

# ***Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!***

***Pastor John Knoester***

***December 27, 2020***

**\* Please stand in body or in spirit**

*"O Come, Let Us Adore Him"*

Prelude

Sung Call to Worship: *"Once in Royal David's City"*

– Francesca B., Danielle V.Z., Henry V.Z.

1. Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all;  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall:  
with the poor, and meek, and lowly  
lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern,  
day by day like us he grew;  
he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew:  
and he feels for all our sadness,  
and he shares in all our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that child, so dear and gentle,  
is our Lord in heaven above:  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he has gone.

5. Not in that poor lowly stable  
with the oxen standing by  
we shall see him, but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
there his children gather round,  
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Words: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848, P.D.

## Welcome

### \* Call to Worship:

Leader: Let us go, in heart and mind, to see what has come  
to pass. Let us go with the shepherds:

**People: Let us go to find the Savior!**

Leader: Let us go with the wise ones:

**People: Let us go to find God's promise, born for us!**

Leader: Let us go with the poor and humble:

**People: Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.**

Leader: Let us go with all the world,  
with all the peoples of the nations.  
Come, let us worship; come, let us adore him:

**People: Christ the Lord!**

### \* God's Greeting:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: As we celebrate this season of Christmas,  
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 Song: *"Gloria"*

*"O Come, Let Us Adore Him"*

Announcements:

Invitation to Transformed Living

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

Song of Response: *"We Three Kings of Orient Are"*

– Anne Murray

\* Words of Assurance: (Based on Matthew 1:21 & John 1:12)

Leader: She will give birth to a son,  
and you are to give him the name Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins.

**People: To all who received him,  
to those who believed in his name,  
he gave the right to become children of God.**

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

**People: In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

Song of Preparation: *"Little Drummer Boy"*

## "O Come, Let Us Adore Him"

Scripture Readings: Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and 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." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When 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. <sup>5</sup>"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup>"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.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He 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." <sup>9</sup>After 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On 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. <sup>12</sup>And 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: The Adoration of Jesus"***

Time of Prayer

*"Christ the Lord"*

Song of Reflection: *"To Thee My Heart I Offer"* – Elaine Hagenburg

\* We Profess our Faith: (Based on John 1:1-5, 9-14)

Leader: In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**People: He was in the beginning with God.**

Leader: All things came into being through him,  
and without him not one thing came into being.

**People: What has come into being in him was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.**

Leader: The light shines in the darkness,

**People: and the darkness did not overcome it.**

Leader: The true light, which enlightens everyone,  
was coming into the world.

**People: He was in the world, and the world came into being  
through him; yet the world did not know him.**

Leader: He came to what was his own,

**People: and his own people did not accept him.**

Leader: But to all who received him, who believed in his  
name, he gave power to become children of God,

**People: who were born, not of blood or of the will of the  
flesh or of the will of man, but of God.**

Leader: And the Word became flesh and lived among us,

**People: and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a  
father's only son, full of grace and truth.**

—John 1:1-5, 9-14, NRSV

\* God's Blessing:

\* Parting Praise: *"Hallelujah Chorus" – Handel*

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.

People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Call the church office at (336-2405) or e-mail: [secretary@firstcrcmv.com](mailto:secretary@firstcrcmv.com) by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

**NEW REQUESTS:**

**Thank God for his healing mercies!** Rich Knight's mother's tests came back recently negative for cancer! Praise the Lord!

**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.

**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.

	Today 12/27	Next Week 1/3
Sound:	Tim Hibma	Tim Hibma
Video:	Brandon Speck	Hannah Van Hofwegen
Projection:	Josh Hammingh	Brandon Speck
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

## **OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)**

**December 27, 2020 - (Back to God Ministries: Japanese ministry)** Pray for creativity for our Japanese ministry team members. With offices closed and in-person events postponed, they are looking for new ways to minister to people and record biblical messages.

**December 26, 2020 - (Resonate Global Mission: Mexico)** Resonate missionaries Ben and Amy Meyer in Mexico are engaged with small groups meeting through New Life, a new church plant. These groups include long-time Christians, new believers, and people who have just joined a church for the first time. "Pray that these groups draw people closer to Christ through evangelism, discipleship, and fellowship!" say Ben and Amy.

**December 25, 2020 - (World Renew: Christmas Day)** Christ's example shapes who we are and how we live our lives each day. Our generous, just, and renewing Savior calls us to be actively open-handed, passionately merciful, and enthusiastically restoring the earth. May Christ's love be reflected in us all year long, and we may all know his perfect peace in uncertain times.

