

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
May 30, 2021

* Please stand in body or in spirit

"Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!"

Prelude

* Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #532 v.1-3

"Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord"

Soloist

1. Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.
In him no sin is found; we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Congregation, singing a bit louder

2. Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.
He burns with holy fire; with splendor he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Congregation Standing, singing loudly

3. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him; in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Words and Music: David Evans (b.1957) ©1986, Kingsway's Thankyou Music,
admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing; CCLI# 678905

* Welcome

* Call to Worship:

Leader: The love of God has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us;

People: **We dwell in him and he in us.**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;

People: **make known his deeds among the peoples.**

Leader: Sing to him, sing praises to him,

People: and speak of all his marvelous works.

Leader: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,

People: who was and is and is to come!

- Based on Psalm 105:1-2, Romans 5:5, Revelation 4:8

* 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 # 538 v. 1-4

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

All

1. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Women Only

2. Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
who wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Men Only

3. Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye made blind by sin Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

All

4. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name,
in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Words: Reginald Heber; Music: John B. Dykes;

Descant: David McK. Williams; Public Domain; CCLI# 678905

"Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;"

Announcements

Call to Confession:

Prayer of Confession:

Words of Assurance:

Since we have been justified through faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have gained access by faith
into this grace in which we now stand.
And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.
And hope does not disappoint us,
because God has poured out his love into our hearts
by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

—Romans 5:1-2, 5, NIV

* Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #117 v. 1,4,5 *"Blest Are They"*

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
they shall be consoled.

Refrain

Rejoice and be glad!

Blessed are you;

holy are you.

Rejoice and be glad!

Yours is the kingdom of God.

4. Blest are they who seek peace;
they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith;
the glory of God is theirs.

Refrain

*Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you;
holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God.*

5. Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see.

Refrain

MATTHEW 5:3-12; Words and Music: David Haas (b. 1957), based on Matthew 5:3-12, Descant: Michael Joncas (b. 1951); © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.; One License.net License #A711218

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

“Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,”

Scripture Reading: I Peter 3:13-22

¹³Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?

¹⁴But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.”

¹⁵But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—²⁰to those who were

disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,²² who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Godly Fear”***

Time of Prayer

“God in three persons, blessed Trinity!”

* Song of Application: LUYH #926 v. 1-4

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

1. God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church’s story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.
2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.
3. Cure your children’s warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom’s goal,
lest we miss your kingdom’s goal.

4. Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

Words: Harry E. Fosdick (1930), alt., P.D.; Music: John Hughes, 1907; harm. Henry V. Gerike (B. 1948) © 1969 Concordia Publishing House; CCLI #678905

* We Profess our Faith: Our World Belongs to God st. 56-57

Leader:

Our hope for a new earth is not tied
to what humans can do,
For we believe that one day every challenge to God's rule
and every resistance to his will shall be crushed.

People:

**Then his kingdom shall come fully,
And our Lord shall rule forever.**

Leader:

We long for that day when Jesus will return
as triumphant King,
When the dead will be raised,
And all people will stand before his judgment.

People:

**We face that day without fear, for the Judge is our Savior.
Our daily lives of service aim for the moment
When the Son will present his people to the Father.
Then God will be shown to be true, holy, and gracious.**

* God's Blessing:

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

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.

Words: Jan Struther (1901-1953) from Enlarged Songs of Praise, 1931, used by permission of OxfordUniversity Press; Music: Irish; harm. Hymnal, 1982 ©Church Pension Group/Church Publishing, Inc.; OneLicense.net License #A-711218

Postlude

Psalm 81 encourages worshipers to “Sing for joy to God...shout aloud to...God.” With great joy let us approach our loving Creator. With heart, soul, strength and mind let us dedicate ourselves to God. Welcome to all who have come!

	Today 5/30	Next Week 6/6
Sound:	Henry Van Zanten	Tim Hibma
Projection:	Devin Van Zanten	Hannah Van Hofwegen
Video	Tim Hibma	Brandon Speck
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

Next Week is Communion Sunday!



**TAKE AND EAT
DRINK**

Creation groans

waiting for the children of God to be revealed

Creation groans

*waiting to be born again;
waiting to be released from the bondage
of sin and decay.*

Creation groans

*in wars and rumors of war, in signs and wonders.
These are the birth pangs that
come before all things are made new.*

Creation groans

*in expectation of being fully restored,
renewed, and reborn.*

We groan too

*for the Spirit of God is in us
And moving toward all that is yet to be.*

Come Celebrate!

***Christ has died, Christ is Risen,
Christ will come again!***

First CRC Announcements

May 30, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

REGARDING OUR CURRENT MASK MANDATE STATUS:

The Elders met this week to discuss the current recommended guidelines and requirements for Faith-based organizations.

After much discussion the following decisions were made:

1. We will not segregate congregational members by vaccination status, as we are one church family.
2. We have striven to comply to the spirit of the government guidelines, and we believe we should continue for the next several weeks, as we understand there are still those who wish to receive the vaccine or have their second dose and have not yet had that opportunity.
3. We request that First CRC congregational members continue to wear masks until the state restrictions are lifted – this may take place before the end of June.

These decisions were not taken lightly, but they were wrestled with – the desire to pursue unity and care for one another is utmost.

