

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Guest Pastor Matt Borst
December 13, 2020 – Third Sunday in Advent

* Please stand in body or in spirit

“Meekness and majesty, manhood and Deity”

Prelude

Sung Call to Worship: *“God, the Uncreated One”* - Getty

Welcome

* Call to Worship: (Based on Psalm 50:1-3,6)

Leader: The mighty God summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to the place
where it sets.

**People: Our God comes and will not be silent.
God calls, and we respond to his love.**

Leader: The heavens declare God’s righteousness.

People: We tell out God’s glories!

Leader: Offer up to God your thanksgiving.

**People: And our God will hear us, save us,
and stay with us forever.**

—based on Psalm 50:1-3, 6

* God’s Greeting:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: On this third Sunday of Advent, may the love
of God the Father, and the grace of Jesus
the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be and abide with us all.

People: Amen!

* Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

– Fernando Ortega

"In perfect harmony, the Man who is God."

Announcements:

Invitation to Transformed Living – Longing for Redemption

Scripture and Refrain: Sing! #96 "Psalm 40"

Sing! #96: ***Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong take heart!***

Reader #1: I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

Reader #2: Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

Reader #1: You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

Refrain: ***Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong take heart!***

Reader #1: Sacrifice and burnt offering you did not desire, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

Reader#2: Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

Reader #1: I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.

Reader #2: I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

Refrain: ***Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong take heart!***

Words of Assurance: (Based on Jeremiah 33:14-16)

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."
People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness. In Christ, we are made right with God.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Lighting of Advent Candle: "Love" (From II Samuel)

Song of Preparation: LUYH #72 "Imagine" v. 1-2
(During the singing of this verse the Advent candle is lit)

"Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,"

* Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "***The Hopes and Fears of All the Years***"

Time of Prayer

"Kneels in humility and washes our feet."

Hymn of Reflection: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" - JJ Heller

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

Leader: We are a people of hope waiting for the return
of our Lord.

**People: God will renew the world through Jesus,
who will put all unrighteousness out,
purify the works of human hands,
and perfect our fellowship in divine love.**

Leader: Christ will wipe away every tear;
death shall be no more.

**People: There will be a new heaven and a new earth,
and all creation will be filled with God's glory.**
—from *Our Song of Hope* st. 1, 21

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: "*Alleluia He is Coming*"

Postlude

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."
(Psalm 118:1). We **welcome** everyone to this hour of worship! Let us
offer our gratitude and praise to our Creator. May this be a time of
inspiration and joy for us all.

	Today 12/13	Next Week 12/20
Sound:	Henry Hammingh	Henry Van Zanten
Video:	Carson Blom	Tim Hibma
Projection:	Hannah Van Hofwegen	Devin Van Zanten
Offering:	General Fund/Neighbors in Need	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@firstcrcmv.com by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

NEW REQUESTS:

Please keep the Link family in your prayers in the days ahead. Yesterday (Saturday) Joel tested positive for COVID. Thankfully the symptoms are mild, but the family will be in quarantine. Please pray that Joel experiences a full recovery in the days to come and for God's protection over each one of them during this holiday season.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Adelaida Vega's cancer has become active again and unfortunately the new treatment is not as effective as was hoped for. A DNA blood test seems to indicate that this cancer may have also been with her since she was born. Adelaida is currently taking some new medication pills with 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: Rinie is in "monitoring mode" and exploring different answers through doctors appointments and medications. Rinie and Jill are so thankful for all of your prayers and words of good wishes, and they continue to covet them while they look forward to more answers and opportunities for better health in the future.

Chris Vander Wekken continue his rehab at The Bridge. 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.

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 is now experiencing some cancer-related issues again and will be seeing the doctor. Please pray that she receives a good report in the days to come. Thank you in advance for your prayers.

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)

December 13, 2020 - (Safe Church: Change) As we enter a time of transition with a new director joining our team, we pray for God's guidance and direction in our ministry. We are thankful for the ongoing work of our safe church teams and coordinators as they continue to work toward the goal of our churches' being free of abuse.

December 12, 2020 - (Faith Formation Ministries: Learning) Churches involved in our 2021 learning cohorts will start meeting together with FFM regional catalyzers in January. Pray for a collaborative learning process and mutual encouragement, and may all who attend be refreshed and equipped to minister in their churches.

December 11, 2020 - (Therefore Go Ministries: SERVE) Please pray for the 2021 SERVE season. Registration is open, and students are challenged to consider this year's theme, "The Unshakable Kingdom," and what that means for their lives. Join us in asking God to continue to prompt churches to send students on SERVE this summer while equipping host congregations to partner with us.

