

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

- Led by Mr. Greg Boon

November 22, 2020

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

"Speak, O Lord, as we come to you"

Prelude

Opening Song of Praise: *"Thy Word"*

Welcome

* Call to Worship: (Based on Psalm 108:1-4)

Our hearts are ready, O Lord, our hearts are ready!
We will sing and make melody! We will awaken the dawn!
We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,
we will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is great above the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

—based on Psalm 108:1-4

* Litany of Adoration:

Leader: It is good to praise the LORD
and make music to your name, O Most High,

People: **to proclaim your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night,**

Leader: to the music of the ten-stringed lyre
and the melody of the harp.

People: **For you make me glad by your deeds, O
LORD; I sing for joy at the works of your
hands.**

Leader: How great are your works, O LORD, how
profound your thoughts!

People: **You, O LORD, are exalted forever.**

—from Psalm 92:1-5, 8, NIV

Song of Praise: "How Great Thou Art"

"To receive the food of your holy Word."

Announcements

Call to Confession: (Leader's Guide/Screen – Led by Greg B.)

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance (Based on I Timothy 1:15, I Peter 2:24)

Hear the good news:

This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.

God's Law: (Based on Matthew 22:37-40)

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

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #755:1-3 "Speak O Lord"

"Take your truth, plant it deep in us;"

Prayer of Illumination:

Scripture Reading: Titus 1:1-16

Titus 1:1-16: ¹ Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—² a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, ³ and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior, ⁴ To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. ⁵ The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. ⁶ An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient: ⁷ Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to much wine, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁸ Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. ⁹ He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. ¹⁰ For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. ¹¹ They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. ¹² Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." ¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith ¹⁴ and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth. ¹⁵ To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. ¹⁶ They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

Sermon Text: Titus 1:1-2

Message: ***“God is Truth”***

Time of Prayer

“Shape and fashion us in your likeness.”

Song of Application: *“Ancient Words”*

* We Profess our Faith: Belgic Confession Articles 3 and 5
(Congregation/ Greg B.) (Bulletin and Screen)

Article 3: The Written Word of God

**We confess that this Word of God
was not sent nor delivered “by human will,”
but that “men and women moved by the Holy Spirit
spoke from God,” as Peter says.¹**

Afterward our God—

with special care for us and our salvation—

commanded his servants, the prophets and apostles,
to commit this revealed Word to writing.

God, with his own finger, wrote the two tables of the law.

**Therefore we call such writings
holy and divine Scriptures.**

Article 5: The Authority of Scripture

**We receive all these books and these only
as holy and canonical,
for the regulating, founding, and establishing of our faith.**

And we believe without a doubt

all things contained in them—

not so much because the church

receives and approves them as such

but above all because the Holy Spirit

testifies in our hearts that they are from God,

and also because they prove themselves

to be from God.

**For even the blind themselves are able to see
that the things predicted in them do happen.**

* Scriptural Blessings (Romans 15:13 and II Corinthians 13:13)
(Bulletin/Screen – Led by Greg B.)

May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power
of the Holy Spirit.

—Romans 15:13,

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.

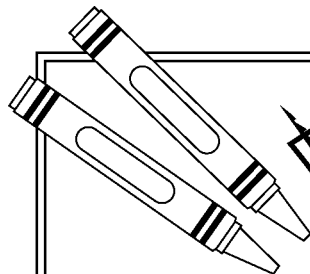
—2 Corinthians 13:13, NRSV

* Parting Praise: LUYH #776 *“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”*

Postlude

Welcome! A hearty welcome to all who have come to worship. We gather in gratitude before our loving Creator and Sustainer. Let us approach God with purity of heart and reach out to each other with care and joy.

