

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

October 3, 2021

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

*“God, you call us to this place,
where we know your love and grace.”*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

* God’s Greeting

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #553 v. 1-4 *“How Great Thou Art”*

1. O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain

3. But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain

4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

*Words and Music: Stuart K. Hine, 1949, © 1949, 1953, The Stuart Hine Trust, USA
print rights admin. Hope Publishing Company. All other USA rights admin. by
EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI #678905*

* Opening Prayer

Leader: Almighty God, we pray for your blessing
on the church in this place.

**People: Here may the faithful find salvation,
and the careless be awakened.**

Leader: Here may the doubting find faith,
and the anxious be encouraged.

**People: Here may the tempted find help,
and the sorrowful find comfort.**

Leader: Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed.

**People: Here may the aged find consolation
and the young be inspired;**

All: through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #246 v. 1-4 "God is Here"

1. God is here! As we, your people,
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of your Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

2. Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the Word has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence as in speech,
here in newness and renewal
God the Spirit comes to each.

- 3 Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here, as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

4. Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's celebration,
all we have to give, receive;
we who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe.

Words: st. 1-4 Fred Pratt Green, 1977, © 1979 Hope Publishing Company; st. 5
Henrietta Ten Harmsel ©1979 Hope Publishing Company; Music: J. Wyeth's
Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813, P.D.; CCLI #678905

"Here your hospitality makes of us one family."

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Sung Prayer of Confession: Sing! #58 v. 4 only
"Children from Your Vast Creation"

4. Lord, we come as sisters, brothers,
seeking your redemptive touch.
Let unselfish love for others triumph,
lest we want too much.

Come to us amid life's scrimmage;
help your people live as one.

Recreate us in your image; speed the day your will is done!

Text: David A. Robb (b. 1932); Music: William Pl Rowlands (1860-1937) text
©1997, Selah Publishing Company

Words of Assurance

Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #833 v. 1-3 *"There Is a Redeemer"*

1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Chorus:

*Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.*

2. Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.

Chorus

3. When I stand in glory, I will see His face;
there I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.

Chorus

Words and Music: Melody Green (b. 1946)©1982 Birdwing Music(ASCAP)/BMG
Songs (ASCAP)/ Ears to Hear Music (ASCAP), admin. EMICMGPublishing.com
CCLI# 678905

*(Following the singing of this song the children
are invited forward for the Children's Message)*

Children's Message: Marjo Rouw

*(Following the conclusion of the children's message
children ages 3- 3rd grade are dismissed for Children's Worship)*

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #755 v. 1-3 *"Speak, O Lord"*

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
to receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all Your purposes, for Your glory.
2. Teach us Lord full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.
3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity,
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
and the earth is filled with Your glory.

Words and Music: Keith Getty / Stuart Townend; © 2005 Thankyou Music
(Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing); All rights Reserved. CCLI #678905

"Makes our rich diversity richer still in unity."

Scripture Reading: John 17:20-23 (Pew Bible pg.1071)

Prayer of Illumination:

Almighty God, you have built your church on the foundation
of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.
Join us together in unity of spirit by their teaching,
that we may become a holy temple, acceptable to you,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen

Message: "***Characteristics of Christ's Church - Unity***"

Time of Prayer

*"Makes our many voices one,
joined in praise with Christ your Son."*

* We Profess Our Faith – Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 54-55

Leader: Q. What do you believe concerning "the holy catholic church"?

**People: A. I believe that the Son of God
Through his Spirit and Word,
out of the entire human race,
from the beginning of the world to its end,
gathers, protects, and preserves for himself
a community chosen for eternal life
and united in true faith.
And of this community I am and always will be
a living member.**

Leader: Q. What do you understand by "the communion of saints"?

**People: A. First, that believers one and all,
as members of this community,
share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts.
Second, that each member
should consider it a duty to use these gifts
readily and cheerfully for the service and enrichment
of the other members.**

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #531 v. 1-3

"God, You Call Us to This Place" v. 1-3

1. God, you call us to this place,
where we know your love and grace.
Here your hospitality
makes of us one family,
makes our rich diversity
richer still in unity,
makes our many voices one,
joined in praise with Christ your Son.

2. Now assembled in Christ's name,
all your mercies to proclaim—
in the hearing of your word,
in our prayer through Christ the Lord,
in the ministries we share,
learning how to serve with care—
in the Spirit let us be
one in faith and unity.

3. In the water we were born
of the Spirit in the Son.
Now a priestly, royal race
rich in every gift of grace—
called, forgiven, loved, and freed,
for the world we intercede:
gather into unity
all the human family.

Words: Delores Dufner (b. 1939) © 1993 The Sisters of St. Benedict, admin. OCP Publications; Music: Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. after Johann S. Back (1685-1750), P.D. OneLicense.net License #A-711218

Scripture Reading: Revelation 22:1-6 (Pew Bible pg. 1231)

* God's Blessing

* Closing Hymn of Praise: LUYH #489 v. 1-3 "*By the Sea of Crystal*"

1. By the sea of crystal saints in glory stand,
myriads in number, drawn from every land.
Robed in white apparel, washed in Jesus' blood,
they now reign in heaven with the Lamb of God.

