

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
November 27, 2022 – First Sunday in Advent

* Please stand in body or in spirit

“O come, my soul, sing praise to God your Maker,”

Prelude

Opening Song Video: *“Mary’s Song (Mary’s Psalm)”*
– John Alexander Wilson

Welcome

* Call to Worship: (Based on Luke 1:46-50)

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord.

People: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

Leader: The mighty One has done great things for us!

People: Holy is God’s Name!

Leader: Let us worship God

**People: For God is our Maker and Redeemer;
from generation to generation God gives mercy.**

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #672 v. 1,2,5

“O Come, My Soul, Sing Praise to God”

1. O come, my soul, sing praise to God your Maker,
and all within me, praise his holy name.
Sing praise to God, forget not all his mercies;
his pardoning grace and saving love proclaim.

Refrain

*Praise him, you angels,
wondrous in might;
praise him, you servants who in his will delight.*

2. Good is the Lord and full of kind compassion,
most slow to anger, plenteous in love.
Rich is his grace to all who humbly seek him,
boundless and endless as the heavens above.

Refrain

5. High in the heavens his throne is fixed forever;
his kingdom rules o'er all from pole to pole.
Praise to the Lord through all his wide dominion;
forever praise his holy name, my soul.

Refrain

Words: *Psalter*, 1912, alt., P.D.

* God's Greeting

* We Greet Each Other

*(During the mutual greeting those lighting the Advent candle
are invited forward)*

"And all within me, praise his holy name."

Announcements

OPOP Ministry Update

Advent Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Reader #1: The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning
and no end.

It is a symbol of God's unending love
and faithfulness.

Reader #2: The prophet Isaiah said,

"The Lord himself will give you a sign:
the virgin will be with child and will give birth
to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

Reader #1: The angel Gabriel said to Mary,

"Greetings you who are highly favored!
The Lord is with you."

Reader #2: We rejoice that we too have found favor with God.
God's mercy extends to those who fear him
from generation to generation.

—based on Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:28,

(The first candle is lit)

Hymn of Response: LUYH #78 v. 1,2,4,5

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

1. Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega—
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore.
2. O that birth forever blessed,
when a virgin, blest with grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race;
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.
4. Let the heights of heaven adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing:
powers, dominions, bow before him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore.
5. Christ, to you, with God the Father
and the Spirit, there shall be
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and the shout of jubilee: honor, glory,
and dominion and eternal victory
evermore and evermore. Amen.

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413); tr. Composite, P.D.
CCLI #678905

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

Offering: General Fund

Offertory: *"Holy is His Name"* - John Michael Talbot

* Song of Preparation: *"Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord"* 2x

Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord.

Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord.

And He shall lift you up,

higher and higher,

and He shall lift you up.

Words: I Peter 5:6; Music by Bob Hudson; © 1978 and this arr. © 1983 Maranatha!
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"Sing praise to God, forget not all his mercies;"

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:39-56

Prayer of Illumination:

Message: *"The Songs of Christmas - Magnificat"*

Time of Prayer

"His pardoning grace and saving love proclaim."

* Song of Application: LUYH #559 v. 1-3

"Ten Thousand Reasons"

Refrain

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;

worship his holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul;

I'll worship your holy name.

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;

it's time to sing your song again.

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,

let me be singing when the evening comes.

Refrain

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name.*

2. You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger.
Your name is great, and your heart is kind.
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing—
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Refrain

3. And on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near, and my time has come;
still, my soul will sing your praise unending—
ten thousand years and then forevermore!

Refrain

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name,
worship your holy name, worship your holy name.*

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* We Profess our Faith:

Leader: Our only hope is Jesus Christ.
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.
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**

—*Our Song of Hope, st. 3*

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: 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

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

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!*

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

First CRC Bulletin

Announcements

November 27, 2022

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Future Angel Tree Co-coordinators Needed! Every year we have the opportunity to provide approximately Christmas gifts to approximately 25-35 children in the valley whose parent is currently incarcerated. This ministry could not have happened without the leadership of Sylvia Van Zanten who has been the coordinator of it for many years. Sylvia has graciously agreed to help coordinate this ministry one more year, but she would like to have 1-2 other individuals to take the reins next year. If interested, please contact the church office, or Sylvia directly.

