

Dear Friends,

Both Christians and non-Christians alike often have a very small view of Jesus. Non-Christians often reduce Jesus to a good moral teacher or maybe even a zealot. Many Christians tend to view him only as a necessary sacrifice, or a helpful example.

Yet, Jesus is not only our Savior, but He is also our Lord. And in order to truly worship Jesus as Lord, we need to see him in his proper place as the Son of God. The author of Hebrews gives us an extended sermon on the superiority of Jesus. He shows us that Jesus is greater than everything and everyone. The pattern in which he does this is also the pattern that we will follow in the weeks ahead.

Listed below is a tentative outline of our series. May God bless us as we strive together to lift up high the name of Jesus Christ.

In His Grace, - Pastor John

1. March 6 - *"Jesus is the Greatest" (Heb. 1:1-4)*
2. March 13 - *"Jesus is Greater than the Angels" (Hebrews 1:4-14)*
3. March 20 - *"Jesus is Greater than Moses" (Hebrews 3:1-19)*
4. March 27 - *"Jesus is Greater than Priests" (Hebrews 4:14-5:10)*
5. April 3 - *"Jesus is Greater than our Sacrifice" (Hebrews 8:1-13, 9:11-15)*
6. April 10 - *"Jesus is Greater Than; Therefore, Have Faith"*
(Hebrews 10:19-25, 11:1)
7. April 15 - Good Friday Service at Faith Community Fellowship
8. April 17 - *"Jesus is Greater Than; Therefore, Run!"*
(Hebrews 12:1-3, John 20:1-10)
9. April 24 - *"Jesus is Greater Than; Therefore, Endure" (Hebrews 12:4-13)*

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
March 6, 2022 – 1st Sunday in Lent
10:30 A.M. Worship Service

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

"I know not why God's wondrous grace"

Prelude

Opening Song Video: *"Come, O Sinner" – Sovereign Grace*

Welcome/Announcements

* Call to Worship: Based on Hebrews 12:1-3

Leader: "Therefore, since we are surrounded
by such a great cloud of witnesses,
let us throw off everything that hinders
and the sin that so easily entangles.
And let us run with perseverance the race
marked out for us,
fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter
of faith."

People: We worship you, Lord.

Leader: "For the joy set before him he endured the cross,
scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand
of the throne of God."

People: We worship you, Lord.

Leader: "Consider him who endured such opposition
from sinners, so that you will not grow weary
and lose heart."

People: Let us turn our eyes to Jesus and worship him.

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #690 v. 1-4

"I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace"

1. I know not why God's wondrous grace
to me he has made known,
nor why, unworthy, Christ in love
redeemed me for his own.

Refrain

*But "I know whom I have believed,
and am persuaded that he is able
to keep that which I've committed
unto him against that day."*

2. I know not how this saving faith
to me he did impart,
nor how believing in his Word
wrought peace within my heart.

Refrain

3. I know not how the Spirit moves,
convincing us of sin,
revealing Jesus through the Word,
creating faith in him.

Refrain

4. I know not what of good or ill
may be reserved for me,
of weary ways or golden days,
before his face I see.

Refrain

Words: based on 2 Timothy 1:12, Daniel W. Whittle, 1883; P.D.;

Music: James McGranahan, 1883, P.D.; CCLI # 678905

* God's Greeting:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins
to set us free from the present evil age,
according to the will of our God and Father,
to whom be the glory forever and ever.

People: Amen!

* We Greet One Another

"To me he has made known,"

* Invitation to Transformed Living

Leader: Friends, when we confess our sins,
we do so in recognition that Jesus has already
sacrificed and made forgiveness available to us.
Hebrews 4 says,

**People: Therefore, since we have a great high priest
who has ascended into heaven,
Jesus the Son of God,
Let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.**

Leader: For we do not have a high priest who is unable
to empathize with our weaknesses,
But we have one who has been tempted
in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin.

**People: Let us then approach God's throne of grace
with confidence, so that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

Leader: In confidence of God's mercy and grace,
let us confess our sins together in a time of prayer.

* Prayer of Confession

* Call to Holy Living (Based on Hebrews 10:19, 23-25)

* Sung Response: LUYH #15 *"The First Place"* v. 1-2

1. Jesus, the perfect picture of the unseen God.
Maker of things we cannot comprehend.
Wisdom, the earth displays your strength and beauty.
Sovereign, yes, every throne knows you are God.

Refrain

*Every inch of this universe belongs to you, O Christ.
For through you and for you it was made.
Your creation endures by the order of your hand.
So you must have in all things the first place.*

2. Victor, over sin and death you triumphed.
Firstborn, you've shown us life beyond the grave.
Bridegroom, we long for you in expectation.
Jesus, your church rejoices to proclaim.

Refrain X 2

*Every inch of this universe belongs to you, O Christ.
For through you and for you it was made.
Your creation endures by the order of your hand.
So you must have in all things the first place.*

Words and Music: Matthew Westerholm © 1999 Matthew Westerholm;
arr. Greg Scheer © 1999 Matthew Westerholm; CCLI# 678905

Offering

Offertory Video: *"What is the Bible?"* – The Bible Project

*(Following the offering children ages 3-3rd grade
are invited to go to Children in Worship)*

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #755 v. 1-3 *"Speak, O Lord"*

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
to receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all Your purposes, for Your glory.
2. Teach us Lord full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity,
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
and the earth is filled with Your glory.

