

**Welcome to  
First Christian Reformed Church!**

**Pastor John Knoester**

**March 7, 2021**

\* Please stand in body or in spirit

*"As the deer panteth for the water"*

Prelude

Sung Call to Worship: "Come Thou Fount (Above All Else)"  
– Shane and Shane

Welcome/Announcements

\* Call to Worship:

Leader: Let us worship God, for whom our souls thirst  
and our bodies long.

**People: Listen, listen to me, and your soul will delight  
in the richest of fare.**

Leader: We have come to hear the Word God has sent.

**People: God's Word will not return empty but will  
accomplish through us his holy purpose.**

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**People: Then we will go out with joy and be led forth in  
peace; the mountains and the hills will sing;  
the trees of the field will clap their hands.**

—based on Isaiah 55:2, 11-12; John 4:24

\* 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!**

Song of Response: *"All I Once Held Dear" – Robin Mark*

*"So my soul longeth after Thee"*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Words of Assurance:

Jesus said: Come to me, all you that are weary  
and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

—from Matthew 11:28-30, NRSV

God's Will for our Lives:

Leader: Since you have been raised up to be with Christ,  
you must look for the things that are above,  
where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.  
Let your thoughts be on things above,  
not on things that are on the earth,  
because you have died, and now the life you have  
is hidden with Christ in God.

But when Christ is revealed—and he is your life—  
you, too, will be revealed with him in glory.

—Colossians 3:1-4, NJB

**People: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and  
perfecter of our faith, who for the joy  
set before him endured the cross,  
scorning its shame, and sat down  
at the right hand of God.  
Let us consider him who endured such opposition  
from sinful people, so that we will not grow weary  
and lose heart. —from Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV**

Song of Thanksgiving and Preparation: *"Turn Your Eyes"*  
– *Sovereign Grace*

*(At this time children ages 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
are excused for Children and Worship)*

*"You alone are my heart desires"*

Scripture Reading: Song of Songs 3:1-5

Brooke: <sup>1</sup>All night long on my bed I looked for the one my heart loves; I looked for him but did not find him. <sup>2</sup>I will get up now and go about the city, through its streets and squares; I will search for the one my heart loves. So I looked for him but did not find him. <sup>3</sup>The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. "Have you seen the one my heart loves?" <sup>4</sup>Scarcely had I passed them when I found the one my heart loves. I held him and would not let him go till I had brought him to my mother's house, to the room of the one who conceived me. <sup>5</sup>Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Looking for Love"***

Time of Prayer

*"And I long to worship you"*

Song of Application: *"As the Deer"* -Yogesh Oraon

\*We Profess our Faith: Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**—Apostles' Creed**

\*God's Blessing:

**Leader:** Sisters and brothers,  
let us claim the freedom Christ gives us  
by his self-giving on the cross.  
May he enable us to serve together  
in faith, hope, and love.  
Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Leader:** May the God of love, who shared his love,  
strengthen us in our love for others.  
May the Son who shared his life grant us grace,  
that we might share our life.  
And may the Holy Spirit dwelling in us  
empower us to be only and always for others.  
Amen.

Parting Praise: *“Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor”*  
– *Sovereign Grace*

Postlude

**Welcome** to a time of praise and worship of the Lord our God. Let us fill His house with songs of praise and feast upon His word. We especially welcome every visitor today. We are very glad you came. May the peace and joy of the Lord be yours.

	<i>Today 3/7</i>	<i>Next Week 3/14</i>
Sound:	Tim Hibma	Henry Hammingh
Video:	Hannah Van Hofwegen	Josh Hammingh
Projection:	Brandon Speck	Carson Blom
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

# First CRC Announcements

**March 7, 2021**

## **OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

**Happy Anniversary to Keith and Jean Rasmussen**, who celebrate their 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary on the 16<sup>th</sup> this month.

**Happy Birthday to Nell Annema**, who turns 94 years young on March 11, and a happy belated birthday to **Marjean DeGroot**, who turned 94 on February 3.

**Men's Breakfast Bible Study** is starting back up again on Weds., March 10 at 7am at Shari's Restaurant.

**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: 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.

Dear Friends,

One of the more famous and outspoken disciples of Jesus is that of Simon Peter. Jesus' first words to him were, *"Come, follow me"* (Mark 1:17). His last words to him were, *"You must follow me"* (John 21:22). Peter certainly had many stumbles along the way. Yet, throughout his life, even in spite of his many shortcomings, Peter strived to be obedient to Christ's command. Can the same be said of us? ... May God bless us as we travel with the disciple Peter under the ministry of Jesus throughout this Lenten season.

In His Grace, Pastor  
John Knoester

1. March 14 – Matt. 17:1-13, Luke 9:28-36 *"Growing with Peter – On the Mountain with Jesus"*
2. March 21 – Mark 14:32-42, Matt. 26:36-46 *"Growing with Peter – No Longer on the Mountain"*
3. March 28 – Matt. 16:13-23, Luke 9:18-22 *"Growing with Peter – Bold Confession"*
4. April 2 (Good Friday) – John 18:15-18, 25-27, Luke 22:54-62 *"Growing with Peter – Fearful Silence"*
5. April 4 (Easter) – John 20:1-18, Rev. 22:1-6 *"Growing with Peter - Confusion at the Tomb"*
6. April 11 or 18 - John 21:1-19 *"Growing with Peter - Back in Grace"*

***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/YJ46Dw8HFel>

*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**

***New Earth Recovery's 2020 Annual Report*** is up on the missionary bulletin board as well as on the shelf if you'd like to take a copy to read.

