

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
October 17, 2021
10:30 A.M. Worship Service

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

"Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;"

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #565 v. 1-3 *"God Himself Is With Us"*

1. God himself is with us; let us now adore him,
and with awe appear before him.
God is in his temple; all within keep silence,
prostrate lie with deepest reverence.
Him alone do we own as our God and Savior;
praise his name forever.
2. God himself is with us; hear the harps resounding!
See the crowds the throne surrounding!
"Holy, holy, holy," hear the hymn ascending,
angels, saints, their voices blending!
Bow your ear to us here; hear, O Christ, the praises
that your church now raises.
3. Fount of every blessing, purify my spirit,
trusting only in your merit.
Like the holy angels who behold your glory,
may I ceaselessly adore you,
and in all, great and small, seek to do most nearly
what you love so dearly.

Words: Gerhardt Tersteegen (1729); tr. composite, P.D.;

Music: Joachim Neander, 1680, P.D.; CCLI #678905

* Litany of Praise

Leader: Let us worship God.

**People: “He is our refuge and our fortress, our God,
in whom we trust.”**

Leader: Let us confess with our mouths, “Jesus is Lord,”
and believe in our hearts that God raised him
from the dead.

**People: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved.”**

Leader: Let us call upon our true God, believing him
in our hearts, confessing him with our mouths,
worshiping him in spirit and in truth.

— Based on Psalm 91:2; Romans 10:9,13

* 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: LUYH #559 v. 1-3 “Ten Thousand Reasons”

Refrain

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.*

*Sing like never before, O my soul;
I’ll worship your holy name.*

1. The sun comes up, it’s a new day dawning;
it’s time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.

Refrain

2. You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger.
Your name is great, and your heart is kind.
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing—
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Refrain

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name.*

3. And on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near, and my time has come;
still, my soul will sing your praise unending—
ten thousand years and then forevermore!

Refrain

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name,
worship your holy name, worship your holy name.*

Words and Music: Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman © 2011 Shout! Publishing, sixsteps Music, Said and Done Music and Thankyou Music (PRS), admin. in the United States and Canada at EMICMGPUBLISHING.com, sixsteps Music and Said and Done Music admin. at EMICMGPUBLISHING.com, Thankyou Music admin. worldwide at EMICMGPUBLISHING.com excluding Europe which is admin. at Kingswaysongs.com CCLI #678905

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

"There is no shadow of turning with thee;"

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 Thanksgiving: LUYH #568 v. 1-4 *"I Will Sing of My Redeemer"*

All Sing:

1. I will sing of my Redeemer
and his wondrous love to me;
on the cruel cross he suffered,
from the curse to set me free.

Refrain

*Sing, oh, sing of my Redeemer,
with his blood he purchased me;
on the cross he sealed my pardon,
paid the debt, and made me free.*

Women Only:

2. I will tell the wondrous story,
how my lost estate to save,
in his boundless love and mercy
he the ransom freely gave.

Refrain Women & Men:

*Sing, oh, sing of my Redeemer,
with his blood he purchased me;
on the cross he sealed my pardon,
paid the debt, and made me free.*

Men Only:

I will praise my dear Redeemer,
his triumphant power I'll tell,
how the victory he giveth
over sin and death and hell.

Refrain Women & Men

All Sing:

I will sing of my Redeemer
and his heavenly love to me;
He from death to life has brought me,
Son of God, with him to be.

Refrain

Words: Philip P. Bliss, 1878; Music: James McGranahan; Public Domain,
CCLI #678905

Prayer of Illumination

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #53 v. 1. 5. 18 *"Song of the Prophets"*

1. In ages past the mighty Lord
by prophets spoke the Word,
and from their lips God's great design
throughout the earth was heard.
In revelation, parable,
bold fantasy, and dream,
they echoed God's eternal vow
to ransom and redeem.

5. Blest be God's name from age to age,
who strength and wisdom brings;
who makes the roaring lions submit,
and silent tongues to sing.
Life's deep and hidden mysteries
no more confound our will,
for God will keep the covenant
to love and lead us still.

18. Yet still in present, troubled days
we seek to hear God's voice,
and in the face of our distress,
find reason to rejoice.
Grant us the wisdom to discern
through faith who we should be—
a fallen race, restored through grace,
a captive world set free.

Words: Michael Morgan © Faith Alive Christian Resources; Music: Irish traditional; arr. Rory Cooney (b. 1952) ©1990 GIA Publications, Inc.; OneLicense.net License #A-711218

"Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;"

Scripture Reading: Daniel 1
(Pew Bible Pg. 873)

Message: ***"Exiled in Babylon"***

Time of Prayer

"As thou hast been thou forever wilt be."

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #348 v. 1-3 “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23: Words: Thomas O Chisholm, 1923, © 1923, ren. 1951
Hope Publishing Company; Music: William M. Runyan, 1923, © 1923, ren. 1951
Hope Publishing Company, CCLI #678905

* We Profess our Faith: Our World Belongs to God – Art. 21-23

Leader: 21. The Lord promised to be God to Abraham, Sarah, and their children, calling them to walk faithfully before him and blessing the nations through them.

