

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

December 12, 2021 – Third Sunday in Advent

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

"God with us, the promise has come to be;"

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

* Call to Worship:

* Opening Song of Praise: LUYH #76 v. 1-4 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God, Light of Light eternal,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

Refrain

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!"

Refrain

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Words: attr. John F. Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others, P.D.;
Music: attr. John F. Wade, 1743; desc. © 1947 Hymns Ancient and Modern,
admin. Hope Publishing Company; CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting

* Opening Songs of Praise: *Days of Elijah*

1. These are the days of Elijah.
Declaring the Word of the Lord.
And these are the days of your servant Moses.
Righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial,
of famine and darkness and sword.
Still we are a voice in the desert crying
"Prepare ye the Way of the Lord".

Chorus:

*Behold He comes riding on the Clouds,
Shining like the Sun, at the trumpet call.
Lift your voice in the year of Jubilee
and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.*

2. These are the days of Ezekiel.
The dry bones becoming as flesh.
And these are the days of Your servant David.
Rebuilding the temple of praise.
And these are the days of the harvest.
The fields are as white in the world.
And we are the laborers in the vineyard.
Declaring the Word of the Lord.

Chorus:

*Behold He comes riding on the Clouds,
Shining like the Sun, at the trumpet call.
Lift your voice in the year of Jubilee
and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.*

"Days of Elijah" Robin Mark; © 1996 Daybreak Music LTD. (Admin. by Integrity Music, Inc.) CCLI# 678905

Prepare Him Room

O behold, the mystery now unfolds
See the star shine on the virgin foretold
Angels sing and light up the sky
Hope rings out in a newborn's cry
Swing wide, you ancient gates
For Christ is born today!

Prepare Him room
Prepare Him room
Let the King of glory enter in

God with us, the promise has come to be
This, the one the prophets were longing to see
In the darkness a blazing light
To the hungry the words of life
His kingdom now is near
For those with ears to hear

Prepare Him room
Prepare Him room
Let the King of glory enter in

Prepare Him room
Prepare Him room
Let the King of glory enter in

Oh, our hearts, as busy as Bethlehem
Hear Him knock, don't say there's no room in the inn
Through the cradle, cross, and grave
See the love of God displayed
Now He's risen and He reigns
Praise the Name above all names!

Prepare Him room
Prepare Him room
Let the King of glory enter in

Prepare Him room
Prepare Him room
Let the King of glory enter in
Let the King of glory enter in

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www.SovereignGraceMusic.org

(Immediately following the song those lighting
the Advent candle are invited forward)

"This, the one the prophets were longing to see."

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Song of Response: Sing! #117 Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

"Emmanuel" Text & Music: Bob McGee, Copyright © 1976 C.A. Music CCL# 678905

(Following this song of response 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- 1st grade are dismissed for Children's Worship)

"In the darkness a blazing light,
to the hungry the word of life;"

Offering

Offertory: "Christmas Hallelujah" Sheri Link

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "Waiting in Strength"

Time of Prayer

"His kingdom now is near
for those with ears to hear."

*Hymn of Application: ***"This My Only Comfort"***

1. This, my only comfort in my life and in my death:
You have fully paid for all my sins and all my debts
even when I struggle to believe:
with your precious blood you've set me free.

Chorus

*I am not my own but belong body and soul,
in my life and in death to you Lord, Christ my Lord.*

2. You preserve my life in such a way that without you not a hair can fall from me unless you will it to even when I'm lost in desperation all things work together for my salvation.

Chorus

*I am not my own but belong body and soul,
in my life and in death to you Lord, Christ my Lord.*

Heidelberg Catechism

Q 1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own,¹ but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—² to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.³

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,⁴ and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.⁵

He also watches over me in such a way⁶ that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven;⁷ in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.⁸

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life⁹ and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.¹⁰

¹ 1 Cor. 6:19-20; ² Rom. 14:7-9; ³ 1 Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:14; ⁴ 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:2; John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:1-11; ⁵ John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:5; ⁶ Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18; ⁸ Rom. 8:28; ⁹ Rom. 8:15-16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14; ¹⁰ Rom. 8:1-17

3. Therefore by your Holy Spirit you assure me of eternal life and make me willing and ready even when I can't see my way through from now on to always live for you.

Chorus (2x)

*I am not my own but belong body and soul,
in my life and in death to you Lord, Christ my Lord.*

Music and Lyrics by Jeremy Zeyl & Brian VanArnhem © Jasper Music.
Text adapted from Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1; CCLI #678905

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #92 v. 1-3 "Joy to the World" (organ)

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King,
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

"Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, based on Psalm 98;
Tune: Lowell Mason, 1848

Postlude

Welcome! We invite all of you to praise God with hearts and hands and voices. Let us be mindful of the wonders God has given us. Come rejoice in God and together sing praises to His name. Reach out in warmth to all who have gathered in the house of the Lord. 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.