2. Out of tribulation, death, and Satan's hand,
they have been translated at the Lord's command.
In their hands they're holding palms of victory.
Hark! the jubilant chorus shouts triumphantly:

3. "Unto God Almighty, sitting on the throne,
and the Lamb, victorious, be the praise alone."
God has wrought salvation; he did wondrous things.
Who shall not extol thee, holy King of kings!

Words: William Kuipers, 1933, based on Revelation 4-5, © 1976 Faith Alive Christian Resources; Music: John Vanderhoven, 1933, © 1976 Faith Alive Resources; CCLI #678905

Postlude

**Following the service there will be cake, coffee, and juice served in the fellowship hall. As always, please feel free to make use of the entire building and the outdoors (weather permitting) to continue to minister to each other through encouraging conversation!*

Welcome! The psalmist prayed: "Restore us, O Lord God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved" (Psalm 80:19). May all who have come to worship find restoration, inner peace and spiritual strength. After the morning service all are invited to the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

	Today 10/3	Next Week 10/10
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry H.
Projection:	Brandon S.	
Video	Hannah VH	
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Announcements

October 3, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

The Men's Breakfast Bible Study has been moved to **TUESDAYS**. Their next meeting at Shari's in Burlington is this Tuesday, October 5 at 7:00 am.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

Greeters: Greg & Beth Boon; Oct. 10 – Greg & Tish Ackermann

Coffee Hosts: Dennis & Melba DeKok; Oct. 10 – Katie Jungquist & Elly Cuperus

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7:00AM: Morning Men's Bible Study at Sharis in Burlington

Sunday, Oct. 10: We will be celebrating Lord's Supper

CORRECTION!!! GEMS Kick-off and Ice Cream Social – October 6; 6:30pm

DATES TO NOTE:

Council meets October 11 at 6:30pm

There are copies of Northwest Hispanic Ministries' Newsletter on the Missionary bulletin board and copies available on the shelf underneath.

We received a Thank You note from **Mary Jo Reitsma** this week for her gratitude for so many gifts of Gideon Bibles in Dick's memory. It is on the bulletin board across from Beth's office.

NEW ATTENDEES AND REGULAR GUESTS: For those of you who are not yet receiving the weekly bulletin announcements and prayer chain requests and would like to be connected – **let Beth know (360) 336-2405 or at secretary@firstcrcmv.com**. She can hook you up to the latest news!

Dear Friends,

In a world currently filled with a lot of confusion, chaos, and divisiveness – the Church of Jesus Christ has certainly experienced its own share of challenges and disappointments. Thankfully, as the children of God, we can be assured that our heavenly Father is faithful and will continue to guide, protect, and lead His people. This is His Church, not ours.

The current cultural context also presents a tremendous opportunity. An opportunity to model something different to a watching world. With the Holy Spirit's leading and guidance we can demonstrate what it means to spiritually thrive even in the midst of much darkness.

Therefore, in the weeks to come, we're going to take the time to review some of the defining characteristics of the Church of Jesus Christ. In other words, the key biblical characteristics of a spiritually healthy church. May God bless us as we study and reflect on these characteristics together. In His Grace, - Pastor John

1. August 29 – *“Characteristics of Christ’s Church – Introduction and ‘Joy’”*
2. Sept. 5 – *“Characteristics of Christ’s Church – Holiness”*
3. Sept. 12 – Kick-off Sunday
4. Sept. 19 - *“Characteristics of Christ’s Church – Truth”*
5. Sept. 26 - *“Characteristics of Christ’s Church – Mission”*
6. Oct. 3 - *“Characteristics of Christ’s Church – Unity”*
7. Oct. 10 - *“Characteristics of Christ’s Church – Love”*

Birthdays for October: Sylvia Van Zanten (Oct. 10, 71 years), Steve Jungquist (Oct. 17, 71 years), Wayne Doss (Oct. 19, 74 years), Marinus Rouw (Oct. 12, 84 years). Happy Birthday and prayers for continued health!

Anniversaries for September: Kevin & Glenda Kok, 39 years.

