

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
May 2, 2021

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

“Speak, O Lord, as we come to you”

Prelude

*** Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #286 v. 1,2,4**
“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God.
He, whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation’s walls surrounded,
thou may’st smile at all thy foes.
2. See, the streams of living waters,
bringing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.
4. Savior, since of Zion’s city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in your name.
Fading are the world’s best pleasures,
all its boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasures
none but Zion’s children know.

PSALM 87; Words: John Newton, 1779, alt., P.D.; Music: Franz Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809), 1797, P.D.; CCLI #678905

*Welcome

*Call to Worship:

Leader: The God of creation makes us one in body!

**People: Let us join our hearts and voices
in praise of the Lord!**

Leader: The God of Christ makes us one in the Spirit!

**People: Let us join our hearts and voices
in praise of the Lord!**

* 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!

* Hymn of Response: LUYH #251 v. 1,2,4,5

"The Church's One Foundation"

1. The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.
2. Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

4. 'Mid toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest

5. Yet she on earth has union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
may live eternally.

Words: Samuel J. Stone, 1866, P.D.; Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864, P.D.
CCLI #67895

“To receive the food of your holy Word.”

Announcements

Ministry Update – Jon and Trista Vander Wal
(Wycliffe Bible Translators)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

* Song of Thanksgiving and Preparation: LUYH #755 v. 1-3
“Speak, O Lord”

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
to receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all Your purposes, for Your glory.

2. Teach us Lord full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity,
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
and the earth is filled with Your glory.

Words and Music: Keith Getty / Stuart Townend; © 2005 Thankyou Music
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*(At this time children ages 3 – 3rd grade
are excused for Children and Worship)*

“Take your truth, plant it deep in us;”

Scripture Reading: I Peter 1:22 - 2:10

²²“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

And this is the word that was preached to you.

¹Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ²Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The Living Stone and a Chosen People

⁴As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For in Scripture it says: “See if I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

⁷Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. ⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Craving Spiritual Milk”***

Time of Prayer

“Shape and fashion us in your likeness.”

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #252 v. 1-4
“Church of God, Elect and Glorious”

1. Church of God, elect and glorious,
holy nation, chosen race,
called as God’s own special people,
royal priests and heirs of grace;
know the purpose of your calling,
show to all his mighty deeds,
tell of love that knows no limits,
grace that meets all human needs.

2. God has called you out of darkness
into his most marvelous light,
brought his truth to life within you,
turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
that God's name is glorified
and all find fresh hope and purpose
in Christ Jesus crucified.
3. Once you were an alien people,
strangers to God's heart of love,
but he brought you home in mercy,
citizens of heaven above.
Let his love flow out to others,
let them feel the Father's care,
that they too may know his welcome
and his countless blessings share.
4. Church of God, elect and holy,
be the people he intends,
strong in faith and swift to answer
each command your Master sends.
Royal priests, fulfill your calling
through your sacrifice and prayer;
give your lives in joyful service,
sing his praise, his love declare.

Words: based on 1 Peter 2:9-10, James E. Seddon © 1982 The Jubilate Group,
admin. Hope Publishing Company; CCLI #678905

* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 54-55

Leader Q. 54: What do you believe concerning "the holy catholic church"?

**People A: I believe that the Son of God
through his Spirit and Word,
out of the entire human race,
from the beginning of the world to its end,
gathers, protects, and preserves for himself
a community chosen for eternal life and
united in true faith.
And of this community I am and always will
be a living member.**

—Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 54

Leader Q. 55: “What do you understand by ‘the communion of saints’?”

People A: **First, that believers one and all,
as members of this community,
share in Christ and in all his treasures
and gifts.**

**Second, that each member should consider it
a duty to use these gifts readily and cheerfully
for the service and enrichment of the other
members. —Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 55**

* God’s Blessing:

*Parting Praise: LUYH #302 v.1-2 “*Hear Our Praises*”

1. May our homes be filled with dancing,
may our streets be filled with joy.
May injustice bow to Jesus
as the people turn and pray.

Refrain

*From the mountain to the valley,
hear our praises rise to you.
From the heavens to the nations,
hear our singing fill the air.*

2. May your light shine in the darkness
as we walk before the cross.
May your glory fill the whole earth
as the water over the seas.

Refrain x2

Words and Music: Reuben Morgan © 1998 Hillsong Publishing (APRA), admin. US
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Postlude

Welcome to the House of God. The Lord is always near to those who gather in his name. Let us eagerly call upon God and make a joyful noise with songs and prayers of praise. Glory be to God!

This morning we are privileged to have **Jon and Trista Vander Wal** - Wycliffe missionaries in Papua New Guinea - join us for our Sunday worship. Not only will they be sharing about the exciting ministry taking place, but they will also be available afterwards to converse and answer any questions you might have. In addition, congregational members are encouraged to check out their display in the fellowship hall that includes several unique items from Papua New Guinea.

