

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
December 19, 2021 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

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

"My soul cries out with a joyful shout"

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship: Waiting in Love

*** 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

* Opening Response:

Leader: The mighty God summons the earth from
the rising of the sun to the place where it sets.

**People: Our God comes and will not be silent.
God calls and we respond to his love.**

Leader: The heavens declare God's righteousness.

People: We tell out God's glories!

Leader: Offer up to God your thanksgiving.

**People: And our God will hear us, save,
and stay with us forever.**

* 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!

* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #60 v. 1-4

"Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"

1. Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.
2. He comes the prisoners to release,
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
3. He comes the broken heart to bind,
the wounded soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace to
enrich the humbled poor.

4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1735); based on Isaiah 61:1-2, P.D.

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

"That the God of my heart is great,"

Lighting of the Advent Candle: **"Love"**

Song Video of Response: "O Love" – Elaine Hagenburg

*(Immediately following the video the children
are invited forward for the Children's Message)*

Children's Message – Mrs. Marjo Rouw

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

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #61 v. 1,3,4

"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.*

3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times did give the law
and in cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

4. O come, thou branch of Jesse's stem,
unto thine own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Refrain

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

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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"And my spirit sings of the wondrous things"

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Waiting to Be Satisfied"***

Time of Prayer

"That you bring to the ones who wait."

* Song of Application: LUYH #69 v. 1-4

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!*

2. Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!*

3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

4. Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.

Refrain

Luke 1:45-55:Words: Rory Cooney (b. 1952), based on the *Magnificat*,
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711218

Offering:

Offertory: *"Heaven Has Come to Us"* – Sovereign Grace

* We Profess our Faith: Song of Hope – Our Hope in the Age to Come

Leader: God save the world through Jesus.
Those who call on that name will have life.

**People: Christ's hand reaches out beyond those who say
"Lord" to the infants who live in the atmosphere
of faith, even to the farthest stars and planets
of all creation.**

Leader: The boundaries of God's love are not known;
the Spirit works at the ends of the world
before the church has there spoken a word.

**People: God will renew the world through Jesus,
who will put all unrighteousness out,
purify the works of human hands,
And perfect their fellowship in divine love.**

Leader: Christ will wipe away every tear;
death shall be no more.

**People: There will be a new heaven and a new earth,
and all creation will be filled with God's glory.**

* Sending and Blessing:

As you wait for Christ to return,
live as people of love, 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.

* Parting Praise: *"Joy Has Dawned Upon the World" v. 1-4*

1. Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation;
God's salvation now unfurled-hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
but a humble gift of love: Jesus born of Mary.
2. Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels,
as the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place shaped the earth in
darkness,
cling now to a mother's breast-vulnerable and helpless.
3. Shepherds bow before the Lamb gazing at the glory.
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story-
gold a King is born today; incense, God is with us;
myrrh, His death will make a way, by His blood He'll win us.

4. Son of Adam, Son of Man, given as a ransom.
 Reconciling God and man-Christ our mighty Champion!
 What a Savior, what a Friend, what a glorious mystery!
 Once a babe in Bethlehem-now the Lord of history.

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Postlude

A sincere **welcome** to all who have come to worship the Lord! May each of us have our faith increased, our love enhanced, and our courage strengthened. May God's presence be very real as we approach the throne of grace. 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 12/19 am/pm | Saturday 12/25 | Sunday 12/26 |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Sound: | Henry H. | Mardy S | Tim H. |
| Projection: | Tim H. | Tim H. | Devin VZ |
| Video | Brandon S. | Devin VZ | Dick G. |
| Offering: | General Fund | General Fund | General Fund |

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

December 19, 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 (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

Angel Tree: The gifts will be picked up by the family on December 20 at church or delivered this week to the children for our Angel Tree project. Thank you to everyone who took part in this. The response was awesome. May you have a Blessed Christmas.

Worship Service YouTube Link: Sunday, December 12: <https://youtu.be/LvxToq-FoZI>

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.

