

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

***Pastor John Knoester***

***March 21, 2021***

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

*"Whate'er my God ordains is right"*

Prelude

Sung Call to Worship: "All of our Tomorrows" – Sovereign Grace

This spinning world by Your won hand,  
hurls ever on around the sun.

The seasons march at Your command,  
the old departs the new year comes.

And though celestial is Your gaze,  
You search and care for all our ways;  
we offer up to You this day,  
and all of our tomorrows.

May jealous youth and cautious age,  
determine not the step we choose.

Great Shepherd guide us through each day,  
oh, how we want to follow You.

Come, Living Way, our way make clear,  
let perfect love drive out our fear,  
be Thou our vision now and here,  
and all of our tomorrows.

When cherished saints the sun once kissed,  
whose beauty passed behind the clouds.

Let all our fond and longing tears,  
remind us we are pilgrims here.

We trust You, Sov'reign of our years,  
with all of our tomorrows.

Hands to the plow, we're pressing on,  
and running hard to win the prize.

Empowererd by the love of God,  
With grace before and grace behind.

For lo, what hope before us stands,  
You finish all that you began.

Eternal joy is in your hands,  
and all of our tomorrows.  
For lo, what hope before us stands,  
You finish all that you began.

Eternal joy is in your hands,  
and all of our tomorrows,  
and all of our tomorrows.

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## Welcome/Announcements

### \* Call to Worship:

Leader: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

**People: We rejoice in our God, who made a way  
through the desert of this world.**

Leader: Let us worship God, who has caused streams  
of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

**People: We are the people God has formed through  
Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!**

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

**People: We praise God for the grace that has saved us.  
Alleluia! We rejoice!**

—based on Isaiah 43:19-21

### \*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!**

## "His holy will abideth"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Sung Prayer of Confession: *"Go to Dark Gethsemane"*

Words of Assurance:

Those who love me, I will deliver, says the Lord;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honor them  
and show them my salvation.  
Receive the good news of the gospel:  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

—based on Psalm 91:14-15, NRSV

God's Will for our Lives:

If then there is any encouragement in Christ,  
any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit,  
any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete:  
be of the same mind, having the same love,  
being in full accord and of one mind.  
Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,  
but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.  
Let each of you look not to your own interests,  
but to the interests of others.

—Philippians 2:1-4, NRSV

Song of Thanksgiving and Preparation:

*I Asked the Lord that I Might Grow" – Sovereign Grace*

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

*"I will be still whate'er He does"*

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:32-42 and Matthew 26:36-46

**Mark 14:32-42:** <sup>32</sup>They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup>He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup>"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." <sup>35</sup>Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him.

<sup>36</sup> "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

<sup>37</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping.

"Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? <sup>38</sup>Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

<sup>39</sup>Once more he went away and prayed the same thing.

<sup>40</sup>When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

<sup>41</sup>Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

<sup>42</sup>Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

**Matthew 26:36-46:** <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup>He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup>Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." <sup>39</sup>Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

<sup>40</sup>Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping.

"Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. <sup>41</sup>"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

<sup>42</sup>He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." <sup>43</sup>When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy.

<sup>44</sup>So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. <sup>45</sup>Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup>Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Brief Review of our Current Lenten Sermon Series

Prayer of Illumination

Message: *"Growing with Peter – No Longer on the Mountain"*

Time of Prayer

*"And follow where He guideth"*

Song of Application: *"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*

- *Katharyn Scott*

\* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 37, 43, & 56

Leader: Q 37: What do you understand by the word "suffered?"

**People: During his whole life on earth, but especially at the end, Christ sustained in body and soul the anger of God against the sin of the whole human race.**

**This he did in order that,  
by his suffering as the only atoning sacrifice,  
he might set us free, body and soul,  
from eternal condemnation,  
and gain for us God's grace, righteousness, and  
eternal life.**

Leader: Q 43: What further advantage do we receive from Christ's death and suffering on the cross?