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"Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love"

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4, 4:6-13
(Pew Bible Pgs. 1184, 1186)

Prayer of Illumination

Meditation: ***"Introduction to Hebrews – Jesus is the Greatest"***

Prayer of Application

Song of Application: *"Thy Word"* v. 1-2

Chorus:

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

1. When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
Still You're right beside me.
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near.
Please be near me to the end.

Chorus

2. I will not forget Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side,
And I will love You to the end.

Chorus

"Thy Word" Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith ©1983 Bug and Bear Music/
Meadowgreen Music CCLI#678905

Meditation: ***“The Greatness of Jesus –
Our Prophet, Priest, and King”***

Time of Prayer

“Redeemed me for his own.”

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #223 v. 1-2

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

1. Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own;
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.
2. Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o’er the grave,
who rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died and reigns on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Words: sts. 1, 3, 4 Matthew Bridges, 1851; st. 2 Godfrey Thring, 1874, alt., P.D.;
Music: George J. Elvey, 1868, P.D.; CCLI #678905

* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 31-32

Leader: Q. Why is he (Jesus) called “Christ, meaning
‘anointed’?”

**People : A. Because he has been ordained
by God the Father
and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit
to be our chief prophet and teacher
who perfectly reveals to us
the secret council and will of God
for our deliverance;
our only high priest who set us free**

**by the one sacrifice of his body,
and who continually pleads our cause
with the Father;
and our eternal king
who governs us by his Word and Spirit,
and who guards us and keeps us
in the freedom he has won by us.**

Leader: Q. But why are you called a Christian?

**People: A. Because by faith I am a member of Christ
and so I share in his anointing.
I am anointed to confess his name,
to present myself to him as a living sacrifice
of thanks, to strive with a good conscience
against sin and the devil in this life,
and afterward to reign with Christ
over all creation for all eternity.**

* God's Blessing:

* Parting Praise: LUYH #223 v. 3-4 *"Crown Him with Many Crowns"*

3. Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes
at mysteries so bright.
4. Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Words: sts. 1, 3, 4 Matthew Bridges, 1851; st. 2 Godfrey Thring, 1874, alt., P.D.;
Music: George J. Elvey, 1868, P.D.; CCLI #678905

Postlude

Welcome! Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy." Those are the words of the psalmist in Psalm 5:11. Whoever you are, wherever you are from, we welcome you and we invite you to "be glad" with us about God's goodness and mercy. Let us "ever sing for joy" and praise God with profoundly grateful hearts. 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 3/6	Next Week 3/13
Sound:	Mardy S.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Hannah VH	Tim H.
Video	Devin VZ	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

March 6, 2022

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Heartfelt thanks to many of you who sent cards and other expressions of condolence to me because of the recent passing of my dear sister, Gretta Knudson. **Alice DeVries.**

Save the Date! On **Friday, March 25 at 7 PM** we will be showing the movie **"The Pilgrim's Progress"** in the church fellowship hall. The book itself was written by John Bunyan nearly 350 years ago while he was still in prison. This Christian allegory is generally regarded as one of the most significant works of theological fiction in English literature. And when it comes to total sales - **"The Pilgrim's Progress"** is second only to the Bible itself. ... We certainly encourage you to read the book itself, but the movie is good too! So bring your family, friends, and neighbors to the showing on the 25th. Popcorn will be provided - any candy, drinks, and 'comfy chairs' are up to you!

Save the Date! This year's **Good Friday Service (April 15)** will be a combined service at our sister church - **Faith Community Fellowship** (1427 Monte Vista Drive). On this evening we will take the time to remember the events of Jesus' death and what it means for the redemption of the world. The service will begin at **6:30 PM**.

Ministry Need - Intern Pastor Housing: At the February 23, 2020 town hall meeting our congregation overwhelmingly approved the desire to become a CRC 'mentor church' to a current, or recently graduated, seminarian. Ideally it would be for someone who desires additional field education experience in the parish ministry. ... Unfortunately, less than a month later, COVID arrived and those plans were put on hold. Recently, we resubmitted our application. Our hope is that such an intern would begin sometime this summer (starting anywhere between June 1 – Sept. 1) and serve at least through May 31, 2023. We look forward to seeing where God leads.

Part of our responsibility to the intern is to provide housing options. Such options could include living with a family in the church (or broader Mount Vernon community), house sitting, or renting. Congregational members who may be aware of any potential possibilities along these lines are encouraged to contact Pastor John, or any one of the elders, in the weeks ahead. Thank you in advance for keeping an ear out on this significant need!

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.

Worship Service YouTube Link: Feb 20 link: <https://youtu.be/dkepDegJwsl>

CALENDAR:

Greeters: This morning – **Dick & Linda Gudmunson**; Next week –

Coffee Hosts: This morning – Henry & Sharon Kuipers Next week –

Children's Worship: This morning – Heidi B., Kayla VH Next week –

Worship Team: This Morning – Kevin & Glenda K., Franchesca K., Nellie VDH;

Next Week – Eliot B., Julie S., Adriana S., Tessa S.

