

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

May 16, 2021

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

*“Crown Him with Many Crowns,
the Lamb upon His throne;”*

Prelude

* Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #223 v. 1-4

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

1. Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own;
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.
2. Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o’er the grave,
who rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died and reigns on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.
3. Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes
at mysteries so bright.

4. Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Words: sts. 1, 3, 4 Matthew Bridges, 1851; st. 2 Godfrey Thring, 1874, alt.,
P.D.; Music: George J. Elvey, 1868, P.D.; CCLI #678905

* Welcome

* Call to Worship:

Leader: God has ascended amid shouts of joy,

People: the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

Leader: Sing praises to God, sing praises;

People: sing praises to our King, sing praises.

Leader: For God is the king of all the earth;

People: sing to him a psalm of praise.

Leader: God reigns over the nations;

People: God is seated on his holy throne.

*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 #224 v. 1-4

"Rejoice the Lord is King" v. 1-4

1. Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore.
Rejoice, give thanks and sing
and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice.
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
2. His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
to Christ the Lord are given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice.
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
3. He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
bow down at his command,
and fall beneath his feet.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice.
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
4. Rejoice in glorious hope;
for Christ, the Judge, shall come
to gather all his saints
to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744, alt., P.D.' Music: John Darwall, 1770; desc.
Sydney H. Nicholson (1875-1947), P.D.; CCLI #678905

*"Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own;"*

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance:

Leader: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, God's own people,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him
who called you out of darkness into his marvelous
light. Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
Once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

People of God, all of us together
have received mercy in Christ.

**People: In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed,
and made to be a community united in faith.
Thanks be to God.**

- Based on I Peter 2:9-10

* Hymn of Thanksgiving & Preparation: LUYH #831 v. 1-4

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

1. Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!
His the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood.
Jesus, out of every nation,
has redeemed us by his blood.
2. Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us;
faith believes nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
"I am with you evermore"?

3. Alleluia! Heavenly High Priest,
here on earth our help, our stay;
Alleluia! Hear the sinful cry
to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, hear our plea,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

4. Alleluia! King eternal,
you the Lord of lords we own:
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heaven your throne:
you within the veil, have entered,
robed in flesh our great High Priest:
by your Spirit, lift us heavenward,
in the Eucharistic feast!

Words: William C. Dix, 1866, alt., P.D. ; CCLI# 678905; Music:
Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831, P.D.

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

"Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee"

Scripture Reading: I Peter 2:18-25

¹⁸Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." ²⁵For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Unjust Suffering – Christ and Us”***

Time of Prayer

*“And hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.”*

Song of Reflection: *“Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near”*
– *Sovereign Grace*

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #427 v. 1-5

“How Firm a Foundation”

1. How firm a foundation you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. “Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
3. “When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,
for I will be with you in trouble to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.
4. “When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace all-sufficient shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.
5. “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!”

Words: Isaiah 43:1-5; J. Rippon’s *Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt., P.D.; Music:
J. Funk’s *A Compilation of Genuine Church Music*, 1832; harm. Dale
Grotenhuis (1931-2012), 1985, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources; CCLI
#678905

We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 49-51

Pastor John: Q. How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us?

People: **A. First, he is our advocate in heaven in the presence of his Father.**

Second, we have our own flesh in heaven as a sure pledge that Christ our head will also take us, his members, up to himself.

Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a corresponding pledge.

By the Spirit's power we seek not earthly things but the things above, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.

Pastor John: Q. Why the next words: "and is seated at the right hand of God"?

People: **A. Christ ascended to heaven, there to show that he is head of his church,
And that the Father rules all things through him.**

Pastor John: Q. How does this glory of Christ our head benefit us?

People: **A. First, through his Holy Spirit he pours out his gifts from heaven upon his members.
Second, by his power he defends us and keeps us safe from all enemies.**

*Call to Service:

Leader: Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?
This Jesus will come in the same way as you saw him to go into heaven.

People: **Alleluia!**

Leader: Go and make disciples of all nations,
says the Lord; I am with you always,
to the end of time.

People: **Alleluia!**

* God's Blessing:

* Parting Praise: LUYH #219 v. 1,2,4,5

"Jesus Shall Reign"

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run,
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
2. To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head.
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.
4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.
5. Let every creature rise and bring
the highest honors to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

PSALM 72; Words: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt., P.D.; Music: John Hatton, (1710-1793, P.D.); CCLI #678906

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 5/16	Next Week 5/23
Sound:	Henry Van Zanten	Mardy Stevens
Projection:	Devin Van Zanten	Tim Hibma
Video	Tim Hibma	Devin Van Zanten
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Announcements

May 16, 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.

A Note from Beth: You may have noticed my office hours have been a bit off since my surgery – unfortunately they will likely remain that way for the next couple weeks leading up to a second surgery and afterwards. Sylvia Van Zanten has graciously volunteered to fill in for me when needed. More information to come as I have yet to have a set date for my second surgery. Thank you for your patience during this time!

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!

Our annual **Congregational Meeting** will be held **Monday, May 24, 2021** at 7:00 p.m. Our annual church budget will be presented for approval and informational reports from various church committees will be presented. The Council presents the following nominees for office:

Elder: Dick Gudmunson, Bob Pippel, Tim Van Hofwegen (1 yr)

Deacon: Fred Folkertsma, Henry Van Zanten Sr.

