

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
November 29, 2020 – First Sunday in Advent

* Please stand in body or in spirit

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Prelude

Opening Hymn of Praise: *"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"* –
Fernando Ortega

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FU1u6Lmz27A>

Welcome/Announcements

* Call to Worship: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Leader: ¹⁴ *"The days are coming," declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.*

People: ¹⁵ ***"In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land.***

Leader: ¹⁶ *In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety.*

People: ***This is the name by which it^[a] will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.'***

* God's Greeting

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: As we enter this season of Advent, May the love of God the Father, and grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be and abide with us all.

People: **Amen!**

Opening Hymn: LUYH 61 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
- Sovereign Grace

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JpvW9FU_Rg

"And Ransom Captive Israel"

Call to Confession:

Leader: We are captive, exiled, O God,
because we have, each in our own way,
chosen our own path, away from you.
We are hungry for wisdom and knowledge,
because we have, too often,
substituted our judgment for yours.

People: **We are lost, in need of guidance.**

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus; guide us and deliver us.**

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Words of Assurance:

Leader: God, our kind and loving Savior God,
has stepped in and saved us.

People: **God gave us a good bath,
and we came out of it new people,
washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit.**

Leader: Our Savior Jesus poured out new life
so generously.

People: **God's gift has restored our relationship with
God and given us back our lives.**

Leader: And there's more life to come—
an eternity of life! Christ is our Hope!

Lighting of Advent Candle: "Hope" (From the book of Luke)

Song of Assurance: "When Hope Came Down" – Kari Jobe
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kH7gXYUm0KE>
(During this song the Advent candle is lit)

Ministry Report: New Earth Recovery - Alan and Amy Muia

Prayer of Thanksgiving

* Song of Preparation: "Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven"
– Keith and Kristyn Getty
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxJH52wNPQ0>

"Rejoice! Rejoice!"

Scripture Readings: Matthew 1:1-3, 17-25, Matthew 2:1-12

Matthew 1:1-3: ¹A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: ²Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram,

Matthew 1:17-25: ¹⁷Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ. ¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us." ²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-12: ¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." ³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." ⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Prayer of Illumination:

Message: ***“Christmas According to Matthew - An Introduction”***

Time of Prayer

“Emmanuel Shall Come To Thee, O Israel”

* We Profess our Faith: (Our Song of Hope st. 3)

Leader: Our only hope is Jesus Christ.

**People: After we refused to live in the image of God,
he was born of the virgin Mary,
sharing our genes and our instincts,
entering our culture, speaking our language,
fulfilling the law of God.**

Leader: Being united with to Christ’s humanity,
we know ourselves when we rest in him.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our World finds rest in you alone.**

* Benediction

* Doxology: *“All Glory Be to Christ” – House Project*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyXb_Soe-eU

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.

	<i>Today 11/29</i>	<i>Next Week 12/6</i>
Sound:	Henry Van Zanten	Tim Hibma
Video:	Tim Hibma	Brandon Speck
Projection:	Devin Van Zanten	Josh Hammingh
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund



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@firstcrmv.com by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

NEW REQUESTS:

Please pray for Rich Knight and his family. Rich's mother has been battling cancer for nearly 7 years now. Last year she appeared to be clear, but apparently is now experiencing some cancer-related issues once again and will be seeing the doctor later this week. Please pray that she receives a good report in the days to come. Thank you in advance for your prayers.

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. 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 **Hank Van Zanten** did indeed test positive for COVID. Thankfully, the symptoms are relatively minor and he is doing well. Due to the timing of the contraction both Hank and Sylvia are scheduled to come out of quarantine later this week. We give thanks to God for His protection over each of them!

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 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.

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

"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

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 29, 2020 - (Worship Ministries: Leaders) Pray for worship leaders this Advent season. As churches plan worship gatherings in these unusual times, we ask the Spirit to guide them. Pray for clarity, creativity, and love with respect to all involved. May the celebration of Jesus' coming be the focus of the season. Pray that all may encounter Emmanuel ("God with us") in profound ways and be inspired, encouraged, and comforted.

November 27, 2020 - (Resonate Global Mission: Uganda) Resonate missionary Josh Shaarda gives thanks for the ways God is working through Freedom in Christ disciple trainings that he is leading in Uganda prisons. Praise God that people are finding faith in Christ or recommitting their lives to him. Pray that believers who are released will also share the good news of Jesus when they return home.

November 26, 2020 - (World Renew: U.S. Thanksgiving) We praise and thank God for his faithfulness and mercy in our lives, and for guiding and allowing us to serve brothers and sisters around the world in Christ's name. Thank God for the generous support World Renew receives to sustain its ministries. May God bless all individuals, churches, organizations, and government agencies supporting this work in various ways.

November 23, 2020 - (Kuyper College: Growth and guidance) During this season of Thanksgiving amid the challenges of COVID-19, we are humbly grateful to our Lord for his guidance, provision, and care as we have experienced increased new student enrollment in ministry and service-minded areas of study. Give thanks with us too for new students from Nigeria and Chile, expanding our international student population.