People: God chose Israel to show the glory of his name, the power of his love, and the wisdom of his ways.

Leader: The Lord gave them the law through Moses and led them by rulers and teachers, shaping a people in whom God is revealed—a light to the nations.

22. When Israel spurned God's love—
lusting after other gods,
trusting in power and wealth,
and hurting the weak—

God scattered them among the nations,
yet kept a faithful remnant and promised them
the Messiah: a prophet to speak good news,
a king to crush evil and rule the earth with justice,
a priest to be sacrificed for sinners.

People: God promised to forgive their sins and give them a new heart and a new spirit, moving them to walk in his ways.

Leader: 23. Remembering the promise to reconcile the world to himself, God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ— the eternal Word made flesh.

People: He is the long-awaited Messiah, one with us and one with God, fully human and fully divine, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

* God's Blessing

* Closing Hymn of Praise: LUYH #965

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, P.D.; Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551, P.D. CCLI #678905

Postlude

Welcome to our services of worship and praise! We pray that all will find strength, security, and fellowship with God and with one another. 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.

	<i>Today 10/17</i>	<i>Next Week 10/24</i>
Sound:	Henry VZ	Mardy S
Projection:	Devin VZ	Tim H.
Video	Tim H.	Devin VZ
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Announcements

October 17, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Pictures Needed! This year's Thanksgiving Service is going to follow the various themes of the beloved hymn, "*For the Beauty of the Earth.*" In preparation for it we would like any of you budding photographers to send Beth a few of your favorite family pictures. Not only are we looking for photos of God's gorgeous creation (sunsets, flowers, mountains, rivers, etc.), but we are also looking for pictures of significant life events (graduations, wedding, anniversaries, birth of a child/grandchild, etc.) as well as memorable life experiences (sports events, family vacation pictures, silly children pictures, etc.). These pictures will be used throughout the service as we give thanks to God for the 'beauty of the earth,' the 'wonder of each hour,' the 'joy of human love,' and most importantly of all the 'best gift divine.' We will try to utilize them all, depending on how many pictures we receive! Send them to: secretary@firstcrcmv.com

"Thank you so much for all the prayers, cards and notes after John's surgery. It was so caring of you and so encouraging to us. He is recovering nicely. God is so good!"
– **John and Judy Velasquez**

The congregation is invited to an open house in honor of **Marjo Rouw's** 70th birthday today from **2-4 pm** at the Heather Village Community Center. Join us for cake and fellowship. Masks requested."

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.



Dear Friends,

I suspect when most of us think about the book of Daniel we immediately recall the stories of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace and Daniel in the lion's den. Such stories are often taught in a way to provide us a model for how to live for Christ in a hostile world. Certainly that is an important part of their purpose.

Yet, the reality is, very few of us can really claim to come close to such a standard. As sinners, we often fall miserably short. Which is precisely why the book of Daniel points us to someone even greater who also lived a life of exile and separation. His name, of course, is Jesus.

In the weeks to come we're going to study the first half of the book of Daniel and observe how it points us to Jesus Himself. Listed below is our study plan and as always I encourage you to read the text ahead of time before each Sunday. May God bless us as we engage in this study together! In His Grace, - Pastor John

1. Oct. 17 – Daniel 1 – *“Exiled in Babylon”*
2. Oct. 24 – Daniel 2:1-23 – *“Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream”*
3. Oct. 31 – Daniel 2:24-49 – *“The Interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream”*
4. Nov. 7 – Guest Pastor Aaron Oosterwyk
5. Nov. 14 – Guest Tim Vande Griend – *“Worship Convictions Conversation”*
6. Nov. 21 - Daniel 3 – *“The Fiery Furnace”*

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

Greeters: Oct. 17 – Randy & Peggy Burr; Oct. 24 – Shirley Boonstra & Elly Cuperus

Coffee Hosts: Oct. 17 – Larry & Maxine Greidanus; Oct. 24 – Clarence & Eleanor Klunder

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

Wednesday, Oct. 20: GEMS Get-Acquainted Night

Links for Sunday's Service: Oct. 10: <https://youtu.be/XcPOa5KQtwc>

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), Joni Beezhold (Oct. 30).* 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

Pregnancy Choices' Thriving Heart Boutique is opening in a "limited" capacity. Right now they will begin taking donations of the following essential items: **New clothes (Newborn – 2T), New shoes and socks, Diapers/wipes, Laundry detergent (powdered, Kirkland is great), Paper towels & toilet paper, Powdered formula.** Currently they do not have the capacity to take larger items. If you have any questions, please call 360-428-4777 to schedule a drop off.

