

***Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!***  
***Pastor John Knoester***  
***August 1, 2021***

\* Please stand in body or in spirit

*"Come to the Savior, all, whate'er your burdens be;"*

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

\* Call to Worship:

Leader: God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

**People: Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth  
should change,  
though the mountains shake  
in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

Leader: There is a river whose streams make glad  
the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**People: God is in the midst of the city;  
it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.**

Leader: The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

**All: The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

- Based on Psalm 46

\* 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 Hymn of Praise: LUYH #776 v. 1-4

*"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" v. 1-4*

1. A mighty fortress is our God,  
a bulwark never failing;  
our helper he, amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
does seek to work us woe;  
his craft and power are great,  
and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing,  
were not the right Man on our side,  
the Man of God's own choosing.  
You ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth his name,  
from age to age the same;  
and he must win the battle.
3. And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God has willed  
his truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim,  
we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure,  
for lo! his doom is sure;  
one little word shall fell him.

4. That Word above all earthly powers—  
no thanks to them—abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours  
through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill:  
God's truth abideth still;  
his kingdom is forever!

Words: based on Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852,  
P.D.; Music: Martin Luther, 1529, alt.; harm. Johann s. Bach (1685-1750), P.D.;  
CCLI #678905

*"Hear now his loving call, "Cast all your care on me."*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Sung Prayer: *"Cares Chorus" (1 Peter 5:7)*

I cast all my cares upon You,  
I lay all of my burdens down at Your feet;  
And anytime that I don't know what to do,  
I will cast all my cares upon You.

I cast all my cares upon You,  
I lay all of my burdens down at Your feet;  
And any time that I don't know what to do,  
I will cast all my cares upon You.  
I will cast all my cares upon You.

*"Cares Chorus" Kelly Willard, ©1978 Maranatha! Music, CCLI# 678905*

Words of Assurance:

Leader: In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,  
We are assured that there is no sin so terrible  
that God cannot forgive,  
no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal.  
God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free.  
Receive the forgiving love of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## We Offer Our Lives to God:

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

### \* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #54 v. 1-3 *“Wisdom Calls”*

1. At the crossroads of decision  
Wisdom calls to all and each:  
“Come, my children, learn and listen—  
heed the ways I seek to teach.”  
Conscious thoughts or intuition  
frame her words of grace and peace:  
“Choose the pathway of the Lord.”
2. On the ash heap of disaster  
“Where is God?” we cry and weep.  
Friends are false and faith uncertain;  
Wisdom seems beyond our reach.  
Still she whispers from the whirlwind  
of our pain and of our grief:  
“Trust the goodness of the Lord.”
3. On a cross and in a manger  
God’s compassion is made plain.  
“Word made flesh” is God among us;  
“He is risen” brings hope for pain.  
“Come, you weary,” pleads the Savior;  
Wisdom calls to us again:  
“Cast your burdens on the Lord.”

Words: Carol Bechtel © 2012 Carol Bechtel, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources

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

*"Come, and for every grief, in Jesus you will find"*

Scripture Reading: I Peter 5:7-14  
(pg. 1203 in your pew Bible)

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Final Instructions and Blessings"***

Time of Prayer

*"A sure and safe relief, a loving friend and kind."*

\* Hymn of Reflection: LUYH #443 v. 1-4

*"My Life Flows On in Endless Song"*

1. My life flows on in endless song;  
above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.

*Refrain*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?*

2. Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?

*Refrain*

3. What though my joys and comforts die?  
The Lord my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth.

*Refrain*

4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing?

*Refrain*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?*

Words: Robert Lowry (1826-1899), P.D.; Music: Robert Lowry, alt., P.D.; CCLI  
#678905

\* We Profess our Faith: Our World Belongs to God st. 56, 58

**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:** With the whole creation we wait  
for the purifying fire of judgment.

**People:** **For then we will see the Lord face to face.**

**Leader:** He will heal our hurts, end our wars,  
and make the crooked straight.

**People:** **Then we will join in the new song to the Lamb  
without blemish who made us a kingdom  
and priests.**

**Leader:** God will be all in all,  
righteousness and peace will flourish,  
Everything will be made new,  
and every eye will see at last  
that our world belongs to God!