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 – Mardick & Jill Stevens; Christmas Day – Dec. 26 – Mardick & Jill Stevens

Coffee Hosts: This morning - Dick & Linda Gudmunson; Dec. 26 – Clarence & Eleanor Klunder

THIS WEEK:

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

SAVE THE DATE! Christmas Day Service, Dec. 25 at 10:00 am

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: A Time of Love - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Angels are cool. Did you ever wonder about angels? As you read the Christmas story, listen to the angels. Each time an angel speaks, notice that the angel describes Jesus and tells how God will change the world. 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: Bathsheba - Our stories are filled with mistakes, missteps, and moments when our best simply is not enough. Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 1:5-7 and 2 Samuel 11:1-12:25 to take an honest look at our brokenness, see the truth of God's abundant forgiveness, and celebrate Jesus' coming at Christmas, through the story of Bathsheba. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes. Faith Formation Ministries

Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Hospitality: Read Luke 14:12-14 and ponder or discuss the following questions. In this story, Jesus encourages us to offer hospitality to people who can not repay us. In your unique context, who might that be? How might you offer food, shelter, and protection to them? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject)

He is our Peace - Celebrate God's compassion made visible in His son, Jesus Christ, born to bring the world hope and salvation. Share God's love with a family experiencing poverty, hunger, and injustice this Christmas with a transformational gift: a goat, ducklings, or a handwashing station. Find these life-changing gifts and more in World Renew's 2021-2022 Gift Catalog at worldrenew.net/gifts, or call 1-888-WRLD-RNW.

For Christmas Day: Share God's Love Today - As we share gifts with our loved ones today, remember Jesus Christ gives us salvation and calls us to share His great gift of love and hope with others, especially the hungry and vulnerable. Please give generously today to World Renew, changing the story of poverty all over the world. You can give to the World Renew 2021-2022 Gift Catalog online at worldrenew.net/gifts or by calling 1-888-WRLD-RNW.



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

NEW REQUESTS:

A brief update here on **Dennis DeKok**. He has been diagnosed with metastatic prostate cancer which has spread to his bones. Treatment has already started and will continue. Dennis is currently still dealing with a great deal of extreme back pain and general weakness. He is seeking relief by way of a narcotic pain pill, but they are still trying to figure out the right dosage needed to provide maximum relief. They hope to start radiation as soon as this coming week. Please continue to keep **Dennis, Melba, and the entire De Kok family** in your prayers. Thank you!

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please keep **Joy Faber** and the entire Faber family in your prayers as they mourn the passing of **Les**.

Please keep the **Van Vliet** family in your prayers as well, as they laid Michael to rest this past Thursday.

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 13 - *ReFrame: Senegal*

Pray for two young radio producers named Adèle and Isaac. They recently began partnering with ReFrame's French ministry team, creating a special radio program for young Christians in Senegal, West Africa. Pray that their words will be a blessing to their peers.

Tuesday December 14 - *Resonate: East Asia*

A Resonate missionary serving as a teacher in East Asia asks for prayer for his students. Many of the students do not know Christ, but several are asking questions about spirituality. Ask the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts.

Wednesday December 15 - *Calvin Theological Seminary: Christmas break*

Many of our students, especially international students, are not able to travel home to be with family for the holidays. Pray for all who travel and for all who are apart from family during this season, that tidings of comfort and joy may overflow in their homes this season.

Thursday December 16 - *World Renew: Latin America*

Migrants continue to stream out of Venezuela into neighboring Latin American countries to seek better economic opportunities and escape insecurity and violence. Pray for relief for them; for patience, understanding, and support from their hosts; and for courage and wisdom from organizations that are coordinating to resolve this crisis.

Friday December 17 - *Resonate: Campus ministry*

Mike Wissink, a Resonate partner campus minister at Ferris State University in Michigan, asks you to pray for the continued growth of students as they gather weekly for meetings.

Saturday December 18 - *Safe Church: Gratitude and support*

We thank God for all of you! The work of abuse prevention could not be done without people deciding to come together to work toward the vision of a church free from abuse. Ask God to continue to encourage, support, and fill us with a deep desire to work toward his design of peace.

Sunday December 19 - *ReFrame: Groundwork*

Pray for Crystal, who listens to ReFrame's Groundwork audio program. She writes, "Pray that I have the strength to carry on and have patience with the family I'm living with because they do not believe in God."

Southern U.S. Tornado Response - World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) is working with our partners and other disaster organizations to plan a response to the devastating tornadoes that hit six states in the southern U.S. on Friday, Dec. 11, 2021. Please pray for those who have lost loved ones and possessions. To volunteer with DRS in this and other responses, email cgibson@worldrenew.net. To give online for Dec. 11 tornado response, click Donate at worldrenew.net, call 800-552-7972, or mail your check, made out to World Renew DRS with "Winter Tornadoes 2021" in the memo line, to: World Renew, 1700 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids, Mich., 49508.