very aggressive. Chris has been transferred to the UW Medical Center in Montlake for both radiation and rehab. He will be there for at least a week, perhaps more. In the meantime, we encourage you to flood him with cards and also commit to pray. The best way to address the card is as follows:

**Chris Vander Wekken (Patient)
C/O UW Medical Center - Montlake
8 North - Patient Rehab (Room 830-1)
1959 NE Pacific Street
Seattle, WA 98195**

Hans and Aileen Meishke wish to thank the congregation for their cards of support and prayers. It's been a hard time for them, but the love and support they are getting from the congregation is helping them get through this time of change.

In addition, please also pray for **Elaine Hammingh** who has recently been suffering from an infection in the incision where her original surgery took place. Please pray that she can experience full and complete healing in the near future!

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; **Jerry & Marion Ekkelkamp** and **Mary Koopmans** at Where the Heart is in Burlington; **Case Lanting** at Olympic Place in Arlington, WA; **Wilma Paul** at Life Care Center in Sedro-Woolley; **Andy Pippel, Adrianna Swanson,** and **Lona Vander Griend** at Home Place in Burlington; **Sally Reehoorn** at Creekside in Burlington; **Bev Van Slageren** at family in Grandview, WA.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

November 15, 2020 - (Chaplaincy and Care: Chaplaincy Sunday) Today churches throughout the CRCNA are taking time to pray for and encourage the work of our 153 CRC chaplains, who minister to over 2 million people every year in hospitals, hospices, counseling agencies, long-term care facilities, correctional facilities, community service agencies, veterans centers, the military, and corporate workplaces. Chaplains are called to be a light in the darkness, to bring Christ's grace, peace, and healing to people who need it most.

November 14, 2020 - (Resonate Global Mission: West Africa) The Fulani people in West Africa come from a strong Muslim background, but Resonate missionaries are seeing people come to faith in Christ! Pray for Resonate missionaries as they disciple Fulani believers who are eager to grow in their walk with Christ and to share their faith with their neighbors.

November 13, 2020 - (Pastor Church Resources: Church leadership) As we head into the holiday season, pastors and ministry leaders face new challenges to create meaningful times of worship. They're growing weary of having to both improvise and meet a wide range of expectations. Ask God to fill them with peace and to give them wisdom, strength, and energy in the weeks ahead.

November 12, 2020 - (World Renew: COVID-19 response) Around the globe, millions of people are more vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic today than they were eight months ago. As Christians, we turn to God in times of fear and uncertainty just as we do in times of joy and celebration. Please pray that God's heart of love, mercy, and truth may dwell in us and show us how to face these present challenges.

November 11, 2020 - (Communications: Veterans Day/Remembrance Day) Today we remember the sacrifice of the men and women who served and are serving to defend our nations. So many citizens have given their lives or have served and returned home forever changed by their experiences. Pray for an end to wars and injustices in our world.

November 10, 2020 - (Resonate Global Mission: North America) Resonate partner church plants and campus ministries in Canada and the United States are on the front lines of bringing the gospel in our communities and discipling new believers. Give thanks for the many people who have found a supportive faith community in CRC campus ministries and church plants. Pray for them as they disciple believers to be witnesses for Christ.