

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
8. June 27 – *“Gifts Gracious Given to Faithfully Serve”* – I Peter 4:7-11
9. July 4 – *“A Final Word on How to Endure Trials”* – I Peter 4:12-19
10. July 11 – *“Servant Leadership”* – I Peter 5:1-4

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Guest Pastor Jon Westra
June 20, 2021

* Please stand in body or in spirit

"My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine,"

Prelude

Sung Call to Worship: *"Is He Worthy?" – Led by Sheri L.*

1. Do you feel the world is broken? We do.
Do you feel the shadows deepen? We do.
But do you know that all the dark
won't stop the light from getting through? We do.
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? We do.
2. Is all creation groaning? It is.
Is a new creation coming? It is.
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst?
It is. Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? It is.

Chorus:

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The lion of Judah who conquered the grave,
He is David's Root and the Lamb
who died to ransom the slave.
Is He worthy, is He worthy of all blessing and honor
and glory?
Is He worthy of this? He is.*

3. Does the Father truly love us? He does.
Does the Spirit move among us? He does.
And does Jesus, our Messiah,
hold forever those He loves, He does.
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? He does.

Chorus:

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The lion of Judah who conquered the grave,
He is David's Root and the Lamb
who died to ransom the slave.
From ev'ry people and tribe, ev'ry nation and tongue,
He has made us a kingdom and priests of God
to reign with the Son.*

Is He worthy, is He worthy? Is He worthy of this? He is
Is He worthy, Is he worthy? He is. He is.

CCLI Song #7108951 Copyright 2018 Capitol CMG Genesis/Vamos Publishing/
Jukedog Music/Capitol CMG Genesis/Junkbox Music For us solely with the
SongSelect[®]. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License
#678905

Welcome/Announcements

* Words of Adoration:

Leader: We give thanks to you, God our Father,
for mercy that reaches out,
for patience that awaits our returning,
for your love that is ever ready to welcome
sinners.

People: **We praise you that in Jesus Christ
you came to us with forgiveness,
and that, by your Holy Spirit,
you move us to repent and receive your love.**

Leader: Though we are sinners
you are faithful and worthy of all our praise.

People: **We praise you, great God,
In Jesus Christ, our 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!**

* Opening Song of Praise: "O Church Arise" v. 1-4

1. O Church arise and put your armour on;
hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong,
in the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
we'll stand against the devil's lies;
an army bold whose battle cry is Love,
reaching out to those in darkness.
2. Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
but to rage against the captor;
and with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
we will fight with faith and valour.
When faced with trials on every side,
we know the outcome is secure.
And Christ will have the prize for which He died,
an inheritance of nations.
3. Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
as the Son of God is stricken;
then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
for the Conqueror has risen.
And as the stone is rolled away
and Christ emerges from the grave,
this victory march continues till the day
every eye and heart shall see Him.
4. So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride,
give grace for every hurdle;
that we may run with faith, to win the prize
of a servant, good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day
when, with Christ we stand in glory.

Keith Getty / Stuart Townend; © 2005 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved.
www.ccli.com CCLI License #678905

"For thee all the follies of sin I resign;"

Call to Confession:

Prayer of Confession:

Song of Assurance: *"This My Only Comfort"*

1. This, my only comfort in my life and in my death:
You have fully paid for all my sins and all my debts
even when I struggle to believe:
with your precious blood you've set me free.

Chorus

*I am not my own but belong body and soul,
in my life and in death to you Lord, Christ my Lord.*

2. You preserve my life in such a way that without you
not a hair can fall from me unless you will it to
even when I'm lost in desperation
all things work together for my salvation.

Chorus

*I am not my own but belong body and soul,
in my life and in death to you Lord, Christ my Lord.*

Heidelberg Catechism

Q 1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

- A. That I am not my own,¹ but belong—body and soul,
in life and in death—² to my faithful Savior,
Jesus Christ.³ He has fully paid for all my sins
with his precious blood,⁴ and has set me free
from the tyranny of the devil.⁵
He also watches over me in such a way⁶
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven;⁷
in fact, all things must work together for my
salvation.⁸ Because I belong to him, Christ, by his
Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life⁹ and makes me
wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to
live for him.¹⁰

¹ 1 Cor. 6:19-20; ² Rom. 14:7-9; ³ 1 Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:14;

⁴ 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:2; ⁵ John 8:34-36; Heb.
2:14-15; 1 John 3:1-11; ⁶ John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess.
3:3; 1 Pet. 1:5; ⁷ Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18;

⁸ Rom. 8:28; ⁹ Rom. 8:15-16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5;
Eph. 1:13-14; ¹⁰ Rom. 8:1-17

3. Therefore by your Holy Spirit you assure me of eternal life and make me willing and ready even when I can't see my way through from now on to always live for you.