Tech Team	Today 12/12	Next week 12/19 am/pm
Sound:	Henry VZ	Henry H.
Projection:	Devin VZ	Tim H.
Video	Tim H./Dick G.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

December 12, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sunday Morning Offering: Did you know that the Bible talks more about our 'offerings' to God than it even does about preaching? One thing is clear - God cares about how we give! Offering is an *act of worship* and therefore not only should it be a part of our worship service, but it should also be done well. It's one of many ways in which we can also teach our children about our faith! Due to the pandemic we've been taking our monetary offerings a little differently these past 18 months. However, at its Nov. 29 meeting, the council made the decision to resume this important element during our Sunday morning services beginning this coming Sunday (Dec. 5). They recognize there may be a few members who are not yet comfortable passing the offering bags. If so, we encourage you to please give the deacon and/or the other members in your pew a gracious wave of 'no' as the offering is being passed and they will move on to the next row or pass the bag back. Keep in mind too that our gathering together for Sunday worship and the grace we extend to our fellow neighbor during these unique times is, in itself, an opportunity to give a beautiful 'offering' to God.

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 Caroling Opportunity! Nearly every holiday season we try to do some Christmas caroling at Heather Village. This year's caroling will take place on **Sunday, December 12**. We will meet at church at **6:30 PM**, divide into groups to go sing some carols, and then return for a time of fellowship over coffee and hot cocoa. The more children involved the merrier! Those attending are also encouraged to bring cookies to share for afterwards. We're looking forward to a fun night together!

Worship Service YouTube Links:

Sunday, December 5: <https://youtu.be/1-B0lc4z8A>

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.

Angel Tree: All 23 Angel Tree names were taken last week. That is so awesome. Thanks to everyone who signed up to buy a gift. After buying 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 the Christmas tree by December 12 or before. The families will pick up the gifts on Monday morning December 20. Thank you again for your generosity and may you have a wonderful Christmas season. Contact Sylvia Van Zanten at 360-386-7442 if you have any questions.

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: This morning - Marinus & Jill Rouw; December 19 – Mardick & Jill Stevens

Coffee Hosts: This morning - Larry & Maxine Greidanus' December 19 – Dick & Linda Gudmunson

THIS WEEK:

Tuesday, Dec. 14, 7:00AM: Morning Men's Bible Study at Shari's in Burlington

Wednesday, Dec. 15 – GEMS Christmas Party

SAVE THE DATE!

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

Dear Friends,

For children, "waiting" for Christmas Day is not an easy thing to do. Many can't wait to see what new toys they will be receiving. "Waiting" is never easy.

And yet, 'waiting' is an important spiritual discipline of the Christian life. Often times we are 'waiting' for prayers to be answered, or for individuals and circumstances to change. In many ways our entire life is lived with a sense of 'waiting' for Christ's second coming.

And so as the world around us rushes toward Christmas and demands instant gratification, the church pauses to remember the waiting of Advent. Listed below are the texts we'll be reflecting on throughout the season as well as the

title of each message. May God bless us as we wait patiently to not only celebrate the birth of Christ, but also for his return!

In His Grace, Pastor John Knoester

1. Nov. 28 - Luke 12:35-40 – *“Ready or Not”*
2. Dec. 5 – John 1:1-18 – *“Waiting for Light”*
3. Dec. 12 – Isaiah 40:1-11 – *“Waiting in Strength”*
4. Dec. 19 – Isaiah 55:1-9 – *“Waiting to Be Satisfied”*
5. Dec. 25 – Luke 2:1-20 – *“The Humility of the Manger”*
6. Dec. 26 - Isaiah 2:1-5, I Cor. 15:50-58 - *“Waiting for Christ’s Return”*

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Means Hope - With World Renew’s 2021-2022 Gift Catalog, you can help a family plant seeds to grow food after COVID-19 lockdowns, give a child the supplies they need for health with a nutrition kit, or provide safety for a disaster survivor. Choose a gift that gives someone who is struggling with hunger and income insecurity the opportunity for transformation today and hope for the future. Give online at worldrenew.net/gifts or call 1-888-WRLD-RNW.

At-home Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Hospitality: Read Leviticus 19:33-34 and ponder or discuss the following questions. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject) Leviticus 19 is full of commands for how to be holy. One of those commands is to love strangers (in this case people who are from other lands) as you love yourself. How do you live out this command? What are some ways that you, your family, your church, your wider community, and your nation could love people from other lands as yourself?