	<i>Today 5/2</i>	<i>Next Week 5/9</i>
Sound:	Tim Hibma	Henry Hammingh
Projection:	Hannah Van Hofwegen	Josh Hammingh
Video	Brandon Speck	Carson Blom
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Announcements

May 2, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Thank you so much for all your prayers, cards, calls, emails, visits, food and flowers that were received after my TKR. God is so good and I am truly blessed. Love **Wayne & Rhea Doss**

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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.

Congregational Meeting: Save the date! **Monday, May 24 at 7pm** is our Congregational Meeting. Meeting packets will be arriving shortly in your home mailboxes!

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.
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/tpzZq0Pw3eA>

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

GROUNDWORK: LEAN INTO GOD'S GRACE - When the challenges feel insurmountable, the loneliness and temptation to give up creep in. Join Groundwork as we study what Ezra and Nehemiah do in Nehemiah 8-9 and Nehemiah 13:22,31 and discover how leaning into God's grace and love is the antidote we need to carry us through. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

DO NOT BE AFRAID - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Whenever we're afraid or worried, it's so important for us to remember that God is with us all the time. He promises to love us and never leave us. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content. Kids' Video Bible Study - Learning the Bible can be fun. Keep your kids engaged with "God's Big Story," a 7-part introductory Bible study from Kids Corner that takes your child on a trip through the Bible and God's rescue plan for his people. Check it out at kidscorner.net/gods-big-story

Get the Denomination's Award-Winning Magazine for FREE - The Banner, the magazine of the Christian Reformed Church, is free! Sign up for free print delivery and a weekly e-newsletter by visiting thebanner.org/signup. Given the Award of Merit (2018) for best denominational magazine by the Evangelical Press Association, The Banner offers CRC news; thoughtful articles; and reviews of books, movies, and music. TheBanner.org/signup

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN INFRASTRUCTURE CRUMBLES? - Join CRC campus ministers Rick Mast (University of Alberta) and Mike Wagenman (Western University) for our next virtual book club. We will be discussing Octavia Butler's novel, *Parable of the Sower*, a powerful story of hope and faith when infrastructure crumbles. We will meet on Zoom on Sunday, May 30 at 8pm ET (7pm CT, 6pm MT, 5pm PT). Register at www.WesternCampusMinistry.ca.

Remembering Moms on Mother's Day - Honor your mom next week with your offering for Free A Family® Sunday from World Renew. Nvou Gyang, a single mother of four sons, can feed and support her family with World Renew's help through Free A Family®. Remember your Mother and other women of influence in your life in a unique way this year through your gifts and offerings for World Renew and Free A Family® Sunday on May 9. Give at church or online at worldrenew.net/FreeAFamily®.

GLOCAL MISSION SUMMIT - Imagine a conference where pastors, lay leaders, and attendees of CRC churches re-imagine all things Mission! Now imagine it is free, and happening May 13-15, and you and your church are invited! Join us for the Glocal Mission Summit 2021 - an interactive virtual conference designed to break ZOOM fatigue and empower lay leaders, students, scholars, pastors, and parishioners to engage mission. Find out more and register today:
www.resonateglobalmission.org/glocal-mission-summit



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:

Dena Klunder tested positive for COVID. She had been feeling under the weather for a few days and so she went in to get tested. Thankfully the symptoms are still quite mild, but she does covet our prayers in the days to come. In addition, in case there are any concerns/questions, John and Dena were not with us for worship April 25, but they were with us the week before (April 18). Please pray for a full recovery for Dena in the days ahead.

Joyce Holwerda, wife of the Rev. Robert Holwerda, who served here at First CRC, recently passed away at the age of 91. She and Rev. Holwerda had been married for 71 years. To read her obituary, turn to page 43 in the May 2021 issue of The Banner.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

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)

May 2, 2021 - (Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee: Orthodox Easter) Today our brothers and sisters in the Orthodox church celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. We serve a risen Savior! Pray for growing unity and understanding among all people who follow Christ and trust in him for salvation.

May 1, 2021 - (ReFrame Ministries: Japanese ministry) Facing patient deaths, a lack of supplies, and feelings that the pandemic will never end, Momoru has been second-guessing his career path as a healthcare worker near Tokyo. He finds strength in our programs, listening while he rides the subway into work. Please pray that people like Momoru will continue to seek God's Word in difficult times.

April 29, 2021 - (Raise Up: Global Coffee Break: Leaders) Pray for our Global Coffee Break leaders as they find creative ways to meet in person and online. Pray for wisdom to face technological challenges. Pray for leaders as they look for ways to stay connected and reach out to their community with the Word of God. Please pray also for our April retreat in Canada and our Online Korean Conference in June.

April 28, 2021 - (ReFrame: India) Praise God for the technology to meet over the internet. In India a woman recently reached out to ReFrame's Hindi ministry team. She said, "The Zoom Bible study is such a blessing to my family. My husband is not keen on traveling, but now he is able to learn and grow in the Lord in the comfort of our home."

April 27, 2021 - (Resonate: Discernment) Please pray for people who are considering serving with Resonate and for Resonate missionaries who are preparing for their field assignments. Ask God to connect them with individuals, families, and churches who are eager to partner with them in ministry.