

**Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!**  
**Pastor John Knoester**  
**December 5, 2021 – Second Sunday in Advent**

\* Please stand in body or in spirit

*“O Come, desire of nations, bind”*

Prelude – Terry and Joni Beezhold

Opening Song Video: *“O Come, All You Unfaithful”* – Sovereign Grace

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship: Waiting in Peace

\* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #451 v.1-4 *“When Peace Like a River”*

**ALL**

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”

*Refrain*

*It is well with my soul;  
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

**WOMEN BEGIN, MEN JOIN ON REFRAIN**

2. Though Satan should buffet,  
though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control:  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

*Refrain*

**MEN BEGIN, WOMEN JOIN ON REFRAIN**

3. My sin— oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

*Refrain*

*It is well with my soul;  
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

**ALL**

4. O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so, it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*

*Words: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873, P.D.; Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1876, P.D.  
CCLI #678905*

\* Opening Prayer

\* Song of Response: LUYH #67 v. 1-3 *“Blessed Be the God of Israel”*

1. Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free  
and raises up new hope for us:  
a Branch from David’s tree.  
So have the prophets long declared  
that with a mighty arm  
God would turn back our enemies  
and all who wish us harm.
2. With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,  
the oath once sworn to Abraham,  
from foes to save us all,  
that we might worship without fear  
and offer lives of praise,  
in holiness and righteousness  
to serve God all our days.
3. My child, as prophet of the Lord, you will prepare the way,  
to tell God’s people they are saved from sin’s eternal sway.  
Then shall God’s mercy from on high  
shine forth and never cease  
to drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.

*“Blessed Be the God of Israel”; Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b.1944); Text: © 1989,  
Hope Publishing Co Music: English folk tune; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan  
Williams (1872-1958); CCLI# 678905*

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

*"All people's in one heart and mind."*

Lighting of the Advent Candle: *"Peace"*

Ministry of Music: *"Peace"*

*Chorus*

Peace, You give me peace  
When the storms come and I'm afraid  
Peace, You give me peace  
When I trust in the words You say  
You give me peace

1. If You can calm the sea  
Then You can comfort me  
If winds obey Your voice  
Why should I fear their noise  
And though my eyes can't see  
I know You're with me

*Chorus*

2. When someone starts to fight  
And does things I don't like  
I hear Your gentle voice  
Saying I have a choice  
To make an enemy  
Or to spread Your peace

*Chorus 2x*

Peace, You give me peace  
When the storms come and I'm afraid  
Peace, You give me peace  
When I trust in the words You say  
You give me peace

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

Children's Message – Pastor John and Mr. Cody See

*(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

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" v. 1, 6, 7*

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.*

6. O come, O Bright and Morning Star,  
and bring us comfort from afar!  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

*Refrain*

7. O come, desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid all our sad divisions cease,  
and be thyself our King of peace.

*Refrain*

Words: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite, P.D.;  
Music: French processional, 15<sup>th</sup> c. P.D.; arr. Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006  
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*"Bid all our sad divisions cease,"*

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18

Prayer of Illumination:

Message: *"Waiting for Light"*

Time of Prayer

*"And be Thyself our King of peace"*

\* Song of Application: LUYH #567 v. 1-2 *“Here I Am to Worship”*

1. Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,  
opened my eyes, let me see.  
Beauty that made this heart adore you,  
hope of a life spent with you.

*Refrain*

*Here I am to worship; here I am to bow down;  
here I am to say that you’re my God.  
You’re altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
altogether wonderful to me.*

2. King of all days, oh so highly exalted,  
glorious in heaven above.  
Humbly you came to the earth you created,  
all for love’s sake became poor.

*Refrain*

*Bridge*

*I’ll never know how much it cost  
to see my sin upon that cross.  
I’ll never know how much it cost  
to see my sin upon that cross.*

*Refrain*

*Words and Music: Tim Hughes; acc. Ed Bolduc © 2001 Thankyou Music, admin.  
EMICMGPublishing.com (excl. Europe which is admin. by Kingswaysongs CCLI  
#678905*

Offering

Offertory: *“O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer”* v. 1-3

1. O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Greatest treasure of my longing soul  
My God, like You there is no other  
True delight is found in You alone  
Your grace, a well too deep to fathom  
Your love exceeds the heavens’ reach  
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom  
My highest good and my unending need.

