

***Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!***  
***October 10, 2021***  
**10:30 A.M. Worship Service**

\* Please stand in body or in spirit.

*“Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth came down;”*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

\* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #581 v. 1-3  
*“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day!
2. All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ, our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933), P.D.; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827, 1824, adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867, alt. P.D. CCLI #678905

\* Litany of Praise

Leader: I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;

**People: with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

Leader: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

**People: your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

Leader: You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: 'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

**People: Praise the Lord!**

—from Psalm 89:1-4, NRSV

\* 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: "The Love of God" v. 1-3

1. The love of God is greater far  
than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star,  
and reaches to the lowest hell;  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,  
God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled,  
and pardoned from his sin.

*Refrain*

*O love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure  
the saints' and angels' song!*

2. When years of time shall pass away,  
and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,  
when men who here refuse to pray,  
on rocks and hills and mountains call,  
God's love so sure shall still endure,  
all measureless and strong;  
redeeming grace to Adam's race—  
the saints' and angels' song.

*Refrain*

*O love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure  
the saints' and angels' song!*

3. Could we with ink the ocean fill,  
and were the skies of parchment made,  
were every stalk on earth a quill,  
and every man a scribe by trade,  
to write the love of God above  
would drain the ocean dry;  
nor could the scroll contain the whole,  
tho' stretched from sky to sky.

*Refrain*

*Text: Frederick M. Lehman; Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai, stanza 3; Music: Frederick M. Lehman; Public Domain; CCLI #678905*

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

*"Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown."*

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 #709 v. 1-3 *“Jesus Loves Me” (WT/Piano)*

1. Jesus loves me! This I know,  
for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong;  
they are weak, but he is strong.

*Refrain*

Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.

2. Jesus loves me—he who died  
heaven’s gate to open wide.  
He will wash away my sin,  
let his little child come in.

*Refrain*

3. Jesus loves me, this I know,  
as he loved so long ago,  
taking children on his knee,  
saying, “Let them come to me.”

*Refrain*

Words: st. 1-2 Anna B. Warner, 1859, st. 3 David R. McGuire, 1971, P.D.; Music:  
William B. Bradbury, 1861, P.D.; CCLI #678905

*“Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure,  
unbounded love thou art;”*

Scripture Reading: John 17:20-26, I Corinthians 13

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Characteristics of Christ's Church - Love”***

Time of Prayer

*“Visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart”*

\* Hymn of Application: LUYH #256 v. 1-4

*"They'll Know We Are Christians"*

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side.  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us all one.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Words: Peter Scholtes (b. 1938) © 1966, 1967 F.E.L. Church Publications, Ltd.,  
assigned 1991 to Lorenz Corporation CCLI #678905

*(During the singing of this song the children  
will be returning from Children and Worship)*

We Celebrate Communion Together

Summary of the Scriptural Teaching

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Invitation and Distribution

O taste and see that the LORD is good;  
happy are those who take refuge in him.

—Psalm 34:8, NRSV

Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #796 v. 1-3

*“Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”*

1. Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!  
Rolling as a mighty ocean  
in its fullness over me!  
Underneath me, all around me,  
is the current of thy love—  
leading onward, leading homeward,  
to thy glorious rest above!
  
2. Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus—  
spread his praise from shore to shore!  
How he loves us, ever loves us,  
changes never, nevermore!  
How he watches o’er his loved ones,  
died to call them all his own;  
how for them he’s interceding,  
watching o’er them from the throne!
  
3. Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
love of every love the best!  
’Tis an ocean vast of blessing,  
’tis a haven sweet of rest!  
Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus—  
’tis a heaven of heavens to me;  
and it lifts me up to glory,  
for it lifts me up to thee!

Words: Samuel Trevor Francis, ca. 1890, alt., P.D.; Music: Ebenezer; Thomas J. Williams, 1890, P.D.; CCLI #678905

*(During this hymn the elders will be coming down the aisles to serve the elements to those who have difficulty opening the individual sets in the holders in the pews).*

The Bread: Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.”  
(John 6:35) The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
Take, eat, remember and believe that the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.

The Cup:

Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow within him." The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Take, drink, remember and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.

Prayer of Gratitude

\* We Profess our Faith: Apostles Creed

And now let us join together in love,  
and with one heart and one voice  
profess the faith of the church at all times and in all places:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended to heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**—Apostles' Creed**

\* God's Blessing

\* Closing Hymn of Praise: LUYH #351 v. 1-4

*“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” v. 1-4*

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit;  
let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee with thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

*Words: Charles Wesley, 1747, P.D.; Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1831, P.D.*

Postlude



**Welcome to everyone!** We are so glad you chose to worship with us this Lord's Day. Today, we are having Holy Communion. Please reflect in reverence as we symbolize the body of Christ and His redemption for us. After joining us in worship, join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.



***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!***

	<i>Today 10/10</i>	<i>Next Week 10/17</i>
Sound:	Henry H.	Henry VZ
Projection:		Devin VZ
Video	Brandon S.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

# First CRC Announcements

**October 10, 2021**

## **OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

**Check Your Mailboxes!!** If you are volunteering this year in any capacity involving children, you will find the SAFE CHURCH paperwork in your mailboxes. They are renewed every 2 years, so everyone is due! Please fill them out if you have received yours and return them to Beth in the box on the wall by her office. If you don't yet have a mailbox, Beth may have just given you one, and she'll be letting you know! If you do not find your paperwork this week, have no fear, it will be arriving in the next week or so.