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Friday, March 25, 7 pm: Family Movie Night

April 15, 6:30pm: Good Friday combined service at Faith Community Fellowship

There is a Newsletter from **Will and Cathaleen Hansen** from SVC on the Missionary Bulletin Board.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

Get the Denomination's Award-winning Magazine for FREE - The Banner, the magazine of the Christian Reformed Church, is free! Sign up for free print delivery and a weekly e-newsletter by visiting thebanner.org/signup. Given the Award of Excellence (2020) for best denominational magazine by the Evangelical Press Association, The Banner offers CRC news; thoughtful articles; and reviews of books, movies, and music. TheBanner.org/signup

Good News. Bad News. - Check out the new kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Have you ever been upset by something in the news? Jesus assures us, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33b). God's good news still overcomes all the bad news. Listen now at kidscorner.net and take a look at all the new content.

At-home Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Listening: Read Isaiah 55:3,10-11 and ponder or discuss the following questions. In what ways does God speak to God's people today? List as many as you can. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject)

Groundwork: Why Jesus Had to Die on a Cross - We begin the season of Lent by slowing down and remembering why Jesus Christ's awful death was necessary. Join Groundwork as we study Genesis 3:14-15, Romans 5:12-17, Isaiah 10:1-3, Habakkuk 1:2-4, and Jeremiah 31:31-34 to reflect on scriptures that answer the question: "Why did Jesus have to die on a cross?" Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Turkey & the Seven Churches of Revelation - (May 23 – June 4, 2022) Visit ancient sites connected with Paul's First, Second, and Third Missionary Journeys as well as the seven churches to whom John wrote the Book of Revelation. Join Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading biblical scholar, for this inspirational biblical tour. Contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

Shine Christ's Light in Communities Impacted by Disasters - Often after the initial rush of prayers and support, communities impacted by disaster struggle with feeling forgotten. Through God's grace, World Renew Disaster Response Services volunteers have helped over 175,000 hurricane, flood, tornado and wildfire survivors repair their homes and find hope again. Next week, join World Renew to learn how through your offering you can help shine Christ's light in communities struggling with the darkness of the despair that so often follows a disaster. For more information go to: worldrenew.net/drs



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:

Shirley Boonstra has a new address! She has moved into the Country Meadow Village in Sedro Woolley. Her new address is as follows:

Shirley Boonstra
C/O Country Meadow Village - Room 503
1501 Collins Road
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Significant life transitions can be both exciting and challenging. Whether it be by way of a card, phone call (360-421-7319), or even a text message - I'm sure she would love to hear from you!

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Thank you for keeping **Kevin Wigboldy (Joni's brother)** in your daily prayers. Please continue to pray for his body to heal.

Pray for **Dennis DeKok**, that his fight against cancer will continue to go well and he can be restored to good health. His Caring Bridge page is: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/dennisdekok>

Please pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones.

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

SHUT INS:

Nell Annema and Marion Ekkelkamp at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley; **Marcella DeVries** at Bethany Lutheran in Everett, 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 February 28 - Resonate: Ontario

“Pray for curiosity among students who are spiritual but not religious to explore the deeper questions of life, thought, and faith,” asks Mike Wagenman, campus minister at Western University, a Resonate partner in Ontario.

Tuesday March 1 - Disability Concerns: Zero Discrimination Day

Join us as we pray for an end to discrimination of people with disabilities—in the world and in the church. We lament that during the pandemic our differences have often separated us. We pray that individual personhood may be something we value and appreciate in one another.

Wednesday March 2 - Faith Formation Ministries: Ash Wednesday

As we enter into the season of Lent, let’s ask the Spirit to turn our hearts to God. In times of continued uncertainty, anxiety, and grief, may the Spirit surround us with God’s peace and love in Jesus Christ and teach us to live with generosity and open hands toward all whom we encounter.

Thursday March 3 - Resonate Global Mission: Well-being

Pray for the health and safety of Resonate missionaries and ministry leaders, their families, and the communities they minister with.

Friday March 4 - ReFrame Ministries: Japan

Pray for Kaida, who recently contacted our partner ministry in Japan. Although she has never been to church, Kaida has been listening to our online programs as well as other Japanese Christian content for about five years. "I pray for the will of Jesus in my life," she wrote. Pray that Kaida will continue to seek God.

Saturday March 5 - World Renew: Gender justice

This coming International Women's Day (Mar. 8), celebrate with us the many ways in which women around the world are breaking barriers and working for the good of everyone in their societies. There is still much work to do to achieve gender justice worldwide. Pray for the liberation and participation of all God's people around the globe.

Sunday March 6 - Centre for Public Dialogue: Justice and Hope Sunday (Canada)

As we observe Lent, let us consider our interdependence and how injustice experienced by one can affect the peace and prosperity of all. Pray that the church may seek the creation of good policies and systems that will help all with whom we are interdependent to flourish.