

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
April 25, 2021

* Please stand in body or in spirit

"Hallelujah, praise the one who set me free"

Prelude

* Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #581 v. 1-3

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!
2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ, our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933), P.D.; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827, 1824, adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867, alt. P.D.CCLI #678905
CCLI #678905

* Welcome

* Call to Worship: Psalm 146:1-3,5

Leader: Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, O my soul.

**People: I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

Leader: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men,
who cannot save.

**People: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord his God.**

* 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: "Cornerstone" v. 1-3

1. My hope is built on nothing less,
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

Repeat Verse 1

Chorus

*Christ alone cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love.
Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.*

2. When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.
My anchor holds within the veil.

Chorus

Christ alone cornerstone.

Weak made strong in the Saviour's love.

Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.

3. When He shall come with trumpet sound,
oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone.
Faultless stand before the throne.

Chorus (2x)

Words by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero, and Edward Mote;
Music by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero, and William Batchelder
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"Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me"

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Words of Assurance:

Leader: 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: *"Living Hope"* – Phil Wickman

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

*"You have broken every chain,
there's salvation in your name"*

Scripture Reading: I Peter 1:1-12

1 Peter 1:1-12: ¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ²who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Praise to God for a Living Hope

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you many have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire— may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. ¹²It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

Prayer of Illumination

Message: *“Living Hope”*

Time of Prayer

“Jesus Christ, my living hope”

Song of Reflection: *“There is a Hope” – Stuart Townend*

* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 1 & 2

Leader Q. 1: 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 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.

Leader Q. 2: What must you know to live and die in the joy
of this comfort?

People A. Three things:
First, how great my sin and misery are;
second, how I am set free from all my sins
and misery;
third, how I am to thank God for such
deliverance.

* Song of Response: LUYH #361 *"Because He Lives"*

1. God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal, and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain

*Because He lives I can face tomorrow,
because He lives all fear is gone,
because I know He holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because He lives.*

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* God's Blessing:

Leader: "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord.
May Christ's rising lift your spirits and gladden
your hearts.

People: **Alleluia! Amen.**

Leader: All those who believe in Christ will never perish.
May you pass with Christ from death to life.

People: **Alleluia! Amen.**

Leader: Christ has gone to prepare a place for us.
May his resurrection bring you all joy and peace in
believing so that you may abound in hope.

People: **Alleluia! Amen.**

Leader: Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—
bless you now and forever.

People: **Alleluia! Amen.**

* Parting Praise: LUYH #378 *"Lord of All Hopefulness" v. 1-4*

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the
lathe:
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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Postlude

Welcome! This is the day that the Lord has made. Worship is our opportunity to be glad and rejoice in the Lord's house on the Lord's Day. We come as the children of God, knowing that we are welcomed here where all are meant to be one in the Lord. Let us lay down our burdens and rejoice in the Lord for the Lord is good, the Source of love.

	Today 4/25	Next week 5/2
Sound:	Mardy Stevens	Tim Hibma
Projection:	Tim Hibma	Hannah Van Hofwegen
Video	Devin Van Zanten	Brandon Speck
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Announcements

April 25, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

A heartfelt thank you from **Greg and Beth Boon** for all the prayers, cards and words of encouragement during Beth's illness and subsequent surgery. Beth truly felt surrounded with love by the body of Christ during her whole ordeal. Isaiah 43:2 was a real comfort during the scarier moments. "2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

Dates to Note:

Men's Breakfast Bible Study will be meeting Weds., May 5, 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 1 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. In His Grace, Pastor John

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/734GKDI0TEg>

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

There is a newsletter from the **Hansens**, who are the local missionaries to Skagit Valley College on the Missionary Bulletin Board.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOY IN GOD - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Where does real joy come from? Joy does not depend on what happens to you. It is about what God is doing inside you. Listen now at [kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net) and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

FAMILY FIRE - is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

GROUNDWORK: BUILDING BLOCKS FOR BIBLICAL SUCCESS - How can we deal with opposition when we are trying to rebuild after our life has fallen apart in some way? Study Nehemiah 2:11-18, Nehemiah 4:1-15, and Nehemiah 5:1-12 with Groundwork to discover what we can learn from Ezra and Nehemiah's experience with opposition. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Celebrating: Family traditions create unforgettable memories—and they form faith! Choose one night of the week (or one day of the month) to be Family Celebration Night. To see how one family does this, check out the video at tinyurl.com/BewleyVideo. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.)

Career Exploration Opportunity - Current high school students are invited to get a jump on their careers with Calvin University's Summer Career Explorations! Do a week-long dive into a career field, gain job skills with mock interviews and job site visits, and experience actual college residential life! Visit calvin.edu/go/explore-your-career for more information and to register.

Circle of Grace Workshop: April 27th, 2021 - BC Safe Church Ministry, in partnership with CRCNA Faith Formation Ministries, is hosting a workshop on Circle of Grace. This event will be hosted online on Tuesday, April 27th at 7:30pm (PST), 10:30 pm (EST). To participate in this event, register through Eventbrite here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/circle-of-grace-workshop-bc-tickets-149171555137>



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:

Les Faber was informed that his cancer has now moved to the lungs. He is currently undergoing treatment via chemo pills which often causes a lot of discomfort. Please pray that the treatment is effective and that God blesses Les with many more months and years of life. Pray too for Joy and for other family members and friends. Pray that they also might receive the support and strength that they need.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Beth Boon's surgery went well and she is on the way to feeling much better! Praise the Lord!

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.

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 24, 2021 - (Resonate: Churches) Church plants are able to reach people in communities where the reach of established churches can be limited—but established churches play an important role in starting new churches. Give thanks for congregations who have parented and planted churches. Pray for strong relationships between parent churches and their church plants and that all may grow and see renewal.

April 23, 2021 - (ReFrame: Chinese ministry) Jenny has been feeling depressed because both of her parents have received cancer diagnoses. She found comfort in a testimony that was published in a book from our Chinese ministry team. "Thanks for such a heartfelt journey to bring faith and hope to more brothers and sisters," she writes. Pray that she will continue to lean on Christ in times of adversity.

April 22, 2021 - (Climate Witness Project: Earth Day) Please pray today for our care of God's creation, and ask forgiveness for our failures that have harmed other people -- particularly those who are poor, as they are often the first and most significantly affected.

April 21, 2021 - (World Renew: Disaster Response Services (DRS)) Hurricane Hanna tore through the lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas in July 2020. In response, DRS is exploring options for a long-term worksite to help build safe, permanent homes. Please keep DRS programs in your prayers as we continue to find ways to adapt to limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic while serving communities affected by disaster.

April 20, 2021 - (Resonate: Learning and serving trips) Give thanks for the many churches who have served with Resonate throughout the world on volunteer service and learning trips! The coronavirus pandemic disrupted many of these opportunities, but we're looking forward to a time when we can travel and serve again. Pray for churches who have rescheduled volunteer trips.

April 19, 2021 - (ReFrame: Japan) Aika has not listened to ReFrame's Japanese programs for many years, but as she came across them again recently, she broke down in tears. She praises God for bringing the programs back into her life, and she aims to share them with others. Praise God for Aika's growing faith!