**December 24, 2020 - (CRC Communications: Christmas Eve)** Tomorrow we celebrate the birth of our Savior and the redemption he brings to our broken, fallen world. As you ponder his coming, gather with friends and family, and worship (in person or online), pray that the peace and promises of Christ may infuse every heart.

**December 23, 2020 - (Back to God Ministries: Russian ministry)** This year Olga discovered that she could access God's Word using the internet right from her own home in Russia. "I'm not a young person, and before the COVID-19 lockdown I had very little interest in online Christian ministries," she said. Praise God with us that Olga has found a new way to connect with God and his Word.

**December 22, 2020 - (Resonate Global Mission: Lithuania)** A student at LCC International University recently connected with Resonate missionary Joel Altena and his colleague to talk about faith. After a long discussion and some prompting by the Holy Spirit, the student expressed a desire to follow Jesus. "Praise God!" said Joel. "We are eager to see how God continues to shape this student in the years to come."

**December 21, 2020 - (Edmonton Native Healing Centre: Light)** Dear Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, we give thanks for this day, and in this season when days are shorter we give thanks for the solstice that now brings the start of longer days and more sunlight. Our urban Indigenous community needs to feel that light as they struggle with addictions and live amid chaos; please send your peace, Jesus!



## First CRC Announcements

***Sunday, December 27, 2020***

### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

**Bob Pippel** would like to thank the congregation for so much caring support with cards and prayers in the past months. He is very thankful also for the Thanksgiving gift basket. Please keep them in your prayers as Bob isn't able to see Andy very much during this time.

***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=vJI0mbILBoc&feature=youtu.be>

*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**

**FRIENDSHIP HOUSE** – We received a very nice thank you note from Tina Tate at Friendship House this week for our recent offering gift. “All of us at Friendship House really appreciate your support. Thank you so much for caring for your neighbors in need at for giving them a hand to a better life.”

**MISSIONARIES** – Check the hallway bulletin board for Christmas letters and updates from the missionaries we support all over the world!

## **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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](http://familyfire.com). Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

**GROUNDWORK: FAITH QUESTIONS WE ALL ASK** - “Do we still need the Old Testament?” “Does God really love me? If he does, why is my life falling apart?” and “Will we make it through the pandemic?” Study Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 13, Romans 5:8, and Matthew 25:31-46 with Groundwork as we seek answers to questions faithful believers have sent us this year and grow stronger in faith together. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork’s weekly emails for future episodes.

**LOVING MY ENEMY** - Check out this week’s new kids’ devotion about loving our enemies at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). As you listen, remember that what bullies say about you doesn’t define you. God has already said who you are. Listen now at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) and subscribe to KC’s weekly emails for all the new content.

***CRCNA Position Opening*** - Ministry Support Services, a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church in North America is looking for a part-time Curriculum Developer for the Thrive project. Thrive is a 5-year grant funded project. Hours for the first year will be up to 18 hours a week and will decrease over the remaining four years. Visit [www.crcna.org/jobs](http://www.crcna.org/jobs) for a detailed position description or to complete an online application, attaching a resume and cover letter, no later than January 8, 2020.

***At-home Faith Formation Tip*** - The Practice of Hospitality: Kathleen Norris wrote, "True hospitality is marked by an open response to the dignity of each and every person." As you go through your week, focus on approaching every person you meet with this kind of open response. At the end of the week, look back at how this approach changed your attitudes and actions. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit [crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices))

***READING WHILE BLACK*** - Join CRC campus ministers Rick Mast (University of Alberta in Edmonton) and Mike Wagenman (Western University in Ontario) for a discussion of Esau McCaulley's new book, *Reading While Black: African-American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope*. We will meet on Sunday, January 24 at 8pm ET (5pm PT) over Zoom. You can register at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/reading-while-black-book-discussion-tickets-132675860069>

***Give Thanks for Abundant Life*** - Thank you for sharing God's abundance through the World Renew Gift Catalog in 2020. Your gift of a chicken, a water filter, or a goat can turn everyday events into miracles among people who face poverty, disaster, and injustice. You can still give online at [worldrenew.net/gifts](http://worldrenew.net/gifts) or call 800-552-7972.

***Marketing Career Opportunity at World Renew*** - At World Renew we are compelled by God's deep passion for justice & mercy. We currently have an opportunity for a Digital Marketing Associate to be based in either Canada or the USA. This position will support the team by implementing the digital marketing and communications strategies to inspire and educate World Renew's supporters. More details can be found at [worldrenew.net/careers](http://worldrenew.net/careers) or [worldrenew.ca/careers](http://worldrenew.ca/careers)