	<i>Today 11/22</i>	<i>Next Week 11/29</i>
Sound:	Henry Hammingh	Henry Van Zanten
Video:	Tim Hibma	Tim Hibma
Projection:	Hannah Van Hofwegen	Devin Van Zanten
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund



PUZZLE

From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Good | Righteousness |
| 2. Death | Children |
| 3. Go | Life |
| 4. Evil | Come |
| 5. Adults | Bad |

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

“When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are _____, your body also is full of darkness.” Luke 11:34, NIV
(1)

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of _____.” John 8:12, NIV
(2)

“I have _____ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.” John 12:46, NIV
(3)

“For what do _____ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?”
2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV
(4)

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as _____ of light.” Ephesians 5:8, NIV
(5)



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:

In this season of thanksgiving we have much to be thankful for. Near the top of the list is the fact that both of our members who currently have Covid are doing extremely well. **Rhyson Oostr**a experienced very minor symptoms and is now out of isolation and in quarantine with the rest of his family until the end of the month. Meanwhile, **Sylvia Van Zanten** only experienced minor symptoms as well. She now has to remain in quarantine until Hank's test results come back sometime in the next 72 hours. Please take the time to give thanks to God for His continuous care over both Rhyson and Sylvia. In addition, please continue to pray not only for their families, but for all those whose lives have been radically altered in these past 8 months.

CONTINUING 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.

Chris Vander Wekken has returned to Mount Vernon and will continue his rehab at The Bridge. In addition, Chris also has a lot of big decisions to make in the near future regarding his care plan. Please pray for wisdom, discernment, and peace on his end as he makes those decisions. Thank you in advance for your continuous commitment to pray for Chris.

"In this time of Thanksgiving we are mindful of what we are truly thankful for. On behalf of Todd - this past year he is really doing great and is working mostly full-time. We thank Pastor John and the our congregation for all your concerns and prayers. We thank God for a great year and pray his health will continue to improve."

Thank you, The Klunders

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 21, 2020 - (Raise Up: Timothy Leadership Training: Stress) Many church leaders around the world are feeling the emotional stress of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. People are lonely and anxious. Domestic abuse is prevalent. TLT produced a lesson, "God's Unfailing Love," to address mental and emotional stress arising from the pandemic. Pray for its successful distribution to ministry partners worldwide.

November 20, 2020 - (Disability Concerns: Caregivers) This past month we gathered online for a series of meetings on caregiving. We thank God for giving us a space to learn, give support, make connections, and grow together as a community. We pray for ongoing strength and sustenance for all who are caring for others in so many different ways. We pray for peace, guidance, and ongoing strength for the journey.

November 19, 2020 - (Back to God Ministries: Today devotionals) Pray for Denny, who reads the Today devotions and writes, "I am incarcerated and am needing prayers for pain in my legs and hips. I'm needing a hip replacement, and thank God for giving me a new heart."

November 18, 2020 - (Resonate Global Mission: Germany) *Resonate missionaries* Mary Buteyn and David Kromminga work with newcomers in Berlin, Germany. Please pray for Mary and David as they disciple seekers and new believers. Ask the Holy Spirit to work through these discipleship opportunities to draw people to know Christ and his purpose for their lives.

First CRC Announcements

Sunday, November 22, 2020

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

November Birthday and Anniversaries: *Clarence Vander Griend*, 91 years, 11-6; *Bob & Marty Hitchcock*, 51 years, 11-28.

Sunday, November 22: Mr. Greg Boon will be leading our morning service today in Mount Vernon and Pastor John will be leading the morning service at Oak Harbor CRC.

The elders met briefly by Zoom last night and with the spike of cases and the recent announcement of more restrictions we suspect church attendance will be down in the weeks to come. Therefore will be adding the link to the past week's service to the bulletin announcements and as well to the announcements sent by email each week. **Last week's Sunday service link:** The link to watch last week's Sunday service online is as follows: https://youtu.be/kST9_x2Yzuo

2020 Special Services: Mark your calendars! This year's **Thanksgiving service** will take place on **Wednesday, November 25 at 7 PM**. Our annual **Candlelight service** will be on Sunday, December 13 at 6:30 PM. Finally, for the purpose of creating a sacred space for those who are experiencing losses (grief, depression, illnesses, etc.) we will have a special **"Blue Christmas" reflective service on Sunday, December 20 at 6:30 PM**. Christmas Day service will be at 10:00 am.

