

# ***Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!***

***Pastor John Knoester***

***November 28, 2020 – First Sunday in Advent***

\* **Please stand in body or in spirit**

*“Come, thou long-expected Jesus,”*

Prelude

Opening Song Video: *“O Come, Emmanuel”* – Elaine Hagenburg

Welcome/Announcements

\* **Call to Worship: Waiting in Hope**

**Leader:** Friends, what are we waiting for?

**People:** **We wait in HOPE for the Lord;  
he is our help and our shield.  
But if we hope for what do not yet have,  
we wait for it patiently.**

**Leader:** Where is our HOPE?

**People:** **For the grace of God has appeared  
that offers salvation to all people.  
It teaches us to live in this present age  
while we wait for the blessed HOPE –  
the appearing of the glory  
of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.  
But as for us, we watch in HOPE for the Lord,  
We wait for God our Savior.**

\* **God’s Greeting**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** As we enter this season of Advent,  
May the love of God the Father,  
and grace of Jesus the Son,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be and abide with us all.

**People:** **Amen!**

\* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #56 v. 1-4 *“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”*

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.
2. Israel’s strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art:  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1744), P.D.; Music: Christian F. Witt’s *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1861; desc. John W. Wilson © 1983 Hope Publishing Company; CCLI# 678905

*(During the singing of the last verse  
those lighting the Advent candle are invited forward)*

*“Born to set thy people free;”*

Lighting of the Advent Candle: *“Hope”*

*(The first candle is lit)*

Communal Prayer of Confession:

Leader: We are captive, exiled, O God, because we have,  
each in our own way, chosen our own path,  
away from you. We are hungry for wisdom  
and knowledge, because we have, too often,  
substituted our judgment for yours.

**People: We are lost, in need of guidance.**

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus; guide us and deliver us.**

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

Leader: God, our kind and loving Savior God,  
has stepped in and saved us.

**People: God gave us a good bath, and we came out of it  
new people, washed inside and out  
by the Holy Spirit.**

Leader: Our Savior Jesus poured out new life  
so generously.

**People: God's gift has restored our relationship with God  
and given us back our lives.**

Leader: And there's more life to come—an eternity of life!

**People: Christ is our Hope!**

\* Song of Assurance: LUYH #772 v. 1-4

*"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"*

1. My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*Chorus:*

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

2. When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
in ev'ry high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil.

*Chorus*

3. His oath, His covenant, His blood  
support me in the whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.

*Chorus*

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

4. When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in Him be found,  
dressed in His righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne.

*Chorus*

Words: Edward Mote (1797-1874), Tune: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868),  
Public Domain. CCLI# 678905

*(During the singing of the last verse the children are invited forward  
for the Children's Message)*

Children's Message – Mrs. Marjo Rouw

*(Following the children's message children ages 3-3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
are invited to make their way to Children in Worship  
in the Fellowship Hall)*

\* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #61 v. 1,2,5

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in its ways to go.

*Refrain*

5. O come, O Key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home.  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

## Refrain

Words: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite, P.D.;  
Music: French processional, 15- c. P.D.; arr. Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006  
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*"From our fears and sins release us,"*

Scripture Reading: Luke 12:35-40

Prayer of Illumination:

Message: **"Ready or Not!"**

Time of Prayer

*"Let us find our rest in thee."*

Song of Reflection: *"My Soul in Stillness Waits"*

*(Following this song the children will be returning from  
Children and Worship and the elders serving communion are invited to  
make their way forward to the front pew.)*

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper Together

Summary of the Scriptural Teaching (Based on I Corinthians 11:23-26)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We Affirm our Faith: (Based on Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 75, 80)

**Leader:** Our Lord commands all believers to eat  
this broken bread and to drink this cup in true faith  
and in the confident hope of his return to glory.

**People:** **In this supper God declares to us that our sins  
have been completely forgiven through the one  
sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which he himself finished  
on the cross once for all.**

**Leader:** He also declares to us that the Holy Spirit grafts us  
into Christ, who with his very body  
is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father,  
where he wants us to worship Him.

**People:** **Alleluia! Amen.**

Song of Response: LUYH #96/95 v. 1-3 *“What Feast of Love”*

1. What feast of love is offered here,  
what banquet come from heaven?  
What food of everlasting life,  
what gracious gift is given?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
the bread come down from heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
How sweet the manna given!
  
2. What light of truth is offered here,  
what covenant from heaven?  
What hope of everlasting life,  
what wondrous word is given?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
the sun come down from heaven.  
Oh, see and hear and sing!  
The Word of God is given!
  
