

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Guest Pastor Jon Westra
April 18, 2021

* Please stand in body or in spirit

"Savior, He can move the mountains"

Prelude

Sung Call to Worship: *"Goodness of God" – Sheri Link*

I love You, Lord
For Your mercy never fails me
All my days, I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In the darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father
I've known You as a Friend

And I have lived in the goodness of God (yeah)

And all my life You have been faithful (oh)
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God (yeah)

'Cause Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now

I give You everything
'Cause Your goodness is running after
It's running after me (oh-oh)

'Cause Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
'Cause Your goodness is running after
It keeps running after me

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God
(I'm gonna sing, I'm gonna sing)

'Cause all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God
Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God

* Opening Song of Praise: *"How Deep the Father's Love for Us" v. 1-3*

1. How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure
that He should give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss.
The Father turns His face away
as wounds which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.
2. Behold the Man upon a cross,
my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life.
I know that it is finished.

3. I will not boast in anything:
no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Words and Music by Stuart Townend, ©1995 Kingsway's Thankyou Music,
All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI# 678905

* Welcome

*Call to Worship: Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you,
he will quiet you with his love,
he will rejoice over you with singing.

- Zephaniah 3:17

* God's Greeting:

Leader: This is good news – the grave is empty;
Christ is risen.

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: This is good news – the light shines in the
darkness, and the darkness can never put it out.

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the good news – once we were no people;
now we are God's people.

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace
we now share with each other.

People: Hallelujah!

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: *"Before the Throne of God Above"* #682 v. 1-3

1. Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is Love,
whoever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands,
my name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.
2. When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see Him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied
to look on Him and pardon me,
to look on Him and pardon me.
3. Behold Him there! The risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless righteousness;
the great unchangeable "I AM,"
the King of Glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by His blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Savior and my God,
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

"Before the Throne of God Above" Words: Charitie Lees Bancroft; Music:
Vikki Cook; © 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship. CCLL# 678905

"My God is mighty to save"

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance:

God, who is rich in mercy,
out of the great love with which he loved us
even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ
—by grace you have been saved—
and raised us up with him and seated us with him
in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
so that in the ages to come he might show
the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

—Ephesians 2:4-7, NRSV

* Song of Thanksgiving and Preparation:

"You Are My King (Amazing Love)"

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted, You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again. (2x)

*Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
It's my joy to honor You. (2x)*

In all I do I honor You.
You are my King, You are my King.
Jesus You are my King, Jesus You are my King.

*Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
It's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.*

"You Are My King" Billy James Foote, ©1999 worshiptogether.com
songs (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing,) CCLI# 678905

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

“Forever author of Salvation”

Scripture Reading: John 13:31-35

³¹When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“A New Commandment”***

Time of Prayer

Song of Reflection: *“Turn Your Eyes” – Sovereign Grace*

“He rose and conquered the grave”

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #796 v. 1-3

“Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

1. Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus,
vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of thy love-
leading onward, leading homeward,
to thy glorious rest above!
2. Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus-
spread His praise from shore to shore!
How he loves us, ever loves us,
changes never, nevermore!
How He watches o’er his loved ones,
died to call them all his own;
how for them He’s interceding,
watching o’er them from the throne!

3. Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus,
love of every love the best!
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
tis a haven sweet of rest!
Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus-
'tis a heaven of heavens to me;
and it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee!
*"Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" Words: Samuel Trevor Francis;
Music: Thomas J. Williams; Public Domain*

* We Profess our Faith: Our World Belongs to God
(Based on Articles 24,28, 31-33)

Pastor: God remembered his promise to reconcile the world to himself; he has come among us in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word made flesh.

People: He is the long-awaited Savior, fully human and fully divine, conceived by the Spirit of God and born of the virgin Mary.

Pastor: Being both God and man, Jesus is the only Mediator between God and his people. He alone paid the debt of our sin; there is no other Savior!

People: In him the Father chose those whom he would save. His electing love sustains our hope: God's grace is free to save sinners who offer nothing but their need for mercy.

Pastor: Jesus stays with us in the Spirit, who renews our hearts, moves us to faith, leads us in the truth, stands by us in our need, and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant.

People: The Spirit thrusts God's people into worldwide mission. He impels young and old, men and women, to go next door and far away into science and art, media and marketplace with the good news of God's grace.

Pastor: The Spirit goes before them and with them, convincing the world of sin and leading the cause of Christ. The Spirit's gifts are here to stay in rich variety—fitting responses to timely needs.