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 **27 children** so far that we are purchasing gifts for (could be more names the following Sunday). 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 11 or before. The families will pick up the gifts on Monday morning December 19. 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.



A Program of Prison Fellowship

Christmas Blessing Project!: It's back!!! This year's neighborhood blessing project is going to be a "Christmas Brownie Mix." A Christmas greeting, recipe, and a brief invitation to our Christmas services will be attached to the jar. The goal is to assemble and deliver 200 jars to our neighbors on **Saturday, December 10**. Assembly will begin at **9 AM** with delivery to the neighborhood to take place immediately after. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to spend some time serving together and if last year was any indication - it's a lot of fun! ... In the meantime, the following (see below) are some of the ingredients needed for this year's project. Please take the time to sign up

accordingly on the lists in the Fellowship Hall and bring the ingredients to church no later than Sunday, Dec. 4. Thank you!

Ingredients Needed:

Flour: 2 - 10lb bags

Brown Sugar: 56lbs of brown sugar = 16 - 2 lb bags

Sugar: 7 - 5 lb bags

Baking soda: 1/2 box

Cocoa: 27 - 8oz containers

Milk chocolate chips: 22 - 12oz bags

Semi-sweet chocolate chips: 20 - 12oz bags

Christmas Caroling: Our annual Sunday evening Christmas Caroling to friends in Heather Village and to neighbors nearby will take place on **Sunday, Dec. 11 at 6:30 PM**. Generally we break out into two different groups, go caroling for an hour or so, and then come back to enjoy some delicious hot chocolate and fellowship. The adults' enthusiasm for such an event is often weather-dependent. Our children usually love it no matter what the weather is like. Either way - great memories are made. We hope to see you there!

OPOP Christmas Basket: Our friend Michael is being released on Tuesday, December 20. He will initially reside in West Seattle and recently we had the opportunity to help set up his new apartment. To celebrate his release we would love to provide him with a generous Christmas gift basket from our church to be delivered sometime between Dec. 21-24. Some suggested items to include would be as follows: Gift cards to Safeway (only 1 block from his apartment), Target, Chocolate, Clif Protein bars, coffee, cookies, Reign energy drinks, salami sticks, and noodles. We would also love to include short any short encouraging notes, Christmas cards, or pictures from children. Whatever you are able to give would be most helpful. We are hoping to put the basket shortly after the Dec. 18 Candlelight service and so that will be the last Sunday to bring things in. Thanks in advance for being willing to partner with us in this ministry!

- OPOP Core Team (Greg B., Linda G., Henry H., Darrel L., and Pastor John)

Join us this Friday as we celebrate the birth of Christ through music! Fountainview Academy Orchestra and Singers from Lillooet, BC, will be sharing a live concert at 7:00 PM HERE at First CRC.

Rich Cuperus has a new cell phone number. Please put **564-900-0048** into your directories in place of the old one. Also please correct the ZIP code for **Danielle Van Zanten** to V0J1Z0.

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

In Luke's account of Christ's coming to earth the story is filled with the sounds of various singers singing their songs of joy and wonder. A new day is dawning before their very eyes and they can't help but to marvel at what God is doing in their midst. The songs Luke records are meant to awaken his readers and fill their own hearts with joy. That same God is still doing great things today!

Throughout the Advent season we are going to take a closer look at each of the songs in Luke's Gospel. As we do so – may God unleash on us the same sense of excitement and energy of heaven that he unleashed two thousand years ago!