Angel Tree is a program of Prison Fellowship that serves incarcerated parents by providing a pathway for strengthening and restoring their relationships with their children and families. As a church, this gives us the opportunity to share Christ's love by purchasing a Christmas gift for each child which is given on the parent's behalf. Each child receives a gift valued at around \$25.00. On November 29 following the service, Angel Tree tags with the child's name, age and suggested gift ideas will be available for you to pick up. Please remember to do social distancing! After purchasing your gift, please wrap it and put the Angel Tree sticker on the **outside** of the gift. This helps correspond to the correct gift with the right family. Please return them to the table in the fellowship hall with the Christmas Tree by December 13 or

before. It is important to have the gifts returned by then. The families will come to an Open House on Monday, December 14 to pick up the gifts. Thanks so much for your help. If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia at 360-386-7442.

A new copy of Reformed Worship has arrived and is on the shelf in the hallway to be read.

Men's Bible Study/Breakfast- Our Wednesday morning Men's Bible Study will be meeting at **7:00 AM on Wednesday, Nov. 25 at Shari's** restaurant in Burlington.

To further aid simplifying giving when we can't all be at church, First CRC now provides options to give your tithes and offerings electronically. This means you are now able to donate using a credit or debit card, as well as give directly from a bank account. Check the church's website <http://www.firstcrcmv.org> for more information on these and other giving options.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prepare Your Heart - Starting December 2, 2020, World Renew, Resonate Global Mission, and the CRC Office of Social Justice will distribute a free email devotional to your inbox during Advent. Don't let Christmas presents overtake the Christmas Presence. Sign up to receive reflections on this year's theme of He Will Be Our Peace every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday through Christmas Day. Join us as we journey through lamenting injustice to looking forward to the coming of the Prince of Peace using the book of Micah. Go to justice.crcna.org/advent to sign up today!

FAMILY FIRE - FAMILY FIRE is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

Advent Devotional Series From Today - It's been a rough year. Let Advent help you see God's story in Christmas. This special devotional series takes you deeper into the true meaning of Christmas, the coming Savior. Subscribe at todaydevotional.com/advent. It's free!

Dive into Kids Corner's new website - Kids Corner has a brand new look! And we've got loads of new faith-building resources to help your child discover their part in God's big story. Begin each week with a KC devotion for kids, with Bible readings, reflections, and prayer. And you'll meet fun new characters in the Casey's Day comic strip. You'll also receive a weekly encouragement just for parents. Be sure to watch the encouraging Kids in Action videos, and of course, join the fun with Liz and Friends. Don't miss any of it! Subscribe to Kids Corner at kidscorner.net.

GROUNDWORK: JESUS CHRIST RESTORES - Have you ever wondered if you're too broken or if you've sinned too much for Jesus to love you? Study John 21 with Groundwork and witness an interaction between Jesus and Peter that gives us the hope and courage to love Jesus despite our failings. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

KIDS SHOWING THANKFULNESS - Check out our new kids' programs at www.kidscorner.net. Have you read Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day? Picture your worst day ever and ask yourself, "Could I be thankful to God even during a day as bad as that?" Read this week's devotions on thankfulness. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Generosity: We often associate generosity with financial giving, but we can also cultivate a generous spirit in our relationships. Ponder how you might practice this in daily life, perhaps by focusing on refraining from mental criticism, attributing the best motives to people's actions, being "present" and attentive when spending time with others (especially children), or doing acts of random kindness. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.)

Safe Church December Webinar: Raising our Voices - This webinar will feature two courageous people who will raise their voices to share with us from their own experience of abuse, what it was like for them and how the church responded in ways that were helpful, and perhaps sometimes in ways that were unhelpful. What can we learn for the future? Learn more: network.crcna.org/safe-church/raising-our-voices