3. What wine of love is offered here,  
what crimson drink from heaven?  
What stream of everlasting life,  
what precious blood is given?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
the sweetest wine of heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
The Son of God is given!

Words: Delores Dufner, OSB (b. 1939) © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP  
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Music: English ballad, 16th c. P.D.

*(During the singing of this song 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).*

Invitation

Prayer of Gratitude

\* We Profess our Faith: (Our Song of Hope St. 3)

Leader: Our only hope is Jesus Christ.

**People: After we refused to live in the image of God,  
he was born of the virgin Mary,  
sharing our genes and our instincts,  
entering our culture, speaking our language,  
fulfilling the law of God.**

Leader: Being united to Christ's humanity,  
we know ourselves when we rest in him.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus:  
We are open to your Spirit.  
We await your full presence.  
Our World finds rest in you alone.**

\* Sending and Blessing:

As you wait for Christ to return,  
live as people of hope, and go with God's blessing.

May hope in Christ's return sustain you,  
God's peace saturate the world around you,  
The joy of the Holy Spirit strengthen you,  
And the love of the triune God encircle you,  
In this moment and in all the moments to come. Amen.

\* Doxology: LUYH #378 v. 1-3 "*Lord of All Hopefulness*"

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:  
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled  
at the plane and the lathe:  
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
 your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:  
 be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

*Words: Jan Struther (1901-1953) from Enlarged Songs of Praise, 1931, used by permission of Oxford University Press; Music: Irish; harm. Hymnal, 1982 ©Church Pension Group/Church Publishing, Inc.; OneLicense.net License #A-711218*

Postlude

**Welcome!** Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life." Our Savior invites us to His table, a table of love that has been prepared for us. Jesus, Our Savior, lived, died and lives again for each one of us. Let us worship our God today and praise Him for His love. After the worship service, we invite you to join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

	Today 11/28	Next Week 12/5
Sound:	Henry H.	Tim H.
Projection:	Tim H.	Hannah VH
Video	Devin VZ	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund



# First CRC

## Bulletin Announcements

### **November 28, 2021**

**Communion Sunday!** This morning we have the opportunity to celebrate the Lord's Supper together. Currently we still have approximately 85 individual communion packets available. If possible, we would like to use all of them this morning. Therefore, when you arrive, please make sure to pick one up from the table in the back of church, or from another designated area. If we do run out, there will still be elders passing out the elements later in the service. Thank you!

**Young Adults!** You are invited to a night of pizza and fellowship at Coconut Kenny's (1060 S. Burlington Blvd) at **6pm, Tuesday, December 28**. It will be a great time to "catch up" on how you've been and what God has been doing in your life. If you are interested in coming, please RSVP no later than Christmas Day to Pastor John, at 360-941-5902 or jknoes14@hotmail.com

**Christmas Blessing Cookie Jar Update:** We encourage you to sign up to help put together the jars of cookie mixes Dec. 4 from 9am – noon. Wear your festive attire and bring a snack to share! Many hands make light work. You can sign up in the Fellowship Hall or email Beth at secretary@firstcrcmv.com.

#### **Worship Service YouTube Links:**

Sunday, November 21: <https://youtu.be/ml0HDDab0FM>

**Angel Tree:** Today after the service you will have the opportunity to pick up an Angel Tree Tag in the Fellowship Hall with a gift suggestion for the children that we are purchasing gifts for. Please sign your name on the sheet on the table by the name of the child on the Angel Tree Tag that you chose. Each child receives a gift valued at around \$25.00. After purchasing your gift, please wrap and put the Angel Tree sticker on the **outside** of the gift. This identifies the child with the gift. Please bring your gift back to the Fellowship Hall and place it on the table by December 12 or before. The families will pick up the gifts on Monday morning December 20. Thank you for your generosity and may you have a wonderful Christmas season. Contact Sylvia Van Zanten at 360-386-7442 if you have any questions.

**New Attendees** – Church Information Sunday! If you are a frequent visitor on Sunday mornings or have recently have started attending on a regular basis – you are invited to attend a brief ‘informational gathering’ on Sunday, December 5 immediately following the Sunday morning service. During this time a couple members of the church leadership team will take the time to share a little bit more about the church and also be available to answer any questions you might have. Essentially we want to do hospitality well and would love to get to know you more! This gathering will take place at the front of the church shortly after the service and shouldn’t last long. We look forward to having a great conversation!

*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 -**

**Save the Date!** Celebrate a medieval Christmas with the acclaimed NOËL Celtic and classical **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.