People: **We thankfully see each other as gifted members of the fellowship that delights in the creative Spirit's work. He gives more than enough to each believer for God's praise and our neighbor's welfare.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Hymn of Praise: LUYH #797 v. 1,3 *"Sing! A New Creation"*

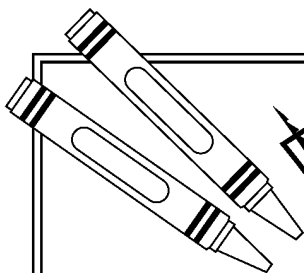
1. Sing! A new creation calls us: God's Son,
firstborn from the dead,
makes the drowning which befalls us into cleansing
birth instead.
Singing water, wild with wonder, washing,
more than what it seems,
baptizes and drags us under,
lifts us as our Christ redeems.
2. Sing anew! Creation flowers
as the Spirit draws us near,
safe from storming earth-bound powers on this ark,
though tossed by fear.
Sing as family, filled, forgiven,
fed by joyous tablegrace.
Baptized, we receive God's leaven,
rising in our time and place.
3. Sing, a new creation growing lifetrees
by the Father's stream.
Go and teach, send justice flowing, quench dry souls,
compose a dream.
Sing amens, alive and agile,
answering God's creating song.
Baptize peoples, parched and fragile,
in the Name that makes us strong.

For music see 796 Words: James Hart Brumm (b. 1962) © 2000 Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc. CCLL# 678905

Postlude

Welcome! Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy." Those are the words of the psalmist in Psalm 5:11. Whoever you are, wherever you are from, we welcome you and we invite you to "be glad" with us about God's goodness and mercy. Let us "ever sing for joy" and praise God with profoundly grateful hearts.

	<i>Today 4/18</i>	<i>Next Week 4/25</i>
Sound:	Henry Van Zanten	Mardy Stevens
Projection:	Devin Van Zanten	Tim Hibma
Video	Tim Hibma	Devin Van Zanten
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund



PUZZLE

FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

•••• DIRECTIONS ••••

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.



gain as or ear van an for give
gave her on it one other he an a

B _____ w _____ h each
 ot _____ d _____ give
 _____ e an _____ if _____ y
 of you h _____ grie _____ ce
 a _____ st some _____ .
 For _____ as t _____ L _____ d
 for _____ you.”

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Colossians 3:13, NIV

First CRC Announcements

April 18, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Dates to Note:

Worship Committee - Wednesday, April 21 at 6:30 PM

Evangelism Committee - Wednesday, April 21 at 7:45 PM

Men's Breakfast Bible Study will be meeting Weds., April 21 at 7am at Shari's Restaurant. They are studying the book of Acts.

Considering congregational singing: 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,

Around the world today many Christians still endure severe persecution. Here in the United States we are fortunate that physical persecution is rare. However, many of us are familiar with cultural pressure and/or oppression.

In the book of I Peter, the apostle Peter reminds us that Christians are *aliens* and *exiles* in an often-hostile empire. Yet, at the same time, we are also chosen by God and equipped by Jesus' work 'for' us and 'in' us to live faithfully in our dual identity.

In the weeks to come we will explore how the work of Christ enables us to live with hope, joy, and faithfulness in an often antagonistic world. Peter reminds us that the kind of life that pleases God is one that includes respect for authorities (even when they are unjust!); godly behavior in the home; and by God's grace – good deeds, courage, and a firm faith in the midst of life's trials.

Listed below is the tentative order of our study. More will be added in the weeks to come. May God bless us as we journey through I Peter together.

1. April 25 – “Living Hope” – I Peter 1:1-12
2. May 2 – “Craving Spiritual Milk” – I Peter 1:22-2:10
3. May 9 – “Strangers in the World” – I Peter 2:11-17
4. May 16 – “Unjust Suffering – Christ and Us” – I Peter 2:18-25

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: https://youtu.be/jPa0XxGMD_I

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

Cascade Family Bible Camp and Warm Beach will be having camp this summer, July 8-12. While they cannot anticipate the requirements in July, they are hopeful that all can have a great camp experience even with reduced indoor capacities, mask-wearing during group activities, and some adjustments to scheduled events.

Keynote Speaker: Aaron Baart; Life Track Speakers: Nicole Baart, Nick Rosas

Register now! Their mailing address is:

**Cascade Family Bible Camp
5637 NW 200th Place
Kenmore, WA 98028**

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

WHAT’S AHEAD? - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Do you believe your future looks bright? Have you prayed to God about what’s ahead? God proclaims that when you call on him, he will listen (Jeremiah 11:12-13). Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC’s weekly emails for all the new content.

