

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

January 31, 2021

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

"Jesus, lover of my soul,"

Prelude

Sung Call to Worship: *"Be Thou My Vision" - Sovereign Grace*

Welcome/Announcements

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: Let us worship God.

People: ***"He is our refuge and our fortress,
our God, in whom we trust."***

Leader: Let us confess with our mouths,
"Jesus is Lord," and believe in our hearts
that God raised him from the dead.

People: ***"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved."***

Leader: Let us call upon our true God,

People: ***believing him in our hearts, confessing him
with our mouths, worshipping him in spirit
and in truth.***

—based on Psalm 91:2; Romans 10:9, 13

* Opening Response:

Leader: Loving God, we have gathered to meet you.
We have come to listen to you, to seek you,
to worship you.

**People: You are the beginning of all things,
the life of all things;
you knew us before we were born.
In you we become; in you we live.**

Leader: Loving God, you are here and everywhere,
around us and within us;
you know our inmost thoughts.

People: In you we hope; in you we live.

Leader: You are the source of serenity, giving peace
that is beyond our understanding.

People: In you we are still; in you we live.

Leader: Loving God, we live in you; we worship you.

**People: Loving God, you live in us; we worship you.
Amen.**

* 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!

"Let me to Thy bosom fly,"

Call to Confession:

Sung Prayer of Confession: "Before the Throne of God Above" – Selah

Words of Assurance:

Leader: God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

People: **For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

—Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:1, NIV

God's Will for our Lives:

Leader: As we are to walk humbly with our God in lives of gratitude, let us hear again his Word: God commands us to serve him alone as God, to serve him according to his Word, to speak of him only with deep respect and love, to attend faithfully the assembly of God's people on the day of rest, and every day to let the Lord work in us through his Spirit; to respect and cooperate with all God-given authority, to live purely and joyfully with the gift of sex, to nurture human life as God's precious gift, to use the resources of this earth as stewards of God's creation, to use the gift of speech for promoting the truth in love, and to exercise purity of heart in all of life.

People: **May the Spirit of God guide us to be obedient to this Word. Amen!**
(At this time children ages 3 – 3rd grade are excused for Children and Worship)

“While the nearest waters roll,”

Overview of the Song of Songs – The Bible Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KC7xE4fgOw>

Scripture Reading: Song of Songs 1:1-4a

Brooke: ¹Solomon's Song of Songs. ²Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth- for your love is more delightful than wine. ³Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the maidens love you! ⁴Take me away with you-let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers.

People: We rejoice and delight in you; we will praise your love more than wine. How right they are to adore you!

Prayer of Illumination

Message: *“A Desire for Intimacy”*

Time of Prayer

“While the tempest still is high:”

Song of Application: *“What a Beautiful Name it Is” – Hillsong Worship*

* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A #1

Leader: Q: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

People: **A. That I am not my own, but belong—
body and soul, in life and in death—
to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.**

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.

He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

* God’s Blessing:

* Parting Praise: *“Be Thou My Vision”* - Nathan Pacheco

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.

	Today 1/31	Next Week 2/7
Sound:	Henry Van Zanten	Tim Hibma
Video:	Hannah Van Hofwegen	Hannah van Hofwegen
Projection:	Tim Hibma	Brandon Speck
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund



PUZZLE

God's Love

We can't measure God's love for us. It starts before we're born and continues for eternity.

Directions: Down the left-hand column, spell out the name of each number. Then write the circled letters on the blank lines in the right-hand column. Read the words on the right, from top to bottom, to see what Psalm 33:22 (NIV) says about God's love.

20	_____○	"M a _____
4	○○○○	y _____
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9	○○○	_____
24	_____○ - ○○	_____ ."

PSALM 33:22, NIV

Fourteen..... our
 Eighty-one..... hope
 Nine..... in
 Twenty-four..... you"
 Sixty..... us,
 Forty..... Lord,
 Seventy..... even
 Six..... as
 Twelve..... we
 Sixty-four..... put
 Twenty..... "May
 Four..... your
 Ninety-nine..... unfailing
 Seven..... love
 One..... be
 Twenty-eight..... with



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:

One of the earliest members of the Mt. Vernon First Christian Reformed Church recently entered the presence of Christ. Boukje Sluis Gray was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sluis, from whom the current church property was purchased. She was a member by baptism and later served with her late husband in Nigeria for many years. Her obituary can be found at the following link: [Baukje B. Gray-Sluis | Newton Bracewell Funeral Homes, Chico California \(nbcfh.com\)](http://Baukje.B.Gray-Sluis|NewtonBracewellFuneralHomes,ChicoCalifornia(nbcfh.com))

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please keep **Rich Knight** and his family in your prayers throughout the days ahead. Rich's father, Richard Knight, passed away suddenly from heart failure. May God grant each one of the family the internal peace that only He can provide.

We express our condolences to **Hank and Anjean Vander Veen**. Anjean's sister, Freda Visser, passed away at a nursing home in Lynden. Please commit to upholding all of Freda's loved ones in your prayers throughout the days ahead.