Save the Date! Celebrate a medieval Christmas with the acclaimed NOËL Celtic and classical harp ensemble and benefit **New Earth Recovery**, a faith-based nonprofit operating recovery homes in Skagit County. **Tuesday Dec 7 @ 7:00 pm**, here at First Christian Reformed Church. Harps, flute, strings, poetry, and treats following. Free event with a freewill offering.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

How Do You Pray? - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. When you pray to God, what do you say to him? In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus said to his disciples, "You should pray like this..." Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

Groundwork: Your Questions about God, Sin, Evil, and Evangelism - It's a natural part of the Christian experience to have questions as you learn to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Join Groundwork as we study Psalm 19, James 1:13-15, 1 John 1:5-7, 1 John 3:4-6, Romans 10:14-15, and Ephesians 1:11-14 to answer some of the questions listeners like you have asked Groundwork this year. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

At-home Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Gratitude: Read Luke 7:36-38 and ponder or discuss the following questions. If you can't remember a time when you didn't believe in God, it might be difficult to feel deeply what Jesus has done for you. How might you and other Christians recover a sense of wonder and gratitude for the sacrifice of Jesus' life? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject)

New Thriving Essentials Course - Be one of the first to experience and shape a new course for people who are actively involved in their local congregation. Developed with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc., this online four-session course explores key paradigms about mission, discipleship, discernment, and leadership. Each session is just one hour, and new groups start each week. For details and signup, visit crcna.org/Thrive

CRCNA Position Opening - The Christian Reformed Church in North America as an opening for an Administrative Assistant for Inspire. This position will provide administrative assistance to the co-chairs of Inspire 2022 Planning Team, serve as a back-up liaison with convention center and hotels, and assist the Inspire Planning Team. This position can be worked anywhere in the USA or Canada. For details visit www.crcna.org/jobs; deadline to apply is October 20, 2021.

Today is Disability Concerns Sunday - The goal of Disability Concerns is to bring about the full participation of all people with disabilities in the life of the church, and the full participation of the church in the lives of people with disabilities. Please consider giving a gift and supporting this empowering ministry of the CRC right now: crcna.org/Disability/Donate



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.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

The **Kuipers** family is on the mend. **Michelle** is still recovering and is still experiencing some fatigue and shortness of breath, but is getting better. Michelle's mother is recovered from Covid and husband Darin is already back at work. ... Greg Boon's father **Dave** is also home from the hospital now. He's still on oxygen at times, but is getting stronger. We praise God for these good reports.

Recently **Larry and Margaret Vander Pol** were diagnosed with Covid. Right now they are both quite fatigued. Please pray for physical strength and healing in the days to come. Pray too for God's comfort and peace during these anxious times.

In addition, **Sarah Zastoupil** and her children **Natalie** and **Rafe** recently tested positive. Thankfully they experienced minor symptoms and are doing well. Pray that they might all return to their normal activities very soon.

Finally, please pray for our students. Some of them are currently in quarantine and unable to attend school in person. Please pray for God's grace and for patience.

Of course, these are not the only people currently battling Covid. Our community as a whole is currently experiencing a high rate of infection. Please continue to pray for God's healing and protection for all those whose lives have been greatly impacted by this virus.

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. Please pray that the healing is swift and that Wilma experiences God's favor and grace as she patiently waits.

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 11- *World Renew: Canadian Thanksgiving*

We praise and thank God for his faithfulness and mercy in our lives, and for guiding and allowing us to serve brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. Thank God for the generous support World Renew receives to sustain its ministries. May God bless all individuals, churches, organizations, and agencies supporting this work in various ways.

Tuesday October 12- *Climate Witness Project: Lament*

As we see extreme weather devastate communities—from voracious fires to overwhelming floods—we ask you to pray in lament for the chaos in creation brought on by climate change. Ask God to help communities grieve, recover, and rebuild in ways that are sustainable so that we can love others better.

Wednesday October 13- *Resonate: Worldwide*

Pray for believers working through the curriculum Witness: Equipped to Share the Good News. This new resource from Resonate helps to equip people to share the gospel with family, friends, and neighbors. Ask the Holy Spirit to use this tool to transform lives and communities.

Thursday October 14- *ReFrame: Ukraine*

A man named Ludovic found our ministry website and asked for prayers for his wife, who was hospitalized with respiratory problems. Praise God that she was recently discharged and able to return home. Pray for continued strength, both physical and spiritual, for Ludovic and his family.

Friday October 15- *World Renew: Zambia*

Recent elections in Zambia were relatively peaceful, and the resulting mood in the country is buoyant. COVID-19 rates have declined, but people are still hesitant to receive vaccinations even though plenty are available. Pray for wisdom for the new government and patience for the population as citizens are eager to see improvements in their country.

Saturday October 16- *Resonate: Central Asia*

Resonate missionaries in Central Asia give thanks for Christians in their region who are strong in faith and have a compulsion to share the good news with others! Ask the Holy Spirit to work powerfully through these believers.

Sunday October 17- *Disability Concerns: Awareness*

Today we celebrate Disability Awareness Sunday. Our theme this year is “Who's missing in my church?” Many young adults with and without disabilities feel unwelcome because churches often do not have the same accessibility that other spaces have in their communities. What can you do to change this narrative? How can your church invest in our younger people living with disabilities?