In addition, the church has received a request from Mount Vernon Christian School to potentially use the church building during the 2021-2022 school year and possibly for years to come. Mr. Jeff Droog, Superintendent of MVC, will be present with us that evening to further explain MVC's needs and to answer any questions congregational

members might have. If you have any questions about the agenda or any of the items on the agenda, please contact your district Elder prior to the Congregational Meeting. Absentee ballots can be placed in Beth's mailbox by her office door.

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/TnsiEyCRHLs>

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

Ministry Opportunity: "Underground Ministries" is a local ministry that seeks to support those coming out of prison as they reenter into society. Part of their ministry model is to match one prisoner with a core group of 5-7 members of a local church to walk alongside and support them upon their release from prison. The relationship itself already begins approximately 12-18 months before the inmate is released by way of letters, emails, and Zoom meetings. The hope is that the relationship will then continue well after the release date itself. The Evangelism Committee has recently received the blessing from council to become a "One Parish/One Prisoner" support team and to also begin to gather a 'core group' of First CRC members who are feeling led by God to play an active role in this ministry. Thus, if you sense God calling you to this role, or would like to know more about it – please contact Darrel Lagerwey or Pastor John in the weeks ahead.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for Freeing Families from Poverty on Mother's Day - Your gifts and offerings for World Renew's Free A Family® Sunday on May 9 are helping women like Nvou Gyang in Nigeria feed and support her four sons adequately. By remembering your Mother through your support for World Renew, you help families in poor communities worldwide realize the desires of their hearts. Thank you! Find out more or give anytime at worldrenew.net/FreeAFamily.

Vaccine Equity Webinar - At the current pace of vaccine production, people in much of the world likely won't have access to a COVID vaccine until 2024. How can we advocate for compassionate and just vaccine distribution? Join Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo, World Renew Canada Director, and Edgar Aguilar from our partner AJS in Honduras, for our Vaccine Equity Webinar on Thursday, May 20 at 8PM EDT. Register here: <http://bit.ly/vacwebinar>

GOD CREATED ME - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. God deliberately designed each one of us. This means we fit together in God's story like pieces in a giant puzzle. Being part of a huge family means we will always have someone we can help or someone who can teach us. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

GROUNDWORK: BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST - Many Christians have questions about following Jesus. Join Groundwork as we study 1 Timothy 4:7-8, 1 Peter 2:2-5, and 1 Timothy 2:1-3 to help us define discipleship, understand what this means for the lives of his disciples today, and discover the importance of community on our journey. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Prayer: The Lord's Prayer: An Intergenerational Event and Worship Experience is a downloadable free resource with which children, teens, and adults can gather to learn about and/or deepen their understanding of the Lord's Prayer. Try it in your church! Find it at tinyurl.com/intergenprayer. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.) Office of Social Justice, Race Relations, ReFrame Ministries, Resonate Global Mission



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:

Please pray **for Adelaida Vega**. The new chemo pills that Adelaida was taking had the opposite effect of what was hoped so she is taking another chemo medication, again given through a port. We're hoping that this will help her shrink down her cancer. Our family is thankful for all the prayers from all of you. God bless us all. Keep safe.

Scott Greydanus - a former member of our church and the younger brother of Steve Greydanus - passed away unexpectedly this past week in Alaska. Please keep the entire Greydanus family in your prayers as they grieve this sudden loss. Pray too for God's overwhelming comfort and His immense grace as they make arrangements accordingly in the days to come.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Continue to pray for **Les Faber**, while he is fighting cancer, **Rhea Doss** and **Beth Boon**, who are recovering from surgery, and **Dena Klunder**, who is recovering from COVID.

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 16, 2021 - (ReFrame: Ascension Sunday) With the celebration of Jesus' ascension, we remember one of his final commands before returning to heaven: "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19). Praise God for opportunities to reach people throughout the world. Pray that we will all seek ways to disciple people in our communities who come from different parts of the world.

May 15, 2021 - (World Renew: Zambia) Seasonal rains have continued, and a good harvest is expected across Zambia. Thankfully, COVID-19 rates have reduced from earlier highs, but Zambia still hasn't received any vaccines or begun vaccinations. Please pray that vaccines will arrive soon and be available for everyone. Please pray too that the outcomes of an election in August will not harm the nation's economy.

May 14, 2021 - (Resonate: Cohort) Pray for young adults who are part of our Cohort in Central America, Detroit, and the Middle East. Cohort provides an opportunity for young adults to serve in a grassroots ministry, engage in deep spiritual formation, and live in community. Ask God to strengthen and equip these young adults.

May 13, 2021 - (ReFrame: Spanish ministry) After reading devotions about God's preparation for us in heaven, a woman reached out to our Spanish ministry team. "One year ago today, my beloved husband died," she wrote. "My heart is comforted to know that God is preparing a place for me." Praise God for using these devotions to encourage her on an especially difficult day.

May 12, 2021 - (Pastor Church Resources: Peace and unity)

Congregations have been facing significant challenges from ongoing disruptions resulting from COVID-19 and controversial topics that affect church life. Layering such concerns on top of day-to-day ministry matters can be very stressful. Ask the Holy Spirit to provide us all with an overwhelming peace and to grant us grace to carry on in God's strength together.

May 10, 2021 - (Resonate: Cambodia) Pray for young adults who are part of Onyx 1 and Onyx 2, a leadership development program and spiritual community that missionary Justin VanZee helped to develop in Cambodia. Ask the Holy Spirit to work in and through these young adults to transform communities with God's grace.