December 10, 2020 - (Resonate Global Mission: North America) During the Advent and Christmas season, many people come to worship services even if they don't normally attend during the year. COVID-19 restrictions, however, have made it hard to plan ministry events this season. Please pray that churches may find creative ways to engage neighbors and shine the light of Christ.

December 9, 2020 - (Calvin Theological Seminary: Holidays) Pray for students and their families as they navigate the holidays during the pandemic. With travel and gatherings limited, Christmas break will look very different this year. Pray that all may be blessed in this season of celebrating Christ's coming.

December 8, 2020 - (Back to God Ministries: Hindi ministry) In India, Reena lost her job and told our Hindi ministry team that she has been struggling. Still, she's thankful for the extra time God has given her to spend in prayer and reflection with him. Please pray for Reena as she and many others struggle with job loss during the pandemic.

December 7, 2020 - (World Renew: West Africa) This year parts of West Africa experienced significant flooding, and thousands of families were displaced. World Renew continues to serve in vulnerable communities as food security remains a challenge. Please pray for the safety of staff in this region and for peace, restoration, and resources for affected communities.

First CRC Announcements

Sunday, December 13, 2020

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

This morning Pastor John will be guest preaching at Faith Community Fellowship and Pastor Matt Borst will be guest preaching here at First. This evening, both congregations are invited to gather together for a combined Candlelight Service here at First beginning at 6:30 PM.

The elders met briefly by Zoom recently and with the spike of cases and the recent announcement of more restrictions we 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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsN32bxie94&feature=youtu.be>

2020 Special Services: Mark your calendars! 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.**

Bev Van Slageren wishes to thank the congregation for the Thanksgiving basket. "Thank you for the goodies. It brightened my day!"

Hans and Aileen Meischke would also like to thank the congregation for the Thanksgiving basket. "We really enjoyed it."

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.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Angel Tree: Thanks to those who picked up an Angel Tree tag to buy a gift for a child. All the names tag were taken. Just a reminder that your gift needs to be brought to church by Sunday, December 13.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sign up for Advent Devotions today - It's not too late! Take time to reflect on Christ's birth during this season of Advent with Monday, Wednesday, and Friday devotions sent to your email inbox from World Renew, Resonate, and the CRC Office of Social Justice through Christmas Day. Don't miss out: Sign up today at: justice.crcna.org/advent

Devotions for a Blue Christmas - In the midst of hard times, find strength and encouragement through God's word. A set of fourteen encouraging Today devotions reassure you that even during the darkest of Christmas seasons, you're not alone. Receive this free email series and ebook when you subscribe to Today at todaydevotional.com/bluechristmas

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.

GROUNDWORK: JESUS CHRIST CAME WITH A PURPOSE - In the season of Advent, we celebrate the fact that Jesus came into the world. Join Groundwork as we study 1 Timothy 1:12-17 to also remember the important reason why Jesus came into the world. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

HOW MUCH GOD LOVES YOU - Check out our new kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. This week it's all about how much God loves you. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

Hymnary.org - Hymnary.org announces next-generation mobile hymnal apps for iOS and Android, including Lift Up Your Hearts. The apps are free, and no purchase is necessary to access a number of features, including the full score of all public domain hymns, audio recordings of most hymns, and more. More info, including links, at hymnary.org/node/42126

Online Worship Learning - You are warmly invited to register for a free online learning experience held January 6-26, 2021, on key themes in worship and the Christian life. Register for free at worship.calvin.edu/symposium/. This experience is designed for all kinds of learners: students, artists, musicians, pastors, scholars, teachers, worship leaders and planners, and all worshipers around the globe. Sponsored by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and the Center for Excellence in Preaching

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Hospitality: Ponder this quote from Mother Teresa: “This Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God’s own concern.” How might you and your family love and serve others during this season? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices)

Advent Means Hope - With World Renew’s 2020-2021 Gift Catalog, you can help a family plant seeds to grow food after COVID-19 lockdowns, give a child the supplies they need for health with a nutrition kit, or provide safety for a disaster survivor. Choose a gift that gives someone who is poor and hungry the opportunity for a better life today and hope for the future. Give online at worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-552-7972.

CHRISTMAS WITH WORLD RENEW - Celebrate Christmas with us! Join World Renew for a virtual celebration on Wednesday, December 16 at 7:30 PM EST. You'll have the opportunity to hear from key leaders about how World Renew is continuing to share Christ's hope during a pandemic, in the face of disaster and injustice. Following that, choose two 20 minute break-out rooms to learn more and connect with us. Visit bit.ly/WRChristmas to register today!