**People: Through Christ's death our old selves are crucified, put to death, and buried with him, so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer rule us, but that instead we may dedicate ourselves as an offering of gratitude to him.**

Leader: Q 56: What do you believe concerning “the forgiveness of sins?”

**People: I believe that God, because of Christ’s atonement, will never hold against me any of my sins nor my sinful nature, which I need to struggle against all my life. Rather, in his grace God grants me the righteousness of Christ to free me forever from judgment.**

\* 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: *“Whate’er My God Ordains is Right” – Sovereign Grace*

Postlude

A sincere **welcome** to all who have come to worship the Lord! May each of us have our faith increased, our love enhanced, and our courage strengthened. May God’s presence be very real as we approach the throne of grace.

	<i>Today 3/21</i>	<i>Next Week 3/28</i>
Sound:	Henry Van Zanten	Mardy Stevens
Video:	Devin Van Zanten	Tim Hibma
Projection:	Tim Hibma	Devin Van Zanten
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

# First CRC Announcements

**March 21, 2021**

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Men's Breakfast Bible Study** will be meeting Weds., March 24 at 7am at Shari's Restaurant.

**Beth will be out of the office** on Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Please send any prayer requests and bulletin announcements by no later than 5PM Tuesday, March 30. Thank you!

**We will be celebrating Good Friday** with an evening service on **April 2 at 7pm**. Communion will be celebrated as well.

We received an official Calvin University **congratulations to Josh Hamming** this week for his second place entry into the 2021 competition for the Hugh and Eve Meeter Calvinism Award. Great job, Josh! We are all so proud of your hard work to earn this accolade!

**Congregational Singing Plans:** The Elders would like to express their gratitude for the countless ways many of our congregational members have strived to live out Christ-like grace and patience towards one another throughout this past year. In doing so, you have genuinely been a living testimony of God's grace to us. We are so thankful for the unity that is present in our church family throughout such a difficult season.

It probably goes without saying that one of the more challenging topics of recent elder's meetings is whether to continue to adhere to current government guideline restrictions regarding congregational singing. As elders, we certainly always want to protect the health of our church family. Yet, provided there is a diligent use of masks and physical distancing - we also believe that congregational singing does not pose a significant increase in risk. In addition, now that more and more vaccinations are being administered we feel the risk is even less.

**Therefore, in the coming weeks, we plan to slowly ease our way back into regular weekly congregational singing. Easter Sunday morning (Apr. 4) seems to be an appropriate date to begin to resurrect our vocal chords.** The current plan is to sing one Easter Hymn at the conclusion of our Easter morning service. This will also allow the

opportunity for those who are not yet comfortable with congregational singing to exit the sanctuary during the last song video. As Christians, we want to be a blessing to those around us and also be good citizens. Therefore, we continue to encourage you to wear masks at all times in the church building and especially as we begin to sing together. Our prayer is that God will continue to lead and guide us during this unique and challenging time in the life of our church.

In His Grace, The Elders of First CRC

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 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/ghBIOhLs2nl>



*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**

Would you like to purchase an ***Easter lily or Gideon Bible*** in memory of a loved one? These items will be placed at the front of the church on Easter Sunday. If you would like to order, please call or leave a message for Angela at the church office (336-2405) by Monday, April 6. The cost of the Bibles is \$5.00. The cost of the lilies will be available soon. Make checks payable to the First Christian Reformed Church and turn the money into the church office. Lilies may be taken home after the Easter services.

***There is a new prayer letter from the Bos Family*** up on the missionary bulletin board and a copy of the Rehoboth Christian School newsletter on the shelf underneath.

### **REQUESTED**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GROUNDWORK: I THIRST*** - How does this simple human request make it to the permanent record of the gospel? Why does John want to be sure we remember that Jesus expressed thirst as he hung dying on the cross? Join our Groundwork discussion on John 19:28-37 as together we discover the deep theological meaning expressed in thirst. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

***Travel with Calvin University*** - Join professor of classics emeritus Ken Bratt for a tour of the lands around the Adriatic Sea in August 2021! Travel by bus from Venice to Slovenia to Croatia, and then enjoy a private cruise along the Croatian coast and islands, ending in Dubrovnik. See [calvin.edu/go/travel](http://calvin.edu/go/travel) for details.