Chorus (2x)

Music and Lyrics by Jeremy Zeyl & Brian VanArnhem © Jasper Music.
Text adapted from Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1; CCLI #678905

God's Law:

As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom he loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together in one body. Always be thankful. —Colossians 3:12-15, NJB

* Song of Preparation: *"Sanctuary" 2x*

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary;
pure and holy, tried and true;
with thanksgiving I'll be a living...sanctuary for You.

*"Sanctuary" Words and Music by John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs, ©1982
Whole Armor Publishing/Full Armor Music (Admin by. The Kruger Organization, Inc.
(TKO) All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission CCLI
#678905*

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

"My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;"

Scripture Readings: Matthew 21:28-30, Matthew 25:14-30,
Ephesians 4:22-24
(pgs. 978, 983 & 1158 in your pew Bible)

Prayer of Illumination

Message: **“Not Taking God for Granted”**

Time of Prayer

“If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.”

* Song of Application: *“Light the Fire”* v. 1-2

1. I stand to praise You, but I fall to my knees.
My spirit is hungry, but my flesh is so weak.

Chorus

*So light the fire in my soul,
(Light the fire in my weary soul.)
fan the flame, make me whole.
(Fan the flame; Spirit, make me whole.)
Oh Lord, You know just where I've been,
(Lord, You know where I've been)
so light the fire in my heart again.*

2. I feel Your arms around me,
as the power of Your healing begins.
You breathe new life right through me,
like a mighty rushing wind.

Chorus

*So light the fire in my soul,
(Light the fire in my weary soul.)
fan the flame, make me whole.
(Fan the flame; Spirit, make me whole.)
Oh Lord, You know just where I've been,
(Lord, You know where I've been)
so light the fire in my heart again.*

“Light the Fire” Bill Maxwell; © 1986 Bloodsmith Music. All rights reserved. CCLI #678905

* We Profess our Faith: Our World Belongs to God – Article 44

Leader: Following the apostles, the church is sent—
sent with the gospel of the kingdom
to make disciples of all nations,
to feed the hungry,
and to proclaim the assurance
that in the name of Christ
there is forgiveness of sin and new life
for all who repent and believe—
to tell the news that our world belongs to God.

**All: In a world estranged from God,
 where millions face confusing choices,
 this mission is central to our being,
 for we announce the one name that saves.
 We repent of leaving this work to a few,
 we pray for brothers and sisters who suffer
 for the faith,
 and we rejoice that the Spirit is waking us to see
 our mission in God's world.
 —Our World Belongs to God, st. 44**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Hymn of Praise: LUYH #366 "*My Jesus, I Love Thee*" v. 1-4

1. My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
 for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
 my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
 if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
2. I love thee because thou hast first loved me
 and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
 I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
 if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
3. I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
 and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,
 and say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:
 If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Acapella

4. In mansions of glory and endless delight,
 I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright.
 I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;
 If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Words: William R. Featherstone, ca. 1862, P.D.; Music: Adoniram J. Gordon,
 1876, 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 6/20</i>	<i>Next Week 6/27</i>
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

June 20, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Pastor John and family will be on vacation till June 23. **Pastor Jon Westra** will be proclaiming God's Word to us today. In case of any pastoral needs during this time please contact your district elder.

Beth is out of the office this week recovering from surgery. Sylvia Van Zanten is taking her place in the office. Please send your bulletin announcements and prayer chain items to the same email address as before.

Praise:

I wanted to inform you that after 2 ½ long years my every 3-week cancer treatments will be finished on June 24th. I want to thank everyone for all the prayers, thoughts, and cards through this long journey. All tests and scans look good at this point. Above all I want to thank our God and Christ Jesus for His healing powers, a great comfort in times of need.

Thank you, Ryanne VanderPol

Sunday service link for June 13, 2021: https://youtu.be/MEXwKi_InOc

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.

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;
8. June 27 – “*Gifts Gracious Given to Faithfully Serve*” – I Peter 4:7-11
9. July 4 – “*A Final Word on How to Endure Trials*” – I Peter 4:12-19
10. July 11 – “*Servant Leadership*” – I Peter 5:1-4

Birthdays for June:

Jill Haagsma celebrated her 90th birthday on June 13; ***Adriana Swanson*** celebrated her 93rd birthday on June 12.

