

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
March 28, 2021

* Please stand in body or in spirit

"Hosanna, loud hosanna,"

Prelude

* Sung Call to Worship: *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty",*
LUYH #575 v. 1-4

Everyone 1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul praise him, for he is your help and salvation!
Come, all who hear; brothers and sisters, draw near.
Join me in glad adoration!

Women 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things
is wondrously reigning,
sheltering you under his wings, oh, so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Men 3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper
your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriends you.

Everyone 4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath,
come now with praises before Him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt., P.D.; Music:
(LOBE DEN HERREN): Ernewerten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665; desc. Craig S.
Lang (1891-1971) © Novello and Co., Ltd. Admin. G. Schirmer, Inc.; CCLI #678905

* Opening Prayer

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

People: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Leader: Lo, your king comes to you;

People: triumphant and victorious is he,

Leader: humble and riding on a donkey,

People: on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

—Zechariah 9:9, NRSV

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest!

—based on Psalm 118:26, NRSV

* 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 Glory, Laud, and Honor" LUYH #146, v. 1-5

Refrain

*All glory, laud, and honor
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

1. You are the King of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
the King and Blessed One.

Refrain

2. The company of angels
is praising you on high,
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply.

Refrain

3. The people of the Hebrews
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present.

Refrain

4. To you before your passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.

Refrain

5. As you received their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
for you delight in goodness,
O good and gracious King!

Words: Theodulph of Orleans, ca. 820; tr. John M. Neale, 1851, alt., P.D.; Music:
Melchoir Teschner, 1615; harm. William H. Monk, 1861, P.D.

"The little children sang;"

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Confession:

Prayer of Confession:

Words of Assurance:

Leader: Hear the Word of the Lord from Psalm 118:
Let those who fear the Lord say,
"His steadfast love endures for ever."
Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me free.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.
I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

**People: In Christ, God answers us and sets us free!
In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

—based on Psalm 118:4-5, 14, 17, NRSV

Song of Thanksgiving and Preparation: *"Jesus, Thank You"*

(At this time children ages 3 – 3rd grade are excused for Children and Worship)

"Through pillared court and temple"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 16:13-20 and Luke 9:18-22

Matthew 16:13-20: ¹⁶But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. ¹⁸n Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy.

Luke 9:18-22: ¹⁸Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" ¹⁹They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life." ²⁰"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God." ²¹Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. ²²And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "**Growing with Peter – Bold Confession**"

Time of Prayer

"The lovely anthem rang"

* Song of Application: "*And Can it Be*", LUYH #695 v. 1-4

1. And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain—
for me, who caused his bitter death?
Amazing love! How can it be
that you, my Lord, should die for me?

Refrain

*Amazing love! How can it be
that you, my Lord, should die for me?*

2. He left his Father's throne above—
so free, so infinite his grace—
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race!
What mercy this, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me!

Refrain

3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Your sunrise turned that night to day;
I woke—the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, your voice I knew;
I rose, went out, and followed you.

Refrain

4. No condemnation now I dread,
for Christ, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Refrain

Words: Charles Wesley, 1738, alt, Public Domain

Music: Thomas Campbell, 1825, Public Domain

* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 31-32

Leader: Q. 31: Why is he called "Christ," meaning "anointed?"

**People: Because he has been ordained by God the Father
and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be
our chief prophet and teacher
who perfectly reveals to us
the secret counsel and will of God for our deliverance.
our only high priest
who set us free by the one sacrifice of his body,
and who continually pleads our cause with the Father,
and our eternal king
who governs us by His Word and Spirit,
and who guards us and keeps us
in the freedom he has won for us.**

Leader: Q. 32: But why are you called a Christian?

**People: Because by faith I am a member of Christ
and so I share in his anointing.
I am anointed to confess his name,
to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks,
to strive with good conscience against sin
and the devil in this life,
and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation
for all eternity.**

* 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: *"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna", LUYH #145 v. 1-3*

1. Hosanna, loud hosanna
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.
2. From Olivet they followed
mid an exultant crowd,
the victory palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children
should on his bidding wait.
3. "Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer,
the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.

Postlude

Welcome! We cordially welcome all who worship with us today. With joyful hearts let us approach God and share kindness toward one another.

	<i>Today 3/28</i>	<i>Good Friday 4/2</i>	<i>Easter 4/4</i>
Sound:	Mardy Stevens		Tim Hibma
Video:	Tim Hibma	Devin Van Zanten	Hannah VH
Projection:	Devin Van Zanten	Tim Hibma	Branden S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Announcements

March 28, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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

Beth will be out of the office on Thursday, April 1st and Monday, April 5th. 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.

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/-MjltP8aelU>

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.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Beth at the church office (336-2405) by Tuesday, March 30. 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.

New copies of Today's Christian Living are available on the shelf in the hallway.