New Video: Kids in Action - Kids in Action host Simone meets Kyra, an accessibility leader at her school. She was part of a team that made renovations happen, and now her school is new and improved. kidscorner.net/kids-in-action/accessibility-leader. It’s Kids in Action, putting on a hard hat and creating great spaces for all God’s children. Please share this video and amplify the voices and stories in the disability community.

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. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

Advent: A Time of Joy - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. What has God done today that brought you joy? What makes you want to glorify and praise him? Look for God's blessings and anticipate that he will do something. He always does! Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content, including The Gifts of Kindness Advent Calendar and the KC parent blog too.

Groundwork: Christmas Hope: Ruth - When the trials and challenges of life drag on with no end in sight, it's easy to wonder if God cares, or if continued faithfulness is worth our effort. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Matthew 1:3-6, Ruth 1-4, Luke 16:10, and Micah 6:8 to discover how God uses the simple faithfulness of Ruth and Boaz to ensure the continuation of the Messiah's family tree. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



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@firstcrmv.com by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

NEW REQUESTS:

Please continue to keep **Dennis De Kok** in your prayers. The doctors have determined that the cause of his significant pain are cancerous lesions on his lower spine. He is already starting to undergo a variety of tests to discern where it started and what will be the best course of treatment both now and in the future. Please continue to pray for relief from the present pain, clarity regarding the way forward, and God's peace in the midst of much uncertainty.

Mike Van Vliet passed away earlier Wednesday morning. He was surrounded by the earthly love of his family members and friends and now is experiencing the perfect love of His Father in heaven.

Please continue to keep the entire Van Vliet family in your prayers as they grieve their loss and try to make their way through this present darkness. Pray that God's peace will be present in the midst of the current life storm.

Condolence cards can be sent to the Van Vliet family at this address:

Jerry & Barb Van Vliet
1404 S. Scarlet Oak Trl.
Sioux Falls, SD, 57110

Les Faber went home to be with his Lord on Wednesday afternoon. He died surrounded by his loving family here on earth and is now reunited with loved ones who have gone before him and with his eternal family in glory. Please keep Joy and the entire Faber family in your prayers as they grieve the loss of a beloved husband, father, and friend. Pray for the gift of faith in the midst of death's sting, and also pray for those who are struggling to see God's goodness in times such as these. ... Memorial service dates/times are still pending.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Pray continued healing for those affected by COVID.

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

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 December 6 - *Faith Formation Ministries: Hospitality*

Many people who might not attend church regularly during the year come for worship services in the Advent and Christmas season. Pray that churches extend a warm welcome and hospitality as the Spirit stirs hearts. Pray that visitors and church members may find a sense of shared belonging and be filled with wonder that God is near.

Tuesday December 7 - *Resonate: Uganda*

Though Christianity has spread rapidly in many parts of Uganda, one region of the country has only a few Christians and few churches. Resonate missionaries Anthony and Sara Sytsma share that the Pentecostal Assemblies of God are working to build up leaders to plant churches and spread the gospel, and Resonate is partnering with them. Pray for the gospel to spread.

Wednesday December 8 - *ReFrame: Japan*

Please pray with us this prayer of protection written by a ReFrame Ministries radio listener in Japan: "I pray that my health will be protected and that those who suffer from coronavirus will suffer less. I pray that those who are in pain can be comforted and that they can pray to God for peace."

Thursday December 9 - *Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee: Hearts Exchanged*

Hearts Exchanged is a learning and action initiative designed to equip Reformed Christians to engage with Indigenous people as neighbors and fellow imagebearers. Pray for the participants and facilitators in every Canadian classis, asking that our churches may move effectively toward godly justice and reconciliation.

Friday December 10 - *World Renew: Disaster response*

Many communities we work with are experiencing unpredictable weather patterns that threaten to push more families into poverty. Please pray with us for plans being made among global leaders and other representatives, asking that God's will be done on the earth, and for strength and perseverance for communities already facing severe environmental impacts.

Saturday December 11 - *Resonate: Mexico*

Resonate missionary Abe Lee, who serves in Mexico, has been connecting online with a seminary class of 30 students in Paraguay. Give thanks for the opportunity to study Scripture together over the past few months. Ask the Holy Spirit to use this training to equip these students for leadership.

Sunday December 12 - *Disability Concerns: Changes*

As 2021 draws to a close, we pray for all God has in store for us in the new year. As our director, Mark Stephenson, retires from this role, we give thanks for the 15 years of service he has given to this ministry. We have welcomed our new director, Lindsay Weiland Capel, during past month. Please pray for God's guidance for Lindsay as she enters into this role.