2. O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Strong defender of my weary heart  
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver  
And my shield against his hateful darts  
My song when enemies surround me  
My hope when tides of sorrow rise  
My joy when trials are abounding  
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night
  
3. O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Gracious Savior of my ruined life  
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders  
In my place You suffered bled and died  
You rose, the grave and death are conquered  
You broke my bonds of sin and shame  
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
May all my days bring glory to Your Name

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\* We Profess our Faith: Our World Belongs to God st. 5-6

Leader: God holds this world in sovereign love.  
He kept his promise, sending Jesus into the world.  
He poured out his Spirit and broadcast his news  
That sinners who repent and believe in Jesus  
can live and breathe and move again as members  
of the family of God.

**People: We rejoice in the goodness of God,  
renounce the works of darkness  
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.**

Leader: As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience,  
and set free for joyful praise, we offer our hearts  
and lives to do God's work in his world.  
With tempered impatience,  
eager to see injustice ended,  
we expect the Day of the Lord.

**People: And we are confident that the light that shines  
in the present darkness will fill the earth  
when Christ appears.  
Come, Lord Jesus. Our world belongs to you!**

\* Sending and Blessing:

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

May hope in 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: LUYH #699 v. 1-2 *"Like a River Glorious"*

1. Like a river glorious is God's perfect peace,  
over all victorious in its bright increase:  
perfect, yet still flowing fuller every day;  
perfect, yet still growing deeper all the way.

*Refrain*

*Trusting in the Father, hearts are fully blest,  
finding, as he promised, perfect peace and rest.*

2. Hidden in the hollow of his mighty hand,  
where no harm can follow, in his strength we stand.  
We may trust him fully all for us to do;  
those who trust him wholly find him wholly true.

*Refrain*

*Words: Frances R. Havergal, 1878, alt., P.D.; Music: James Mountain, 1876, P.D.*

Postlude

**Welcome!** The psalmist prayed: "Restore us, O Lord God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved" (Psalm 80:19). May all who have come to worship find restoration, inner peace and spiritual strength. 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>Tech Team</i>	<i>Today 12/05</i>	<i>Next Week 12/12</i>
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Hannah VH	Devin VZ
Video	Brandon S.	Tim H./Dick G.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

# First CRC Bulletin

## Announcements

### *December 5, 2021*

#### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

**New Attendees – Church Information Sunday is TODAY after church!!** We are looking forward to seeing you in the front of the sanctuary right after church to answer any questions you might have about us. We look forward to having a great conversation!

**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!

**Christmas Blessing Jars:** The Evangelism Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed by bringing ingredients for the cookies, jars to put them in, making the tags to put on the jars, and helping to put them together and delivering them to those in the neighborhood. We pray that the love of Jesus shines to those around us.

**Thank You! Dave and Yvonne Boon**, Greg and Beth's parents, would like to sincerely thank the MV congregation for your thoughts, prayers and kindness while they were sick earlier this fall. "We are humbled and grateful for God's Grace throughout our illness and into wellness."

**Worship Service YouTube Links:**

Sunday, November 28: [https://youtu.be/cWI1AT1\\_B7A](https://youtu.be/cWI1AT1_B7A)

*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.

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*”

***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 – Keith & Jean Rasmussen; Dec. 12 - Marinus & Jill Rouw

**Coffee Hosts:** This morning – Joe LeClair, Katie Jungquist, Elly Cuperus; Dec. 12 - Larry & Maxine Greidanus

## **NEXT WEEK:**

**Tuesday, Dec. 7, 7 pm:** NER Harp Concert here at church

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

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

**Tuesday, Dec. 14, 7:00AM:** Morning Men’s

### **ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT -**

There are updates from **Rehoboth Christian School** and the **Hansens** (missionaries to Skagit Valley College) on the shelf by the Missionaries Board.

**We received a very nice Thank You** note from a woman at New Earth Recovery. It is on the bulletin board across from Beth's office.

### **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Get The Banner Straight to Your Inbox** - The Banner, the magazine of the CRC, will send you news, features, and columns straight to your email inbox! Sign up for the weekly e-newsletter by visiting [thebanner.org/signup](http://thebanner.org/signup).