Please continue to pray **for Adelaida Vega**. 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 is continuing rehab at The Bridge. His course of radiation is complete. Pray that it has eradicated all of the tumor and thank you in advance for your continued 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 30, 2021 - (Raise Up: Global Coffee Break: Encouragement)

Please pray that our Global Coffee Break groups and leaders will be encouraged as some groups face difficulty and find it hard to meet. May we be able to resource, lead, and encourage these churches and groups so that they can continue to thrive amid difficult situations.

January 31, 2021 - (Chaplaincy and Care: Veterans) Chaplains who serve veterans are increasingly busy as large numbers of young men and women return from recent war fronts with obvious physical injuries or less obvious cognitive and emotional injuries. Pray for strength and resilience for our chaplains serving in hospitals and in long-term care facilities where COVID-19 has taken an immense toll on patients, families, and staff.

January 28, 2021 - (Resonate Global Mission: Training) The church is growing rapidly in many places around the world and needs leaders, but not everyone has access to affordable training. Give thanks for the many believers who have participated in Timothy Leadership Training facilitated by Resonate missionaries. Pray for them as they lead ministries, disciple people, and serve communities.

January 27, 2021 - (Pastor Church Resources: Wisdom and love) In some ways, congregations are like families. There are good times, laughter, tears, and, on occasion, significant strife. Pray for our consultants who work with churches experiencing challenging situations. May God give them wisdom as they offer assistance and counsel. Pray for all of our congregations as they navigate life together.

January 26, 2021 - (World Renew: East Africa) For vulnerable communities in East Africa, the climate can strongly affect livelihoods. The rainy season has come, but the Mwanza area is receiving less rain than required for a sufficient crop yield this year. In lake regions of Uganda significant flooding is destroying farms, latrines, and homes. Please pray for these communities affected by climate concerns.

January 25, 2021 - (Resonate Global Mission: Worldwide) Teachers have a lot of influence in students' lives. Pray for educators who participate in Educational Care training facilitated by Resonate missionaries throughout the world. Ask the Holy Spirit to work through these educators as they teach students and share the Christian faith in the classroom.

First CRC Announcements

Sunday, January 31, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

2021 Synod - Human Sexuality Report: Due to the rapidly changing sexual mores within our culture today – the 2016 Synod (the annual general assembly of the Christian Reformed Church) commissioned a study committee to articulate a “Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality” to be used as guidance for churches in our denomination. Five years later (not so ‘rapid’) this report is completed and will be presented at the 2021 Synod. Recently the elders have been reviewing this report and for the most part have been encouraged by the tenor and wisdom of the report itself. It’s also one of the main reasons for our current sermon series on the Song of Songs. If you are interested in reading the entire 175 page report you may do so by clicking on the following link: https://www.crcna.org/sites/default/files/human_sexuality_report_2020.pdf

If you would like to read the 12 page executive summary of the report or the 4 page Banner article about it – these are currently available on the walkway shelf in the breezeway between the sanctuary and the church fellowship hall. If you have any questions/concerns/expressions of gratitude about the report itself – please don’t hesitate to contact Pastor John or your district elder.

The elders met briefly by Zoom 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/83DnYFf2DWM>

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.com> 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

Disability Concerns Winter Book Club is starting soon! - Join us Tuesday evenings from February 2 through March 9 at 7pm EST for the Disability Concerns winter book club, where we'll explore John Swinton's new book: Finding Jesus in the Storm. To find out more information on the club and to sign up, check out the network article: Disability Concerns Winter 2021 Book Club (<https://network.crcna.org/disability-concerns/disability-concerns-winter-2021-book-club>)

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Engaging Scripture: Retelling Bible stories together helps those stories “stick,” especially for kids. Check out the one-page resource 5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids (tinyurl.com/5WaysRetell) for ideas. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.)

Church Now Conversation: Eddy Alemand & Colin Watson - Congregational leaders are welcome to join a special conversation between RCA general secretary Eddy Aleman, and CRCNA executive director Colin Watson. This conversation will focus on the challenges, work, and ministry of the two denominations as we head into a very interesting summer. Come join this conversation! The online conversation will take place Tuesday, February 2, 3:30-4:30 pm (EST). Learn more and register at www.vibrantcongregations.org/church-now

Race Relations Sunday is February 7 - Join with churches throughout the CRCNA in celebrating Race Relations Sunday on February 7. Search the website: crcna.org/Race for great resources on how you can encourage your congregation to increase their commitment and competence in addressing racism and working to dismantle racism in all its forms.

GOD IS THERE - Check out the new kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. David wrote Psalm 139 to remind himself of the truth that God never left him alone. You can know that God is with you because he promises to be with you in his Word. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

GROUNDWORK: PRAYER - You know Christians are supposed to pray, but do you ever wonder how to pray or why we pray? Study Jeremiah 9:12-13, Philippians 4:4-7, Psalm 66, and Matthew 6:9-13 with Groundwork to better understand the spiritual discipline of prayer and learn how we can cultivate this practice in our daily lives. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.