**All:** **Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus.**

\* God's Blessing

\* Parting Praise: LUYH #451 v. 1-4 "When Peace Like a River"

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

*Refrain*

*It is well with my soul;  
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

2. Though Satan should buffet,  
though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control:  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

*Refrain*

3. My sin— oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

*Refrain*

4. O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so, it is well with my soul.

*Words: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873, P.D.; Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1876, P.D. CCLI #678905*

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.

	<i>Today 3/1</i>	<i>Next week 3/3</i>
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry H
Projection:	Hannah VH	Josh H
Video	Brandon S.	Carson B.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund



# *Next Week is Communion Sunday!*



***God meets us in the sacraments,  
holy acts that call for our response...***

***In the supper our Lord offers  
the bread and cup to believers to  
guarantee our share in his  
death and resurrection,  
and unite us to him and to each other.***

***We take this food gladly,  
announcing as we eat  
that Jesus is our life  
and that He shall come again  
to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.***

From: *Our World Belongs to God* (PH – pg. 1031)

***Come share the fellowship  
of the forgiven!***

# First CRC Announcements

**August 1, 2021**

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### **Next Week is Communion Sunday!**

*God meets us in the sacraments, holy acts that call for our response...*

*In the supper our Lord offers the bread and cup to believers to guarantee our share in his death and resurrection, and unite us to him and to each other.*

*We take this food gladly, announcing as we eat that Jesus is our life and that He shall come again to call us to the Supper of the Lamb. -*

*From: Our World Belongs to God (PH – pg. 1031)*

***Come share the fellowship of the forgiven!***

**100 Reasons to Look at the Bulletin Board by Beth's Office:** Our dear **Wilma Paul** recently appeared in the Skagit Valley Herald to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, along with 5 generation pictures. If you haven't already seen these great pictures, take a look!

**No More Cooties! AM Service – Physical Distancing Update:** Beginning Sunday, August 1 the red and green tape on the pews will be removed. However, one of the benefits of the tape is that due to the intentional spacing we have been much more evenly spread out in the pews throughout this past year. In order to encourage such spacing to continue going forward we will keep putting bulletins out in every other pew. Additional bulletins will also be available on the back table as well as on the shelf by the door of the council room. Thank you once again for your flexibility and understanding throughout this past year.

**Don't Call Me, I'll Call You:** Beth will be out of the office Monday, August 2.

**Call me: I won't call you:** If you are on the schedule and are unable to be here – we all know how busy summers can be, especially – please find a replacement from your committee and let Beth know by Weds. so she can put it into the bulletin announcements. This way we cut out the middleman! Thank you so much.

**DATES TO NOTE:**

**Friends and family members of Sam DeJong** are invited to a celebration of life to be held on **Saturday, August 7, at 2:00 PM at Cascade Christian Reformed Church**, Marysville Washington.

**Men's Breakfast Bible Study** will meet on **Wednesday, August 11, at 7:00 a.m.** at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington.

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 during 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

12. August 1 – *“Final Instructions and Blessing”* – I Peter 5:7-14

**THE NEW DIRECTORY** will be coming out in the next month or so, so if you have any changes to your phone numbers or email addresses, please let Beth know in the next couple of weeks. Thank you!

**Sunday service link for July 25, 2021:** <https://youtu.be/WKiPXkn5DGs>

*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.*

**Birthdays for August: Anjean VanderVeen** turns 93 on August 14, and **Marcella DeVries** turns 92 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday and prayers for continued health!

**Anniversaries for August: Mike & Sue Hibma – 40 years on the 14<sup>th</sup>; Hank & Anjean VanderVeen – 71 years on the 14<sup>th</sup>!**

### **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DISCOVER GOD'S WISDOM** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). What do you think of when you hear the word "wise"? Maybe you think of a grandparent, a teacher, or even an owl. Did you know that the wisest people are the ones that come to God with questions? Listen now at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

**GROUNDWORK: GOD ALWAYS CARES AND NEVER LEAVES** - What's one thing we can be sure of in life? That it will change. Whether change is expected or not, it can still be unsettling. Join Groundwork as we study James 1:16-17, Malachi 3:6, Lamentations 3:22-23, Mark 4:35-41, and Jeremiah 29:11 to remind us of God's constant nature for encouragement in the midst of life's inevitable changes. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**NEW GRANTS AVAILABLE** - Do you have an idea for outreach in your community? Resonate Global Mission's Innovation Experiment Grant Program will fund and support innovative projects from CRCNA individuals, congregations, faith communities, and partners who want to spread the gospel in their communities and around the world. Apply by August 31, 2021. To learn more and apply, visit [www.resonateglobalmission.org/innovation-grant](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/innovation-grant)

**At-home Faith Formation Tip** - The Practice of Service: In Life Together, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God.” How might we prepare ourselves to recognize interruptions as opportunities to serve? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit [crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices).)