**Give to God's Mission and Double Your Impact** - Don't miss out on an opportunity to double your gift to God's mission! Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar when you give to our special campaign at [www.resonateglobalmission.org/EasterGift](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/EasterGift). Holidays like Easter are an important opportunity to reach people who may not otherwise come to church—you can help reach them through Resonate's ministry! Join Us for Lunch - Resonate is offering a special opportunity for you to get in touch with our leaders, hear the latest ministry updates, and ask your questions in a Q&A. Join us for a virtual lunch on Wednesday, March 31, from 12-1pm. You'll be able to talk with staff from all over the world! Reserve your spot today at [www.ResonateGlobalMission.org/Leadership-Lunch](http://www.ResonateGlobalMission.org/Leadership-Lunch)

**At-home Faith Formation Tip** - The Practice of Listening: What would happen if we all listened to others just as deeply and lovingly as God listens to us? How would that change our family life, our work life, our interactions with our neighbor, or our online presence? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit [crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices).)

**Hope Made Strong** - In times like these, our hope does not disappoint us (Romans 5:5). Last year, World Renew partnered with 76 grass-roots organizations in 35 countries, touching the lives of 1,414,026 participants in their communities through local outreach. Because of your support, World Renew was uniquely positioned to assist families who were already living in extreme poverty when COVID-19 lockdowns began last March. To read stories of hope and how lives are being impacted because of your support, visit: [worldrenew.net/annualreport](http://worldrenew.net/annualreport)

## Prayer Guide



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:**

Please pray for **Mo Hargrove**, a longtime friend of Michelle DeKok, who is in the hospital with COVID. Pray for knowledge for the doctors and nurses taking care of him and for strength for his family during this time.

**CONTINUING REQUESTS:**

Leo Paul, son of long time former members Evert & Cory Paul, passed away March 3 of cancer related complications. He was also related to Wilma Paul. Please keep the family in your prayers during this time of grieving.

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.

*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.

**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 21, 2021 - (Candidacy Committee: Studies and placements)**

Seminary students are nearing completion of their studies and of the process toward approval as candidates. Pray for them as they connect with churches and other ministries about potential ministry placements. Pray also for the approximately 40 candidates approved in 2020 who are still awaiting a call. A list of candidates is available at [crcna.org/candidacy](http://crcna.org/candidacy).

**March 20, 2021 - (Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee: Spring)**

Individuals across the country are engaging in an Indigenous reconciliation process called Hearts Exchanged. Today, as spring begins, please pray that this process will help reconciliation take root in our denomination. May we be people who love justice and equity.

**March 19, 2021 - (Resonate: North America)** Moving to a new country is challenging and can be isolating, but many people have found a supportive faith community and place to belong at Resonate-partner ethnic-minority church plants in Canada and the United States. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly difficult on church plants and their communities. Please ask God to provide.

**March 18, 2021 - (ReFrame: Kids Corner)** During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Gustcher family children in Rocky Ford, Colo., have been recording puppet shows in their home and sharing them on YouTube for their church and community. Praise God for kids everywhere who are finding ways to share the good news during the pandemic.

**March 17, 2021 - (World Renew: East Africa)** COVID-19 cases have continued to grow in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. Residents still require a negative test result to travel anywhere, so World Renew staff are limited in their movements, adapting their programming in the communities where they serve. Pray for health and safety for our East Africa staff as they navigate the challenges of the pandemic.

**March 16, 2021 - (Disability Concerns: Book club)** Disability Concerns hosted a book club—Finding Jesus in the Storm: The Spiritual Lives of Christians Living with Mental Health Challenges. We are so thankful that there is space for important conversations about mental health in the church, and we pray that many people will use this resource to engage in discussions about mental health.