In His Grace, Pastor John

1. Nov. 27 - "Mary's Song – 'God is My Redeemer'" (Luke 1:39-56)
2. Dec. 4 – "Zechariah's Jesus Song – 'The Horn of Salvation'" (Luke 1:67-75)
3. Dec. 11 – "Zechariah's John Song – 'The Rising Sunshine'" (Luke 1:76-80)
4. Dec. 18 – "Simeon's Song – 'Light to the Gentiles'" (Luke 2:25-33)
5. Dec. 25 – "The Angel's and Shepherd's Song – 'Peace on Earth'" (Luke 2:1-20)

TAKE ME HOME

If you are missing an towels or potholders from the chili cookoff they are on the table by the kitchen! Please take them home before they become a permanent fixture!

First CRC offers the option to give your offerings online, including setting up automatic and reoccurring donations. For information on this and other ways to give please check the "Give" page on the church's website: https://firstcrcmv.com/?page_id=1509

Worship Service YouTube Links:

November 20: <https://youtu.be/pAAD9fBWRc4>

Thanksgiving Eve: <https://youtu.be/ZVCTtNlMrVQ>

THERE IS NOW A SERMON AUDIO SECTION on the website where you can listen to or download sermons. The current series is now available as well as the 2 other sermons that were preached during this period that were not in the sermon series. To access this new section, click on the "**Worship**" menu link and then select "**Sermons**".

CALENDAR:

Greeters: Mardick & Jill Stevens

Next Week, 12/4: Tim & Heather VH

Coffee Hosts: Melba DeKok

Next Week, 12/4: Joe LC, Katie J., Elly C.

Children in Worship: Tim VH, France K.

Next Week: Angela S., Millie F.

Worship Team: Julie S., Adriana & Tessa, France K.

Next Week, 12/4: Juli O., Kiera, Caleb, Joel L.

Today:

NO Choir Practice following the service

This Week:

Dec. 2, 7 pm – Fountainview Choir Concert

Upcoming Dates to Notes:

Saturday, Dec. 10, 9AM – Christmas Blessing assembly and distribution

Tuesday – December 13 at 7:00am

Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant

Dec. 18, 6:30pm - CandleLight Service

Christmas Day, 10:00am – Sunday Service

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Save the date! Back by popular demand! Hear the acclaimed NOËL ensemble in concert and celebrate the wonder of a medieval Christmas with Celtic and classical harps, flute, strings, and poetry. A freewill offering benefits New Earth Recovery. Warm yourself with song and story, support men and women in recovery, and prepare your heart for the season! See the bulletin boards for a poster with additional information.

**Tuesday December 6, 2022 @ 7:00 pm Bethany Covenant Church
1318 S. 18th Street Mount Vernon, WA 98274**

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

A Message of Gratitude from World Renew - Thank you for your gifts of gratitude on Thanksgiving Day! World Renew is so grateful for your church and your support for Free A Family®. Through your generosity, you are sharing Christ's hope with families who are struggling with poverty and hunger. Your gifts help hungry families thrive spiritually,

physically, and economically. To learn more about how compassion like yours contributes to World Renew's ministry of justice and mercy, please visit worldrenew.net. Thank you.

World Renew Giving Tree - Help people who live in poverty experience more of God's love for them by participating in our Christmas Giving Tree! Through the World Renew Gift Catalog, each ornament on the tree is a giving suggestion for people living in poverty worldwide. Just choose an ornament and bring it, along with your donation, to put in our World Renew offering on Christmas Day. If you're not attending services this Christmas, you can also go to worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-552-7972 to give instead!