Melissa Stewart, the Office Administrator with **Youth Dynamics** located in Burlington, WA is currently hiring for a part-time Office Assistant position. We were hoping you may know of someone who is passionate about sharing Jesus with youth and supporting our team in the PNW. Please find attached the job description. Although the hours are listed from Monday-Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm there may be some flexibility to work around schedules. Please direct any interested candidates to apply on our website at the following location: <https://yd.org/join-our-team/full-time-staff/>

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

GROUNDWORK: FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS - In the finality of Jesus Christ's dying words we discover hope. Join our Groundwork conversation on Luke 23:26-31, 44-49 to understand Jesus' experience and see how he teaches us about our relationship with God and life after death in one simple dying sentence. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

JESUS IS MY LIFELINE - As we prepare for Easter, check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Jesus knew that saving us meant he had to die on the cross. But he did it. He loved you so much that he even gave his own life in order to save you. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

On the Road to Witness - Are you ready to reimagine evangelism and discipleship in a world changed by COVID? Do you feel the need to reignite your congregation's passion for mission? Are you passionate about sharing your faith? Then Resonate Global Mission's Glocal Mission Summit is for you! Join us Thursday, May 13, 2021 through Saturday, May 15, 2021 for this VIRTUAL conference. It's free to attend. Learn more and register at www.ResonateGlobalMission.org/Glocal

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Listening: Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "Just as love to God begins with listening to His Word, so love for the brethren is learning to listen to them." Who might you show this kind of "listening love" to in the coming week? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.)

Movie Discussion: There's Something in the Water - Do you love discussing movies with other folks? Don't miss the opportunity to discuss "There's Something in the Water" in our different regional discussion groups. Groups will also discuss ways we can care for creation as believers! www.eventbrite.com/o/crc-climate-witness-project-17315538204

The Annual Banner Appeal is underway! - The 2021 appeal for The Banner, the CRC's award-winning monthly magazine, has started. The Banner is delivered free in print and online, and this annual donation appeal makes it possible. To help keep this community conversation going please give online now at: thebanner.org/donate



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.

NEW REQUESTS:

Chris van der Wekken passed away peacefully Monday morning around 9:35 AM. We give thanks to God for sparing Chris from any significant long-term physical suffering and pain. Please continue to keep his friends and loved ones in your prayers as they grieve their loss. The graveside service for Chris van der Wekken will take place on **Monday, April 5 at 11 AM** at Hawthorne Funeral Home and Memorial Park. This will be followed by a **memorial service at First Christian Reformed Church at 1 PM**. Congregational members and friends are invited to attend either one, or both, of these services.

A couple of notes regarding the services during this unique season. There will be congregational singing at the memorial service, but we kindly request that both spacing guidelines and mask-wearing are adhered to throughout. In addition, there will not be any lunch served on-site between the two services, but we hope to be able to provide a small snack and refreshments following the memorial service.

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.

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 28, 2021 - (Communications: Palm Sunday) Like the people traveling with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem many years ago, let us praise and rejoice in the One who comes in the name of the Lord, who has come to make all things new.

March 27, 2021 - (Resonate: North America) Pray for CRC members working to discern God's call in their lives through our Go Local and Joining God in the Neighborhood cohorts. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide them as they explore how to be the hands and feet of Christ in their communities.

March 26, 2021 - (Raise Up: Educational Care: Collaboration) As we work to revise teaching manuals, pray that we can be responsive to the needs of educators who come from diverse cultures. In ministry areas where schools are just beginning to reopen, pray that our teachers will be able to live out the principles of Educational Care in the midst of much stress.

March 25, 2021 - (World Renew: Disaster Response) Despite the pandemic, World Renew continues to respond to disasters. In July, we addressed flooding in Michigan; in August, we funded emergency supplies after the explosion in Beirut; and in November, we provided food, water, and temporary shelter to Latin Americans displaced by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. Please continue to pray for vulnerable families and communities affected by disaster.

March 24, 2021 - (ReFrame: Burkina Faso) Born into a Muslim family, Naomi first heard about Christ while attending church with her aunt. "I was moved to give my life to someone who loves us unconditionally," Naomi shared in a video testimony for our French ministry. Pray that her testimony will help to move other French speakers in West Africa to faith in Christ.

March 23, 2021 - (Resonate: Michigan) Pray for International Campus Ministry, a Resonate partner at Western Michigan University that serves students from around the world. During the pandemic, campus ministers have been connecting with students in new and creative ways that have led to deep conversations about faith. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue stirring hearts to seek and know Christ.

March 22, 2021 - (Pastor Church Resources: Challenges) Pray for pastors, worship leaders, youth workers, hospitality folks, sound and tech volunteers, and anyone who continues to work in challenging conditions to ensure that God's people can worship together. It's been more difficult to "carry on" than most of us know. May God fill his servants with all they need.