In the meantime, please continue to keep in prayer those who are suffering with the virus and its effects. While many places in the world are now doing quite well – there are also many places that are not. In our own setting it certainly appears like we are nearing the end of the current restrictions. Therefore, in light of God's great mercy lavished on us - let's continue to strive to live grace-filled lives towards one another in the weeks that lie ahead.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FUND UPDATE:

Pledges are now being accepted for 2021-2022 school year. The cost of the ministry for the entire 2021-2022 school year of \$105,656.45 is to be pledged by May 31, 2021. Thank you to those that already have submitted their pledges.

A reminder to those that still owe pledges for 2020-2021 school year, please submit them by May 31, 2021. The total amount that was pledged for the 2020-2021 school year was \$107,089.45.

In order for the Christian Education Fund to continue we need to fulfill our pledges for both school years. If you have any questions regarding your pledges or would like to pledge an amount, please contact Katie Jungquist at 428-3818 or sarco@fidalgo.net.

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
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

Last week's Sunday service link: The link to watch last week's Sunday service online is as follows: <https://youtu.be/qVZ8hkdt9oA>

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.

Dates to Note:

Men's Breakfast Bible Study will be meeting Weds., June 2, at 7am at Shari's Restaurant. They are studying the book of Acts.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Bos Update: There is an updated newsletter from the Bos family up on the bulletin board in the hallway!

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Prayer: When praying with children, try this kid-friendly version of the "ACTS" model, replacing Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication with these prompts: "God, you are . . ." -- "I'm sorry for . . ." -- "Thank you for . . ." -- "Please . . ." (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.)

Taylor Swift & God's Love - What can Taylor Swift's music teach us about the transforming love that God has created us to experience? Download the ebook and receive more faith and pop culture content from Think Christian. Subscribe at thinkchristian.net/taylorswift.

GROUNDWORK: WHEN DISCIPLESHIP GROWTH STALLS - Sometimes the things we do and say are out of sync with the faith we profess to believe. Study Acts 10:34-48, Galatians 2:11-16, James 1:22-27, 1 John 1:8-10, and Philippians 3:12-14 with Groundwork to understand what God does for us in these situations and what we need to continue growing again as Christ's disciples today. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

GOD'S IDEA OF JUSTICE - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Imagine that you see someone being bullied. Do you just watch, or turn away, or do you try to help the person being bullied? How does God want you to respond? What is God's idea of justice? Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

UPCOMING SAFE CHURCH MINISTRY WEBINAR AND Workshop - Join Safe Church Ministry as they continue their 2021 webinar series: On Being a Safe Church. On June 9th, 12-1p Eastern (9-10a Pacific), join Anne Martin (Director of Restorative Practices) and Mark Vander Vennen (Executive Director of Shalem Mental Health) as they discuss being restorative congregations in the aftermath of COVID. In addition, as a follow up to this webinar, on June 23rd at 7:30-9p Eastern (4:30-6p Pacific), a free Restorative Practices Workshop will take place. To learn more or to register, go to bit.ly/sc2021webinars



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@firstcrmv.com by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

A note of thanks from John and

Dena Klunder: John is doing very well and they will be out of quarantine on June 1! They are feeling so blessed to be part of our church family, as they received numerous prayers, support and cards from our members during their illness and now coming out of it. They are so thankful for a return to good health and the freedom that comes with it.



CONTINUING 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.

Continue to pray for ***Ryanne Vander Pol*** as she continues with her IV therapy and some radiation treatments.

Continue to pray for those recuperating from surgeries and going in for regular cancer 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 30, 2021 - (Worship Ministries: Trinity Sunday) Pray for worship leaders and pastors throughout our denomination, asking for strength for them to persevere and rest in Christ as they continue to encounter challenging times. May they find joy in their calling, and may they hope in our triune God. Pray also for Worship Ministries as we seek to support them.

May 29, 2021 - (World Renew: Sierra Leone) Various international mining ventures in Sierra Leone have been detrimental to many small villages, demolishing them to make way for new mines. Please pray for wisdom regarding how best to respond to this injustice. In the meantime, we thank God for continued, faithful support of World Renew programming in these vulnerable communities.

May 28, 2021 - (ReFrame: Hindi ministry) Pray for Raj and other listeners of our Hindi ministry programs in India. A listener since 2012, Raj recently shared part of his testimony with the ministry team. "God forgave me and gave me a new heart," he declared. "I am now a completely changed person!"

May 27, 2021 - (Resonate: Michigan) Many students have grown as leaders through Jabez Ministries, a Resonate partner campus ministry at Grand Rapids Community College. Campus minister Peter Gordon asks for prayer that this ministry may continue to build up the body of Christ in a more complete way, with each person having a place to use the gifts they have been given.

May 26, 2021 - (Raise Up: TLI: New opportunities) Praise God for opening opportunities for Timothy Leadership Training in Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central Asia, Central African Republic, Colombia, Bolivia, and elsewhere. Pray for wisdom, unity, strength, and protection, and ask God to bring his kingdom transformation through Christian leaders as they work throughout the world.

May 24, 2021 - (World Renew: Uganda) Thank God with us for being approved for a SEEP Grant of more than \$149,000 for "Women Saving for Resilience" programming in Uganda. We pray that these funds will bless communities in Uganda as we implement new and bolster existing development programs. We give thanks for and seek God's wisdom for administering other important grants as well.