

Welcome to
First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
January 10, 2021

* Please stand in body or in spirit

“And though this world with devils filled,”

Prelude

Sung Call to Worship: *“Is He Worthy?” - Chris Tomlin*

Welcome/Announcements

* Call to Worship (Based on Matthew 2:1-12:

The Christ child is born!

All you who would find him,

prepare for a journey, as determined as the Magi.

All you who would praise him,

come with the faith to follow but a star.

All you who would worship him,

come with humility to the child

who shows forth the immeasurable riches of God.

—based on Matthew 2:1-12

*Opening Response:

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**People: The Magi who study the heavens follow
a guiding star!**

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**People: The peoples who live in the shadows see a
glorious light!**

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

People: The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan,

Leader: making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation
through the gospel!

**People: O come, let us worship the Lord,
for God has done wondrous things!**

* God's Greeting:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: 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: *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" – Sovereign Grace*

"Should threaten to undo us,"

Invitation to Transformed Living

Call to Confession (Based on John 3:19)

Prayer of Confession:

Words of Assurance: (Based on I John 1:5-7)

Leader: This is the message we have heard from him and
proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there
is no darkness at all.

**People: If we say that we have fellowship with him
while we are walking in darkness,
we lie and do not do what is true;**

Leader: but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light,

**People: we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us
from all sin.**

Song of Thanksgiving: *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*
– Fernando Ortega

"We will not fear, for God hath willed"

Scripture Readings: Matthew 2:13-23

¹³When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." ¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." ¹⁶When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." ¹⁹After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." ²¹So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene."

Prayer of Illumination:

Message: ***“Christmas According to Matthew: The Protection of Jesus”***

Time of Prayer

“His truth to triumph through us:”

Song of Reflection: *“In the Bleak Midwinter”*

– Keith and Kristyn Getty

We Celebrate Communion Together

Invitation:

Summary of the Scriptural Teaching

(Based on I Corinthians 11:23-26)

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

We Affirm our Faith:

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. According to his commandment:

People: **We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

Leader: Christ is the bread of life:

People: **When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

Songs of Response: *“Wonderful, Merciful Savior” - Selah*
(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

Prayer of Gratitude

* Call to Service

Leader: The light of God’s purposes has shone upon us.
Carry that light into another week.

**People: The star of God’s promises that led us to worship
now leads us to serve in God’s world.**

Leader: When we have met God in the light,
we cannot dwell comfortably in the shadows.

**People: We cannot enjoy our abundance and wealth
without thanksgiving and generous sharing.**

Leader: The glory of God shines on you today.
Others will see your radiance and rejoice with you.

**People: We seek God’s peace that we may share it,
God’s wisdom that we may live by it,
in Christ’s name. Amen.**

* God’s Blessing:

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

Postlude

Welcome to everyone! We are so glad you chose to worship with us
this Lord's Day. Today, we are having Holy Communion. Please reflect
in reverence as we symbolize the body of Christ and His redemption
for us.

	Today 1/10	Next Week 1/17
Sound:	Henry Hammingh	Henry VZ
Video:	Josh Hammingh	Devin VZ
Projection:	Carson Blom	Tim Hibma
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@firstcrcmv.com by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

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 taking some new medication pills with hope that they can control the cancer in days to come. Please continue to pray for her and her family.

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.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

January 10, 2021 - (Resonate Global Mission: Cambodia) Resonate missionaries Navy Chann-Chhay and Ly Chhay in Cambodia have partnered with other mission agencies to train more than 100 church planters in 2021. Give thanks for leaders who are stepping up to plant churches in their communities! May God work mightily through them.

January 9, 2021 - (Safe Church: Care) We rejoice in a new year, anticipating a time when we can safely gather again. We pray for guidance as we continue to navigate this time of physical distancing, knowing that this darkness has increased the space for trauma and abuse to exist. May we be vigilant as we reach out and care for our neighbors during this time.

January 8, 2021 - (World Renew: Latin America) Many families in Nicaragua and Honduras have been displaced following hurricanes Eta and Iota. The people of Latin America need our support and prayers to weather current hardships and the rebuilding process ahead. May God bless these people with courage as they move forward. We pray that rains and flooding will soon end and that everyone in shelters will stay healthy and virus-free.

January 7, 2021 - (Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations: Orthodox Christmas) Our Orthodox brothers and sisters in Christ are celebrating Christmas today. Pray with us that our brothers and sisters around the world may receive vaccinations soon, and that we may have a peaceful transfer of leadership in the United States.

January 6, 2021 - (ReFrame Ministries—formerly Back to God Ministries International: Russian ministry) Our Russian ministry team has been helping people hear God's Word throughout the pandemic and as they approach Russian Orthodox Christmas, to be celebrated tomorrow. Ask God to use the ministry's Christmas broadcast to capture hearts and draw more people into a relationship with him.

January 5, 2021 - (Resonate Global Mission: North America) It takes a team to plant a church. Give thanks for all the individuals and families serving on leadership teams of Christian Reformed church plants throughout Canada and the United States. Ask the Holy Spirit to encourage and guide these leaders as they serve their churches and communities.

January 4, 2021 - (Disability Concerns: Hope) Let's welcome the year 2021 with a prayer of hope. We hope for the day when visiting loved ones in care homes will not be restricted, when our school rooms will return to having the social space needed to maintain good mental health, and when systems of care will fully support the needs of people who are vulnerable.

First CRC Announcements

Sunday, January 10, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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: Last Sunday's Service: <https://youtu.be/EmnVbyCNEQc>

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

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. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

GROUNDWORK: SABBATH REST - Does Sabbath rest just mean taking a day off? Or is it more than that? Join Groundwork as we study Genesis 2:1-3, Exodus 20:8-11, Deuteronomy 5:12-15, and Hebrews 4:6-11 to better understand what God designed and intended the Sabbath for and how this spiritual discipline can draw us closer to God. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

How Do I Pray? - Prayer doesn't have to be complicated. And there is no single right way to do it. "How Do I Pray?", a free ebook from the ReFrame Ministries Prayer Team shows you six ways to reinvigorate your prayer life. It's yours free at reframeministries.org/ways-to-pray

TRUSTING GOD'S PLAN - Check out the new kids' devotion this week at www.kidscorner.net. Esther went through some very scary times but still trusted God's plan. Maybe during the pandemic, you've been scared too. 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 Engaging Scripture: "Visio divina" is the practice of meditating on Scripture using art or other images. Try it by reading the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15 and then meditating on the art in Calvin University's collection based on this story (tinyurl.com/ProdigalArt). (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit 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>
your prayer life. It's yours free at reframeministries.org/ways-to-pray