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. 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.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Get The Banner Straight to Your Inbox - The Banner, the magazine of the CRC, will send you news, features, and columns straight to your email inbox! Sign up for the weekly e-newsletter by visiting thebanner.org/signup. While you're there, you can sign up to receive The Banner print magazine straight to your door as well!
TheBanner.org/signup

Groundwork: You Shall Not Give False Testimony - Twisting someone's words or leaving out vital information that skews the truth, and keeping silent when we should speak up can be just as damaging to another person as a lie. Join Groundwork as we study Exodus 20:16, and other scriptures to learn more about what it means to bear false testimony or witness and the importance of truth. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Zacchaeus and Jesus - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. How would you describe the character of Zacchaeus from the Bible story? Which words would you choose: wealthy, curious, or a man of faith? Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

Join a Go Local Cohort! - Resonate Global Mission ministry leaders are starting new Go Local: Essentials cohorts at the end of September and beginning of October. Go Local cohorts equip believers with postures and practices for joining God at work outside of the four walls of a church building. Go Local cohorts are available for individuals, churches, and pastors and church staff. Learn more and find a cohort that works with your schedule at www.resonateglobalmission.org/essentials

The Restore Conference - The pandemic has taken a toll on the church and its leaders, no doubt. What better time to get together again in person to worship together, to be inspired, to pray and heal together, than right now? Join us for The Restore Conference (restoreconference.ca) on November 18-20th in Abbotsford, B.C., at New Life Church. Couples welcomed. Special room rates are available. Only \$169/person, which includes meals, transportation to and from the airport and conference, and a chance to refill your spiritual tank. It's time to revision and resend. Register online. Hurry; space is limited.

At-home Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Gratitude: Read Psalm 100 and ponder or discuss the following questions. Did anything make you want to “shout for joy” this week? What was it, and how did you express gratitude to God? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject)

Disability Concerns Sunday is October 17 - The CRCNA encourages churches to celebrate Disability Concerns Sunday in two weeks. The theme for this designated Sunday is “Who’s missing in my church?” To find resources and ways to promote (and support) this empowering ministry, please search the website: crcna.org/Disability

Pastor Restoration Grants - Pastor Church Resources and Financial Shalom are awarding grants (funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.) to focus on pastors’ wellbeing in the face of unprecedented reports of pastor burnout due to COVID related stresses. Each \$2,500 (US) grant will support pastors' wellbeing through peer learning and professional helpers, as well as supporting the churches of successful applicants with money for ministry support during their pastor’s leave. All CRC pastors (Minister of the Word and Commissioned Pastor) are eligible to apply. Please visit crcna.org/pcr/pastors for more information.



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:

Michelle Kuipers is requesting prayers for their family. **Darin, Michelle, and Michelle's mom Adelaida** have all tested positive for Covid and are currently in quarantine. Thankfully, at this time, none of them have severe symptoms. Pray that this continues in the days ahead. Pray too for Michelle's dad who currently tested negative. Pray that this remains the case in the days/weeks to come.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Wilma Paul was released from Harborview and transported back to Life Care in Sedro-Woolley. Currently her leg is braced and she can't bend her knee. It's obviously going to take some time for the healing to take place. However, Wilma is in good spirits and she is not complaining. Please pray that the healing is swift and that Wilma experiences God's favor and grace as she patiently waits.

Pray for **Sid Tiemersma's** loved ones as they mourn his passing.

Pray for **John Velasquez** as he recovers from a successful quadruple bypass surgery and for a full recovery.

Please continue to pray for **Les Faber**, as he battles cancer.

Please continue to keep **Adelaida Vega** in your prayers.

Please continue to pray for members who have lost loved ones.

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 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)

Monday September 27 - World Renew: Beirut explosion

It's been over a year since an ammonium nitrate explosion in Beirut ripped the city apart both physically and emotionally. Please pray that families affected by the explosion continue to heal and that World Renew's partners there are comforted by God's sustaining grace and mercy.

Tuesday September 28 - Resonate: National Good Neighbor Day (U.S.)

Pray for individuals who are part of Resonate's Go Local and Joining God in the Neighborhood cohorts. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide these cohort members as they seek to be good neighbors and to share the love of Christ. Pray for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus.

Wednesday September 29 - ReFrame: French ministry

Praise God for Oedeth, who is volunteering as an accounting secretary with our partners in Burkina Faso. Praise God for her willingness to serve while another member of ReFrame's team in Burkina Faso is away on maternity leave.

Thursday September 30 - Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Today is the first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. Please pray for Indigenous peoples impacted by intergenerational trauma and for the church as it seeks to live out a better way forward.

Friday October 1 - Indigenous Christian Fellowship: Hospitality and safety

Amid the ongoing pandemic, our staff and volunteers wonder how best to serve the community members who come to Indigenous Christian Fellowship each day in Regina, Sask. Pray that all will be protected from illness and will continue to be able to serve food and drink to the community in Christ's name with grace, joy, and peace.

Saturday October 2 - Resonate Global Mission: Iowa

Give thanks for the faith community that Geneva Campus Ministry, a Resonate partner at the University of Iowa, provides for students. "I enjoyed being able to talk about my beliefs and my faith with others my age," said one student. "That is not something that happens often on a [public] college campus, and Geneva provided a space for it."

Sunday October 3 - Diversity: Guidance

Please pray for the Southeast Asian/Pacific Islanders leaders who spent time in prayer and strategizing their work at a September board meeting in Gary, Ind., toward growing healthy churches, developing the next generation of leaders, and facilitating the health of pastors and lay leaders as they work in mission and ministry in the CRC and beyond.