**Advent: A Time of Peace** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). When we feel anxious about changes that are happening, we can pray for peace. And God, who knows us really well, will calm our anxiety and give us his peace. 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.

**Devotions for a Blue Christmas** - In the midst of hard times, find strength and encouragement through God's word. A set of fourteen encouraging Today devotions reassure you that even during the darkest of Christmas seasons, you're not alone. Receive this free email series and ebook when you subscribe to Today at [todaydevotional.com/bluechristmas](http://todaydevotional.com/bluechristmas)

**Groundwork: Christmas Hope: Rahab** - Do you ever question why God would want you in his family? Do you ever feel like you just don't belong or are too messed up to be worth saving? Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 1:5, Joshua 2, James 2:25-26, and Romans 5:8 to remember the depth and reach of God's grace and find hope in the story of Rahab. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Give Hope this Advent with World Renew** - World Renew's 2021-2022 Gift Catalog helps people, families, and communities experience more of the hope that God intends for them. Find a transformational gift that helps a family in need. Give at [worldrenew.net/gifts](http://worldrenew.net/gifts) or call 1-888-WRLD-RNW.

**West Coast Floods** - Flooding from extreme rain events in British Columbia and Washington State in November have already destroyed homes, businesses, crops, and livestock. As the rains continue, World Renew Disaster Response Services is in conversation with area CRCs, Diaconal Ministries Canada, and other responders to supplement their efforts once the flood water recedes. Please pray for those who have been evacuated, lost homes and farms, or are stranded without power. Pray for World Renew DRS as we make plans with local churches and families. For updates, see our social media pages on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**At-home Faith Practice Reflection Tip** - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Hospitality: Read Genesis 18:1-8 and ponder or discuss the following questions. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit [bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject](http://bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject)) This passage is the first reference in the Bible to someone opening their home to others. How do Abraham’s actions set the tone for hospitality? What adjectives might you use to describe his welcome of the three strangers?



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.

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 29 - *Race Relations: Peace and healing*

Isaiah 9:6 promises the coming Messiah, saying, "To us a child is born." Jesus came to bring us peace with God, with one another, and with creation. He brought peace not by asserting his rights but by taking up his cross. He came to bring healing, and he calls us to join him in this work. May we hear his Word and sacrifice ourselves to bring healing amid the racialized suffering and violence so often perpetrated today.

Tuesday November 30 - *World Renew: Giving Tuesday*

On this international day of charitable giving, note that nearly a billion people are experiencing food insecurity around the world due to conflict, climate change, and economic downturn. Please join us in asking God to bring hope to these families. May they be able to access food, grow crops, save their resources for food crises, and find relief from violence or disaster that robs them of their basic needs.

Wednesday December 1 - *World Renew: World AIDS Day*

On this day we remember people who have died because of HIV and AIDS, and we show support for those who live with this disease. AIDS is an indiscriminate killer, affecting men, women, and children—and those who are most affected live in poverty. Join us in praying for all who are affected by these tragic situations.

Thursday December 2 - *ReFrame Ministries: India*

Pray for a young woman named Swati as she mourns the loss of both her father and uncle. She has been in touch with ReFrame's Hindi ministry team, praying with them and connecting with fellow Christians in her area.

Friday December 3 - *Resonate Global Mission: Worldwide*

Many CRC churches and church plants are hosting Advent and Christmas worship services, events, and other gatherings as a way to connect with their neighbors. Pray that the Holy Spirit will use this season to draw people into our faith communities and into relationship with God.

Saturday December 4 - *Chaplaincy and Care: Unique needs*

Our chaplains work in care centers for people with various disabilities. This work requires chaplains to be creative and compassionate as they care for residents with unique needs and gifts. Please pray for the chaplains who walk with individuals and families in these settings while providing the peace and love of God for all God's beloved children.

Sunday December 5 - *ThereforeGo Ministries: SERVE and mentoring*

Please pray for our sending churches and host churches as we relaunch SERVE mission trips for 2022. We're excited to see what God will do at our 15 host sites next summer! We are also launching three mentoring networks in the coming months. Pray with us that churches will continue to learn and grow in the area of emerging adult ministry.