

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
May 9, 2021 – Mother’s Day

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

“We are pilgrims on a journey,”

Prelude

*** Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #43 v. 1-3**

“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

1. Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell’s destruction,
land me safe on Canaan’s side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

Words: William Williams, 1745; st. 1 tr. Peter Williams, 1771, alt; st. 2-3 tr.
William Williams, 1772, alt.,P.D.; Music: John Hughes, 1907, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

*** Welcome**

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

People: there is no end to his greatness.

Leader: One generation shall praise your works to another

People: and shall declare your power.

Leader: All your works praise you, Lord,

People: and make your faithful servants bless you.

Leader: They make known the glory of your kingdom

People: and speak of your power.

Leader: My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord:

Congr: Let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

* 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: LUYH #562 v. 1,2, 4

"We Will Extol You, God and King"

1. We will extol you, God and King,
and bless your holy name.
Day after day we'll sing your praise,
forever and forever.

Refrain

*One generation will call to the next:
"Our God is good, and his hand is strong!"
All of the world sings his marvelous acts,
and our voice will join with theirs in the song.*

2. Great is the Lord! In all his ways
he's greatly to be praised.
Were we to search for endless days,
his greatness none could fathom.

Refrain

*One generation will call to the next:
"Our God is good, and his hand is strong!"
All of the world sings his marvelous acts,
and our voice will join with theirs in the song.*

Now may your name be sung in every
tongue, in every place.
Singing the fame of your great love
in every generation.

Refrain

Words and Music (SCARECROW 8.7.8.7 refrain 10.9.10.10): Greg Scheer ©
2006 Faith Alive Christian Resources; CCLI #678905

"We are travelers on the road."

Announcements

A Litany for Mother's Day

Leader: Mothers come in many different forms,
and today we celebrate them all!

All: Thank God for mothers!

Leader: Everyone here is either a son or a daughter.

All: Thank God for my mother!

Leader: For those women who have joined God in Heaven
and whom we miss dearly here on earth.

All: Thank God for the mothers of the past.

Leader: For every woman who is working day and night to
raise her children right now.

All: Thank God for the mothers of today.

Leader: For all the women who are expecting,
but aren't quite mothers yet!

All: Thank God for the soon-to-be-mothers.

Leader: For the women who took in others' children
through adoption and foster care.

All: Thank God for the mothers with hearts so big.

Leader: For those women who have lost a child to death
and must carry on.

All: Thank God for the mothers who are so strong.

Leader: For all the women who have desperately wanted
to have children of their own, but chose instead
to mother everyone else.

All: Thank God for the mothers in spirit.

**All: We thank you, Lord, for the women who have
influenced our lives in so many ways.
We pray that we will honor them
in everything we do.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

* Song of Thanksgiving & Preparation: LUYH #543 v. 1-3

"Now Thank We All Our God"

1. Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven—
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Words: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt., P.D.;
Johann Crüger, 1647, harm. based on Felix Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang*, Opus
52, 1840, Public Domain; CCLI #678905

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

"We are here to help each other,"

Scripture Reading: I Peter 2:11-17

¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world,
to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

¹²Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they
accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and
glorify God on the day he visits us. ¹³Submit yourselves for the
Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether
to the king, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴or to governors, who
are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to
commend those who do right. ¹⁵For it is God's will that by
doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.

¹⁶Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up
for evil; live as servants of God. ¹⁷Show proper respect to
everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor
the king.

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Strangers in the World”***

Time of Prayer

“Walk the mile and bear the load.”

* Song of Application: LUYH #309 v. 1-5 *“The Servant Song”*

1. Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey;
we are travelers on the road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the nighttime of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.
5. Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Words: Richard Gillard (b. 1953) © 1977 Scripture in Song, a div. of
Integrity Music/Maranatha Music, admin. Music Services CCLI #678905

* We Profess our Faith: Belgic Confession Article 27

People: We believe and confess one single catholic or universal church—a holy congregation and gathering of true Christian believers, awaiting their entire salvation in Jesus Christ, being washed by his blood and sanctified and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Leader: This church has existed from the beginning of the world and will last until the end, as appears from the fact that Christ is eternal King who cannot be without subjects.

People: And this holy church is preserved by God against the rage of the whole world, even though for a time it may appear very small, as though it were snuffed out.

Leader: And so this holy church is not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place or certain persons.

People: But it is spread and dispersed throughout the entire world, though still joined and united in heart and will, in one and the same Spirit, by the power of faith.

—from Belgic Confession, Art. 27

* God's Blessing:

* Parting Praise: LUYH #254 v. 1,2,3,5 *"For All the Saints"*

1. For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, alleluia!

2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou in the darkness drear their one true light.
Alleluia, alleluia!

3. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia, alleluia!

5. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Words: William W. How, 1864, alt., P.D. CCLI #678905

Postlude

Welcome! Sunday worship is the call of God to bring special honor to his name. Give him what he asks through faithful worship. Receive this day also as his gift to you to refresh you for the week ahead.

	<i>Today 5/9</i>	<i>Next Week 5/16</i>
Sound:	Henry Hammingh	Henry Van Zanten
Projection:	Josh Hammingh	Devin Van Zanten
Video	Devin Van Zanten	Tim Hibma
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Announcements

May 9, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

A Big Congratulations to our graduates! *Danielle Van Zanten* is graduating from Dordt College this weekend, **Juliana LeClair** will be graduating from WSU, and **Lexi Blom** will be graduating from Colorado Christian University. In fact, the Bloms are celebrating a trifecta of graduations this year, with Lexi, **Carson** from MVCHS and **Trevor** from 8th grade! **Josh Hammingh** is also graduating from MVCHS next month with Carson.

Dates to Note:

Men's Breakfast Bible Study will be meeting Weds., May 19, 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
5. May 23 – *“Attractive Christian Virtues”* – I Peter 3:8-12
6. May 30 – *“Godly Fear”* - I Peter 3:13-22
7. June 6 – *“A Passage for Graduates”* – I Peter 4:1-6

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/TnsjEyCRHLs>

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

Check out an issue of ***Today's Christian Living*** on the shelf by the Missionary Bulletin Board! There is also a letter from **Sam Keyzer**, of **Northern Lighthouse** in Lincoln, NB pinned to the board.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free A Family® on Mother's Day - Today is Mother's Day and Free A Family® Sunday for World Renew. Whether you are meeting in church or online due to social distancing, you can remember your Mother and the other important women in your life with a gift that helps moms like Nvou Gyang grow hope for her family. Free A Family® from poverty and hunger with your offering for World Renew. You can give online at worldrenew.net/FreeAFamily.

Will you help to protect lives in rural India? - As the world watches the unfolding COVID-19 crisis in India, the focus has been on the rising number of COVID cases, the shortage of medical supplies, and the heartbreaking loss of life in urban cities. But the virus is now spreading to rural areas where there are even fewer resources to protect lives. World Renew and its local partner are working in rural communities in Jharkhand to deliver hygiene kits to over 4,300 families to protect their health. We are also providing cash to help meet over 1,100 families' medical and food costs. To learn more about our efforts or to donate go to: worldrenew.net/corona/india

WORSHIP GOD - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. We can worship God anytime and anywhere. Worship from your heart to God's heart. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6). Listen now at 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.

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

GROUNDWORK: OUR FAITHFUL GOD AND HIS ENDURING WORD -

Change is inevitable. But scripture assures us that our God is faithful and constant. Join our Groundwork conversation as we examine some of those promises in 2 Kings 2:7-15, Deuteronomy 18:15-18, Hebrews 13:5-8, and Lamentations 3:22-24, and together, we'll say goodbye to our co-host, Dave Bast, as he retires and welcome his successor, Darrell Delaney, to the co-host seat alongside Scott Hoezee. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Prayer: In Whistling in the Dark, Frederick Buechner writes, "Thy kingdom come . . . on earth is what we are saying. . . . To speak those words is to invite the tiger out of the cage, to unleash a power that makes atomic power look like a warm breeze." What are we asking when we pray for God's kingdom to come on earth? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.)

The Puritan Impact - The Meeter Center will host a conference titled "The Puritans and their Impact" on September 24 and 25 at Calvin Theological Seminary. We will focus on the theological roots of Puritanism and on the history of Puritans' actions and legacies in North America, including their relations with Native American communities. Go to our website for more information: calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/the-puritans-and-their-impact/



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.

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.

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 *Clarence 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 9, 2021 - (World Renew: Syrian refugee crisis) March 2021 marked the 10-year anniversary of the Syrian civil war, which has displaced more than 12 million people. World Renew continues to support these refugees via local Christian organizations. Through our prayers and gifts, we can share the hope of Jesus Christ with them. Please pray for the people of Syria as they continue to navigate treacherous times.

May 8, 2021 - (Resonate: Mexico) Give thanks for the way the Spirit is working through Compa, a campus ministry that Resonate missionaries James and Barbarita Lee partner with in Mexico. A university student who is a new Christian attended a Compa retreat and was deeply encouraged in spending time with other believers. Please pray for this student as she continues to grow in Christ.

May 7, 2021 - (Communications: U.S. National Day of Prayer) Please pray for local and national leaders and decision makers; for the church around the world to be loving, listening, and obedient to God; and for all who need God's light and hope in their lives.