**Birthdays for December: Caleb & Joel Link (Dec. 6), Katie DeJong (Dec. 8), Amanda DeJong (Dec. 9), Jill Klunder (Dec. 9), Matty Lagerway (Dec. 10), Greg Ackermann (Dec. 14), Leia Visser (Dec. 22), Julie Speck (Dec. 25), Keith Rasmussen (Dec. 30).** Happy Birthday and prayers for continued health!

### **CALENDAR:**

**Greeters:** November 28 – Henry & Sharon Kuipers; December 5 – Keith & Jean Rasmussen

**Coffee Hosts:** November 28 – Dennis & Melba DeKok; December 5 – Joe LeClair, Katie Jungquist, Elly Cuperus

#### ***NEXT WEEK:***

**Tuesday, Nov. 30, 7:00AM:** Morning Men’s Bible Study at Shari’s in Burlington

**Wednesday, Dec. 1, 6:30pm:** GEMS

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Our Candlelight Service is set for **December 19 at 6:30 pm**

## **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Advent Begins Today** - Live as Jesus did in caring fellowship with the world's impoverished communities this Advent season through the World Renew 2021-2022 Gift Catalog. Choose a gift that helps people who live with scarcity to experience hope through Christ this holiday season. Give online at [worldrenew.net/gifts](http://worldrenew.net/gifts) or call 1-888-WRLD-RNW.

**Advent: A Time of Hope** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Waiting for something can be hard. Looking forward means that something special hasn't arrived yet. Have you given your life to Jesus yet? So, what are you waiting for? Listen now at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) and check out all the new content, including The Gifts of Kindness Advent Calendar and the KC parent blog too.

**Family Fire** - 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.

**Groundwork: Christmas Hope: Tamar** - If you feel far from God this Christmas, or if you just need a reminder that nothing can separate you from his love, then join Groundwork as we study Matthew 1:1-3, Genesis 38, and Romans 8:35-39. Together we'll be reminded of the real meaning of Christmas and find hope in the story of Tamar. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**CRCNA Senior Leadership Search** - The Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) is searching for senior leaders to fill two new positions: a General Secretary and a Chief Administrative Officer. It is hoped that these positions will be filled during Synod 2022, pending approval of the Structure and Leadership Team's report. A search for a third position, Executive Director - Canada, also will begin soon. Please pray for those involved in these searches. Pray for wisdom and the Holy Spirit's leading. Please also pray for the persons that God is preparing to fill these roles, that they may be

equipped for leadership of the church during this time and into the future. For more information, or to apply, visit [crcna.org/ExecutiveSearch](http://crcna.org/ExecutiveSearch)

**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:**

Please pray for all those affected by the flooding in our area this past month.



How can  
we  
**PRAY**  
for you?

Pray continued healing for those affected by COVID.

Pray for continued healing for **Marilyn Cooke, Wilma Paul and Corky Vander Griend.**

Please continue to pray for **Les Faber** and for **Joy** and the entire Faber family in the days and weeks to come.

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 November 22 - *Calvin Theological Seminary: Diversity*  
Over one-third of our students come from outside North America. Our students come from 25 countries, and 30 percent of our students are women. It is a blessing to hear diverse stories of the church and of Christ's calling as we learn together. Give thanks and pray for the beautiful diversity in our seminary community.

Tuesday November 23 - *Resonate: Community witness*

Pray for CRC members seeking to join God on mission in their neighborhoods. Ask God for meaningful connections with their neighbors. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and for opportunities to talk about Jesus.

Wednesday November 24 - *Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations: Togetherness*

As we approach the holiday season, let's pray that Christians everywhere will find joy and fellowship in the faith we share with each other and in the good news we work to share with the world.

Thursday November 25 - *World Renew: Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)*

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation. . . . I can do all this through him who gives me strength" (Phil. 4:12-13). In all things may we be thankful for the gifts God has given us, and may we use our gifts to help our neighbors.

Friday November 26 - *ReFrame: India*

As the only Christian in his family, Binod has been concerned about the spiritual well-being of his family members. Praise God with Binod that his brother was recently baptized! Continue to pray with him that the other members of his family may come to faith in Christ.

Saturday November 27 - *Resonate: Michigan*

"Pray that God will bless our gatherings . . . and the new connections we are making with other ministries and with Michigan State University's staff and faculty this year," asks Dara Nykamp, a Resonate partner campus minister at Campus Edge Fellowship in East Lansing, Mich.

Sunday November 28 - *Worship Ministries: First day of Advent*

As worship leaders prepare for a busy liturgical season, pray for an anointing of the Spirit and for hearts that are open as they plan worship. Pray for freedom from distractions as they work with pastors, volunteers, and others, that they may have creative and sound resources to help lead people to saving faith in Jesus.