Birthdays for July:

Wilma Paul will be celebrating her 100th birthday on July 5; ***Grace Feddema*** will celebrate her 98th birthday on July 6; ***Henry Vander Veen*** will celebrate his 93rd on July 23.

Anniversaries for June:

Jack & Trudy Van Klaveren celebrated forty years of marriage on June 5; ***Terry & Joni Beezhold*** will celebrate 35 years of marriage on June 27; ***Dennis & Melba De Kok*** will celebrate 53 years of marriage on June 28.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

There is a copy of the June newsletter from **New Earth Recovery** up on the Missionary Board!

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

We Serve Others: Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. When we think about following Jesus, serving others is at the top of the list. It is a privilege to be able to walk alongside other people and use the gifts that God has given us to share the love of Christ with them as we serve. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC’s weekly emails for all the new content.

Only Glorify Jesus: The Apostle Paul offers a valuable perspective on power, authority, and leadership in the church, and a vital reminder that Christ is the foundation upon which we should build all things. Join Groundwork as we study 1 Corinthians 3 to gain a better understanding of what it means to dwell in Christ and live and work as believers today. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Wonder: Albert Einstein said, “There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle; the other is as though everything is a miracle.” How might you become more attentive to God’s miraculous work all

around you? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.)

Human Trafficking Prevention Live Dialogue Series - Join World Renew in our second dialogue about human trafficking prevention on June 23 at 3PM ET with Esther Kuhn from World Renew Senegal. You'll hear stories from the field where World Renew works proactively with communities to stop human trafficking before it starts. Register on Zoom at bitly.com/livedialogue or join on Facebook at facebook.com/worldrenew/live. The first session was held on June 16 about the theology of flourishing with Rev. Roy Berkenbosch and can be accessed on World Renew's Facebook page.

Certificate in Worship Leadership - Worship Leaders! Start the conversation now with your church to consider signing up for the online Certificate in Worship Leadership course. Interested? Check out this Network post, which includes a link to the form which will give you a reduced price by registering through Worship Ministries. <https://network.crcna.org/worship/online-worship-training-designing-creative-worship> Registration with Samford runs July 15 - August 1. Questions? Email (worship@crcna.org) or call us (877.272.6202) we are happy to chat. More information on this course is available at: www.samford.edu/worship-arts/online-certificate



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.

Disability Concerns: Awareness: Today is world Elder Abuse Awareness day. As we live through the devastation of the pandemic, reports show increases in domestic abuse and elder abuse. Please pray for senior citizens living through the pandemic, that they may flourish, free from abuse. Pray also that those struggling with mental health issues may reach out for support and be met with compassionate and understanding help.

Resonate: Sierra Leone: Resonate missionary Istifanus Bahago gives thanks for a successful Timothy Leadership Training among the Krim

people in Sierra Leone. He says that ministry there is “yielding fruits for the growth of the church.” Pray for wisdom and encouragement for these trained leaders as they work in God’s kingdom.

Resonate: Sierra Leone: Resonate missionary Istifanus Bahago gives thanks for a successful Timothy Leadership Training among the Krim people in Sierra Leone. He says that ministry there is “yielding fruits for the growth of the church.” Pray for wisdom and encouragement for these trained leaders as they work in God’s kingdom.

ReFrame: Today daily devotions: Pray for Gage, a 20-year-old Today reader who is scheduled to be released from prison later this month. “Please pray that I get to go home,” Gage shared. “I am ready to be an adult and change.”

World Renew: Malawi: World Renew works with the CCAP Public Health Department to lead a maternal and child health program in vulnerable villages such as Chiguwo in Malawi. Before the program began, only 12 percent of families in the village had gardens; now 72 percent of families have access to fresh vegetables. We praise God for providing for these parents and children!

Resonate: Middle East: A Resonate missionary who mentors and disciples believers in the Middle East asks for prayer for wisdom and guidance in conversations and in strengthening relationships. Pray also for protection. Many of these believers come from a Muslim background, and studying the Bible and sharing their faith can be dangerous.

Edmonton Native Healing Centre: Providence: This year the Edmonton Native Healing Centre is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Please pray for the continued success of this ministry. Pray for staff in their adaptation to COVID-19 restrictions, for the funding and creativity needed to continue offering programs, and for the building of reconciliation through this ministry.