**Don't Forget!** The deadline to get information to Beth to get into the bulletin/prayer guide/etc. is **Thursday morning at 10 am!**

## **CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:**

**Greeters:** Oct. 10 – Greg & Tish Ackermann; Oct. 17 – Randy & Peggy Burr

**Coffee Hosts:** Oct. 10 – Jeannette Folkertsma & Elly Cuperus; Oct. 17 – Larry & Maxine Greidanus

**Sunday, Oct. 10:** We will be celebrating Lord's Supper this morning!

## **DATES TO NOTE:**

**Council** meets October 11 at 6:30pm

**Tuesday, Oct. 19, 7:00AM:** Morning Men's Bible Study at Sharis in Burlington

**Wednesday, Oct. 20:** GEMS

**Links for the past 2 Sunday Services:** Sept 26: <https://youtu.be/IUthAifaYNs>; Oct 3: <https://youtu.be/KnnX-6Vz3co>

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.*

### **ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT**

There are updates from our missionaries to Papua New Guinea, the VanderWals, and from Broken Arrow Bible Ranch in New Mexico on the bulletin board and shelf in the hallway!

### **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Groundwork: You Shall Not Covet** - The desire to possess what God gave someone else reveals insufficient trust that God provides enough. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Exodus 20:17 so that we understand the spiritual and relational implications of coveting and learn how we can combat covetousness and enhance gratitude in our

lives. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Family Fire** - is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at [familyfire.com](http://familyfire.com). Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

**The Lord's Prayer** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Jesus taught his disciples how to pray. This week's devotion looks at what Jesus taught them. Listen now at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

**At-home Faith Practice Reflection Tip** - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Gratitude: Read Luke 17:11-19 and ponder or discuss the following questions. How have you experienced healing in your life, whether physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual? How did you, or how might you, express your gratitude to God? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit [bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject](http://bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject))

**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](http://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.

**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](http://crcna.org/pcr/pastors) for more information.

**Connect Conference is Now Virtual** - The Connect Conference is now a virtual experience. Join us virtually on November 12-13 at the Connect Conference. Join men and women from around the country online for this unique, two-day conference. Expect to drink deeply from God's Word, strengthening the roots of your faith as we learn how to stand firm together and face the future with confidence and hope. You'll be challenged and encouraged by speakers, breakout groups, and worship as we consider how to be connected in every area of life. \$25/person and \$100/church. For more information and to register visit [www.theconnectconference.org](http://www.theconnectconference.org)

**Disability Concerns Sunday is Next Week** - The CRCNA encourages churches to celebrate Disability Concerns Sunday on October 17. The theme for this designated Sunday is "Who's missing in my church?" Please consider supporting this empowering ministry and learn more about it at: [crcna.org/Disability](http://crcna.org/Disability)



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:***

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.

**Wilma Paul** was released from Harborview and transported back to Life Care in Sedro-Woolley. It's 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 **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 October 4 *Safe Church: Community*

Give thanks with us for the people in our congregations who continue working toward a day when abuse is no longer present in our churches, families, and communities. We give thanks too for experts outside of our churches who can help us develop better systems to eliminate abuse. (On [network.crcna.org](http://network.crcna.org) join our Oct. 6 webinar on “Faith Leaders and a Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence.”)

Tuesday October 5 - *Resonate: Michigan*

La Casa de Mi Padre (“My Father’s House”), a Resonate church-plant partner in Michigan, is forming friendships with people and families in their communities. More people are coming to worship services and other gatherings! Ask the Holy Spirit to keep drawing people into a relationship with Christ and a supportive faith community.

Wednesday October 6 - *ReFrame Ministries: Puerto Rico*

Pray, along with Aida, for her friend who has been asking questions about the Christian faith. Aida reads our Spanish devotions and has been sharing them with her friend. Pray that Aida will continue to deepen her relationship with this friend and that Christ’s love will be reflected through her.

Thursday October 7 - *World Renew: Disaster response*

With schools and fall activities starting up, COVID infection rates and hospitalizations in the U.S. have been rising again. Please pray for the safe relaunching of Disaster Response Services programming and volunteer engagement with disaster-affected communities in this season.

Friday October 8 - *Resonate: Africa*

Give thanks for God's work through Discipling Marketplace Leaders, a Resonate partner in Africa. Two pastors began ministering among the Maasai in Kenya and were able to lead Bible studies and help with business development. One man came to faith in Christ and was baptized; pray for him as he continues to grow as a disciple of Christ.

Saturday October 9 - *GEMS Girls' Clubs: Mentorship*

Mentoring matters. Pray that every GEMS Girls' Club may have an unwavering commitment to help bring girls into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. Please pray that every girl knows she belongs and that she is loved by God, her leaders, and the girls at her club.

Sunday October 10 - *ReFrame: Japan*

Pray for Emiri and her son, who listen to our audio programs together in Japan. "I have been asking more and more questions about God and Jesus," Emiri writes. Pray that she will continue to seek Jesus and follow him.