***Pregnancy Choices*** sends their sincere thank you for the Thanksgiving offering they received from our congregation.

### **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***God's Big Easter Story*** - Resource for Holy Week at Home - Families, are you looking for an easy way to celebrate Holy Week at home? DWELL at Home's devotional God's Big Easter Story is free to download. (And has a color-in printable!) You can read one devotion each day of Holy Week or combine readings over a few days. Find it at [dwellcurriculum.org](http://dwellcurriculum.org) under "Family Support."

***JOINING GOD'S TEAM*** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Like the people of the early church, we can follow God by helping our neighbors in need and coming together to praise him. In Matthew 18:20, Jesus told his disciples, "Whenever two or three of you come together in my name, I am there with you." Listen now at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

***GROUNDWORK: WITH ME IN PARADISE*** - Jesus speaks his third word from the cross to the man we usually call the penitent thief, who died on a cross next to Jesus. Join our Groundwork conversation on Luke 23:32-43 to discover how Jesus defines salvation in its simplest terms and the promise Jesus is ready to give us, if we make our request. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



***Follow the CRC on Social Media*** - Have you connected with the CRC on social media? Follow these accounts for timely resources, CRC news, encouraging blogs, and details on upcoming events and opportunities. Facebook - [facebook.com/CRCNA](https://facebook.com/CRCNA); Twitter - [twitter.com/CRCNA](https://twitter.com/CRCNA); Instagram - [instagram.com/CRCNA](https://instagram.com/CRCNA). We are excited to connect with you and your church—and to feature your ministry stories on our accounts!

***DRS Sunday 2021*** - Today, we are taking a collection to support the work of World Renew in responding to natural disasters in Canada and the US. In 2020, many DRS sites were forced to close due to the spread of COVID-19. This year, DRS is returning to continue the work they began prior to the outbreak. When members of our church give and go to assist in that work, we remind storm survivors of God's unyielding love. As the hands and feet of Jesus, we encourage storm survivors in their hope. Join us in giving.

***World Renew Opportunities*** - World Renew has some exciting opportunities for you to join us in our work of Living Justice, Loving Mercy and Serving Christ. See our websites for more details about these career and intern opportunities: Senior Marketing Strategist, Burlington, ON; Communications Social Media Intern, Grand Rapids, MI; More details can be found on our websites: <https://worldrenew.net/careers> or <https://worldrenew.ca/careers>.

***Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning*** - is collaborating for another session of dynamic classes beginning March 15. Courses include Greek Art, Astronomy, Age-Related Disease, Dead Sea Scrolls, History of the Black Church, and Political Discipleship with Richard Mouw, to name a few. All classes are on Zoom and recorded for repeat viewing benefits. Email [call@calvin.edu](mailto:call@calvin.edu) or phone 616-526-8777 with any questions.



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](mailto:secretary@firstcrcmv.com) by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

**NEW REQUESTS:**

**Chris Vander Wekken** has now entered into Hospice care. He is still in good spirits, yet, his body is growing weaker and there is nothing more the doctors can do. .... We give thanks to God that Chris is assured in his faith and is at peace with what lies ahead. He is grateful for your prayers and we trust that you will continue to pray for him in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

Praise and thanksgiving! **Jerry Ekkelkamp** has been released from the hospital to Birchview Memory Care center in Sedro-Woolley. **Jerry and Marion** are settling in well in at Birchview.

**CONTINUING REQUESTS:**

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.

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

**SHUT INS:**

**Nell Annema and Jerry & Marion Ekkelkamp** at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley; 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)**

**March 7, 2021 - (Resonate: Japan)** Give thanks for Mr. and Mrs. Pok, who were baptized in February! They struggled for years to find a church home in Korea where they could explore Christianity. But when they moved to Japan, they connected with a church where Resonate missionaries Jeong and MiSook Gho are leaders, and the Poks committed their lives to Christ!

**March 6, 2021 - (Calvin University: Endurance)** Calvin University continues to hold in-person classes to equip students to think deeply, act justly, and live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world. Pray for our COVID Response Team as they work long hours to ensure the safety of the Calvin community. Pray that students, staff, and faculty will remain vigilant this semester and that infections will decrease.

**March 5, 2021 - (Faith Formation Ministries: World Day of Prayer)** We thank God on this day of prayer for inviting us to bring all our praises and petitions before him. Pray that churches and Christians around the world will develop regular rhythms of turning to God with requests and thanksgiving, and of partnering with God in his concern for the world.

**March 4, 2021 - (World Renew: Mozambique)** Record numbers of COVID-19 cases in Mozambique have threatened to overrun hospitals and exhaust medical supplies. The president ordered a curfew that disallows public events and worship services. Most private social events are also either banned or restricted. Ask the Spirit to encourage the church to continue to spread the good news in Mozambique.

**March 3, 2021 - (Resonate Global Mission: Worldwide)** Pray for Resonate's Journeying into Friendships Network of believers who are exploring what it means to be better friends to neighbors from a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds. Ask God to work through this network and these relationships to draw people into a relationship with Christ.

**March 2, 2021 - (ReFrame Ministries: Mexico)** Janeth recently lost her mother-in-law, and she reported that our Spanish-ministry devotions with a reflection on the mother- and daughter-in-law relationship in Ruth especially helped her in that difficult time. Pray for Janeth as she grieves the loss of her mother-in-law, and praise God for sending the right message at the right time.

**March 1, 2021 - (ThereforeGo Ministries: Mentorship)** Please pray with us as we work with five churches in their efforts to mentor youth and emerging adults and as we plan for future collaborations with churches in these efforts, since we are unable to offer SERVE mission trips for the second consecutive summer.