Safe Church 2022 Webinar Series: Safe Church Basics - Webinar 5: Responding to Abuse with Compassion and Justice - This webinar will feature Rev. Amanda Benckhuysen and Rev. Eric Kas as they walk through the basics of responding to an abuse allegation. This fifth step will premiere November 30th at 12 pm ET as a pre-recorded video resource on our YouTube Channel: [Youtube.com/SafeChurchMinistry](https://www.youtube.com/SafeChurchMinistry). We will also be hosting a watch party with many Safe Church Coordinators of Classes - all are invited as well to share via chat, ask questions, and connect briefly together at 1 pm ET (10am PT). You may register for this Collective Zoom Watch Meeting here: <https://bit.ly/SCwebinar5>

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: Our Great Hope - Check out the kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. We know God always loves us and is kind to us and that he sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins and give us eternal life. This is our great hope! Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Groundwork: The Magi: A Reminder that Jesus Came for All Nations-

The Magi may not be present at Christ's birth like most nativity sets would suggest, but the inclusion of the Magi in the gospel of Matthew is strategic and intentional. Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 2:1-12 to hear the gospel writer's message and prepare our hearts to once again celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Advent At-home Faith Formation Tip - During Advent, we light the candle of Hope. Through Jesus Christ, God provides us with hope for our daily living and hope for our future. How can you be a messenger of hope this week? Wonder and talk about that with someone this week. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)



People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Email the office at secretary@firstcrcmv.com or call the church office at (336-2405) by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

NEW REQUESTS:

Congratulations to **Kevin and Glenda Kok** in the birth of a healthy granddaughter. **Jordana Louise Kok** was born this morning to proud parents Lucas and Ellie. Both mother and baby are doing well. Congratulations!

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please pray for **Terry's mom, Jeanne Beezhold**, as she has been recently diagnosed with a form of lung cancer. Remember her especially on Wednesdays when she has her chemotherapy treatments at the Skagit Regional Health Cancer Care Center in Mount Vernon.

Continue to pray for **Maxine Greidanus, Shirley Boonstra** and **Adelaida Vega** as they continue to fight their cancer.

SHUT INS: **Nell Annema and Marion Ekkelkamp** at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley; **Marcella DeVries** at Bethany Lutheran in Everett, **Marjean DeGroot** at Mountain Glen in Mount Vernon; **Mary Koopmans** at Where the Heart is in Burlington; **Hans & Aileen Meishke**

at Kenmore Living in Kenmore, WA, **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 21 - *ReFrame: Japan*

Praise God for these encouraging words from Makoto, who listens to our Japanese audio program: "Thank you for letting me know the joy in the Lord. My friend is in the midst of a trial, and I am grateful to be able to share these encouraging words with him."

Tuesday November 22 - *Resonate: Germany*

Resonate missionaries David Kromminga and Mary Buteyn planted a church with and for newcomers in Berlin. Please pray for people in this city to seek hope and life in Jesus and to grow in him, ask David and Mary.

Wednesday November 23 - *Disability Concerns: Book club*

We thank God for our partnership with the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship (CICW) in supporting our book of the year, *My Body Is Not a Prayer Request*, by Amy Kenny. CICW is covering the cost of up to 10 books for each congregation who hosts a book club focused on this book.

Thursday November 24 - *World Renew: Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)*

We praise and thank God for his faithfulness and mercy in our lives, and for guiding us and allowing us opportunities to serve brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. Thank God for the generous support World Renew receives to sustain its ministries. May God bless all individuals, churches, organizations, and government agencies supporting this work in various ways.

Friday November 25 - *Cadets: Learning and growing*

This Cadet season, our theme, "Amazing," based on Joshua 3:5, reminds cadets and counselors to strive to be holy and recognize the many ways God blesses them. We pray that the boys will look for, find, and share about the amazing things God is doing among them as they live for Jesus.

Saturday November 26 - *ReFrame: Christmas messages*

Many of our ministry teams are providing songs, devotions, and other content for churches to use in their Christmas services. Pray for church leaders and media ministry leaders around the world as they prepare Christmas messages and times of fellowship.

Sunday November 27 - *Worship: First Sunday of Advent*

Pray for pastors and worship leaders as they enter the busy season of Advent. Ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance in their preparation and for joy in their waiting for the celebration of Jesus' birth. May they guide their communities to concretely see God's hope, peace, love, and joy. Come, Lord Jesus, come.