GROUNDWORK: MAKING SENSE OF SETBACKS - Just like most building and construction projects, we can expect to encounter setbacks in our lives. Join Groundwork as we study the setbacks Ezra and Nehemiah faced in Ezra 3-4 and Ezra 7:8-28 to gain a greater understanding and biblical perspective for enduring our own trials and setbacks. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Celebrating: Practicing celebration early in the day can help adjust our mindset and focus us on God's goodness. Consider beginning each morning by praying a Scripture passage of celebration, such as Psalm 103:1-5. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.)

EASTER VICTORY FROM SHAMEFUL DEFEAT? - Join CRC campus ministers Rick Mast (University of Alberta) and Mike Wagenman (Western University) for a timely discussion for the post-Easter season: what can we as Western Christians learn from the long history of theological reflection in the East? There are not only racial and economic divisions in our world that we're addressing in this year's online book club - but also our divisions as Christians. Join us on Sunday, April 25 (8pm ET | 7pm CT | 6pm MT | 5pm PT) as we engage Dr. James Payton's new book, *The Victory of the Cross: Salvation in Eastern Orthodoxy*. Payton taught church history for many years at Redeemer University (Ontario) and will share some of the insights he's drawn from a long study of Eastern Christianity. Register at www.WesternCampusMinistry.ca!

"Partnering Well Beyond the Pandemic" Webinar - Start or strengthen your church's global connection! Join World Renew for a free webinar on Thursday, April 22 at 7 PM EDT to discover how international church partnerships in East Africa and Latin America have not only survived but thrived despite travel restrictions. Connect with World Renew staff and others who have been on the frontlines of cultivating partnership during these unprecedented times. Register for this webinar at: bit.ly/partneringwell



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.

NEW REQUESTS:

Beth Boon received her biopsy results and it is NOT cancer! She is scheduled to have surgery for Friday and so please pray that it goes well. In the meantime, we give praise to God for fantastic news received!

We give praise to God for successful knee replacement surgery for **Rhea Doss**. Rhea is home recovery well and we pray that she will experience a full recovery in the weeks/months ahead.

Clarence Vander Griend has recently moved to Home Place in Burlington - the same place where his wife Lona resides. Please pray that the transition goes smoothly. Congregational members are encouraged to send both of them cards/letters of encouragement throughout the days and weeks ahead. The address to Home Place is as follows: 210 N Skagit St, Burlington, WA 98233.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Clarence Vander Griend has recently moved to Home Place in Burlington - the same place where his wife Lona resides. Please pray that the transition goes smoothly. Congregational members are encouraged to send both of them cards/letters of encouragement throughout the days and weeks ahead. The address to Home Place is as follows: 210 N Skagit St, Burlington, WA 98233.

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)

April 17, 2021 - (World Renew: Bangladesh and India) Recently Bangladesh and India have reported extremely high COVID-19 infection rates. Both countries have begun vaccinations, and the infection rates are decreasing, but the process will take a significant amount of time. Please pray for health in these nations, asking that vulnerable communities will have access to the resources they need.

April 16, 2021 - (Resonate: Neighborhood outreach) Pray for individuals who have been participating in Resonate's Joining God in the Neighborhood cohorts. Ask the Holy Spirit to work powerfully in and through believers as they seek to build relationships and share the gospel with their neighbors.

April 15, 2021 - (Safe Church Ministry: Volunteers) In April we celebrate volunteerism. As a ministry, we are thankful for the many volunteers who make up the network of leaders and coordinators of Safe Church ministry. Please continue to pray for these individuals in our churches and classes as they continue the work of equipping congregations in abuse awareness, prevention, and response.

April 14, 2021 - (ReFrame: Burkina Faso) Pray for Gastón, a ReFrame volunteer in Burkina Faso who helps to create French ministry videos. As he seeks to be a light for Christ among his peers, pray that his story will continue to reach more people through media.

April 13, 2021 - (Calvin Theological Seminary: Hanlon Prison) In partnership with Calvin University in the Calvin Prison Initiative, we help to teach classes and to serve with the CRC congregation inside Hanlon Prison in Ionia, Mich. Pray for perseverance for the students as they deal with the pandemic and long for in-person classes to resume soon.

April 12, 2021 - (Resonate: Go Local) Many CRC congregations have been participating in Resonate's Go Local process. Pray for wisdom and discernment as these churches seek to join God at work in their communities. Pray that people will come to know Christ, communities will see kingdom transformation, and God will be glorified.