### **ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT**

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** Dear friends at First CRC. Thank you for your generosity with your gifts to **Resonate Global Mission!** Your investment in God’s mission is helping the CRCNA grow in mission! Across this denomination, we see a growing passion for mission. Your gift comes at the right time to deepen that passion and get our churches excited about God’s mission. And what’s more, giving through Resonate helps to strengthen our capability to join God’s mission! Your gift helps missionaries, church planters, and other ministry leaders worldwide live and share the gospel. And because you gave through Resonate, you are a part of the network of support that ensures ministries don’t just survive, but thrive! Churches like yours provide the strength and sustainability that unites our church on mission. When we come together—Resonate ministry leaders and Christians like you—the overall effect is that we amplify the message of God’s Word, so that it goes out in every direction like an expanding sound! We’re grateful to partner with you as you live out your faith through your gifts, prayers, and support. Thank you! Rev. Zachary King, Director



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](mailto:secretary@firstcrcmv.com) by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

### **CONTINUING REQUESTS:**

Continue to pray for **Adelaide Vega**, as she is fighting cancer.

Please continue to pray for the **Hammingh family (Elaine, Henry & Jayne, Josh)** in the recent passing away of their grandson, nephew, and cousin Zach.

Please pray for **Owen DeVries, Alice Devries' son**. He is hospitalized with pneumonia and other health issues.

Please keep the **Ekkelkamp family** in your prayers in the passing away of Jerry.

**SHUT INS:**

**Nell Annema and 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; **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)**

Resonate missionaries serving in Central Asia give thanks for recent baptisms: "Pray that these new believers may grow in their relationship with God. Pray for their families to see God in them." Please also ask God to protect these believers. For many of them, it can be dangerous to share their faith.

**Tuesday July 27**

from: *ReFrame: Burkina Faso*

Salimata, age 19, contacted our French ministry team and shared, "I am not a Christian or a Muslim, but your preaching on the radio touched me. I think it's good to believe something. Can you tell me more?" Pray for our staff in Salimata's area as they help her to learn more about faith in Christ.

**Wednesday July 28**

from: *Diaconal Ministries Canada: NewGround*

Please pray for NewGround as it provides tools, resources, and grant money to help deacons and churches share Christ's love in their surrounding communities. Seven partners across Canada are helping us to grow God's kingdom in new and exciting ways! Please also ask God to inspire generous donors to contribute to this vital ministry.

**Thursday July 29**

from: *Resonate: Central America*

Pray for the many people still recovering from Hurricanes Eta and Iota from last fall. Missionary Steve Holtrop in Nicaragua has been facilitating trauma-healing workshops that help people bring their pain to Christ. Pray that people who participate in these workshops will continue to find hope, healing, and encouragement.

**Friday July 30**

from: *Centre for Public Dialogue and Office of Social Justice: World Day against Trafficking in Persons*

Please pray today for people experiencing trafficking. In particular, Indigenous women are at high risk to experience this harm. Ask God to equip workers helping to support people exiting trafficking. Pray for policies that will help to prevent trafficking and to support survivors.

**Saturday July 31**

from: *World Renew: Zambia*

Winter is approaching in Zambia, and a spike of COVID-19 seems to be emerging. As of early June, Zambia used up all of its vaccine supply, so many more vaccines are needed. Election fever is also starting as parties look forward to elections in August. Please pray for health and safety and for peace and calm in Zambia in the days ahead.

**Sunday August 1**

from: *ReFrame Ministries: Mexico*

Pray for followers of our Spanish ministry. After a devotional reading about God's preparation for us in heaven, a woman named Jacqueline shared, "One year ago today, my beloved husband died. My heart is comforted to know that God is preparing a place for me." Praise God for encouraging her on an especially difficult day.