

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
January 8, 2023 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service
Pastor John Knoester

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

“Lead on, O King eternal; we follow, not with fears,”

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song;

People: Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Leader: Sing to the Lord, praise his name;

People: proclaim his salvation day after day.

Leader: O magnify the Lord with me.

People: Let us exalt God’s name together!

- Based on Psalm 96:1-2 and Psalm 34:3

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #515 v. 1-5

“Sing to the Lord, Sing His Praise”

1. Sing to the LORD, sing his praise, all you peoples;
new be your song as new honors you pay.
Sing of his majesty, praise him forever,
show his salvation from day to day.
2. Tell of his wondrous works, tell of his glory
till through the nations his name is revered.
Praise and exalt him, for he is almighty;
God over all, let the LORD be feared.
3. Vain are the idols and gods of the nations;
God made the heavens, and his glory they tell.
Splendor and majesty shine out before him;
glory and strength in his temple dwell.

4. Give unto God Most High glory and honor;
come with your offerings and humbly draw near.
Worship the LORD in all beauty and splendor;
tremble before him with godly fear.
5. Say to the nations, "The LORD reigns forever."
Earth is established as he did decree.
Righteous and just is the King of the nations,
judging the peoples with equity.

Psalm 96; Words: Psalter, 1912, alt., P.D.; Music: Lowell Mason (1792-1872),
1830, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

*"For gladness breaks like morning
where'er your face appears."*

Call to Confession:

The proof of God's amazing love is this:
While we were sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace
to help in time of need.
Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion,
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

—based on Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Sung Prayer: LUYH #660 v. 1-3 *"Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer"*

1. Jesus, draw me ever nearer
as I labor through the storm.
You have called me to this passage,
and I'll follow though I'm worn.

Refrain

*May this journey bring a blessing;
may I rise on wings of faith;
and at the end of my heart's testing
with your likeness let me wake.*

2. Jesus, guide me through the tempest;
keep my spirit staid and sure.
When the midnight meets the morning,
let me love you even more.

Refrain

*May this journey bring a blessing;
may I rise on wings of faith;
and at the end of my heart's testing
with your likeness let me wake.*

3. Let the treasures of the trial
form within me as I go,
and at the end of this long passage
let me leave them at your throne.

Refrain

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Words of Assurance

Leader: What then are we to say about these things?
If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not withhold his own Son,
but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else?
Who will bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn?
It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes,
who was raised, who is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.
Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

People: No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—Romans 8:31-35, 37-39, NRSV

God's Will for our Lives

Since you have been raised up to be with Christ, you must look for the things that are above, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on things above, not on things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed—and he is your life—you, too, will be revealed with him in glory.

—Colossians 3:1-4, NJB

* Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #800 v. 1-3

"What the Lord Has Done in Me"

1. Let the weak say I am strong.
Let the poor say I am rich.
Let the blind say I can see.
It's what the Lord has done in me.

Refrain x2

*Hosanna, hosanna
to the Lamb that was slain.
Hosanna, hosanna,
Jesus died and rose again.*

2. Into the river I will wade.
There my sins are washed away.
From the heaven's mercy stream
of the Savior's love for me.

Refrain x2

3. I will rise from waters deep
into the saving arms of God.
I will sing salvation songs.
Jesus Christ has set me free.

Refrain x2

*Hosanna, hosanna
to the Lamb that was slain.
Hosanna, hosanna,
Jesus died and rose again.*

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admin. in the US and Canada EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI #678905

Offering

Offertory

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #746 v. 1-3

“Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God”

1. Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause your Word to come alive in me;
give me faith for what I cannot see;
give me passion for your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.
2. Holy Spirit, come abide within,
may your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin,
in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace;
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

3. Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
giving life to all that God has made,
show your power once again on earth,
cause your church to hunger for your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;
lead us on the road of sacrifice,
that in unity the face of Christ
may be clear for all the world to see.

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend; ©2006 Thankyou Music,
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*(Following the conclusion of the song children ages 3-3rd grade
are dismissed for Children's Worship)*

"Your cross is lifted o'er us, we journey in its light;"

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:14-30

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"The Life and Ministry of Jesus – ‘
A Life of Loneliness and Rejection’"***

Time of Prayer

*"The crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might."*

* Song of Application: v. 1-5 *"By Faith"* (Gettys)

1. By faith we see the hand of God
in the light of creation's grand design,
in the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,
who walk by faith and not by sight.
2. By faith our fathers roamed the earth
with the pow'r of His promise in their hearts
of a holy city built by God's own hand,
a place where peace and justice reign.

Chorus

*We will stand as children of the promise;
we will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

3. By faith the prophets saw a day
when the longed-for Messiah would appear
with the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death,
and rise triumphant from the grave.
4. By faith the church was called to go
in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost,
to deliver captives and to preach good news
in ev'ry corner of the earth.

Chorus

5. By faith the mountain shall be moved
And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name.

Chorus

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* We Profess our Faith: Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

—Apostles' Creed

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #328 v. 1-3 *"Lead On, O King Eternal"*

1. Lead on, O King eternal,
the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation
your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.

2. Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace.
For not with swords' loud clashing
or roll of stirring drums—
with deeds of love and mercy
the heavenly kingdom comes.

3. Lead on, O King eternal;
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o'er us,
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might.

Words: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1888, alt., P.D.; Music: Henry T. Smart, 1836, P.D.
CCLI #678905

Postlude

Welcome to the House of the Lord! We have come to bring our worship to our God. May we do so in our singing, praying, giving, preaching and listening. May God be glorified. 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.

Tech Team	Today 1/8	Next Week: 1/15
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry H.
Projection:	France K.	Beth B.
Video:	Brandon S.	France K.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements *January 8, 2023*

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Don't forget the Potluck after church this morning! Come and join in on the fellowship!

Monday Jan 9: Executive Committee will meet at 6pm followed by Elders meeting at 7:00pm.

Sunday School resumes next week, Jan. 15!

The **Women's Bible Study** will be meeting Sunday evening, Jan 22, to finish up their series of studies.

GEMS CHRISTMAS IN JANUARY PARTY! GEMS

Girls, you won't want to miss our belated Christmas party at our next meeting! Although we had to postpone it due to severe winter weather, we wouldn't want to miss a minute of the fun. So, grab those baby gifts, a dozen Christmas snacks per family, and your fun holiday attire and join the fun on JANUARY 18 from 6:30-8:30pm. We'll turn the calendar back and party! See you there!



Worship Service YouTube Links: January 1: <https://youtu.be/R9SKJgvsAWY>

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



Friendship House: November marked 12 years since our church first started serving monthly meals at Friendship House. It would not have been possible to continue this for so long without many willing hearts and hands, past and present, helping to prepare the food. No doubt many people in our community have been blessed through the years simply by getting a hot meal to

satisfy their hungry stomachs and knowing someone cared enough to prepare it.

Due to a number of factors, it has become increasingly challenging to fill the sign-up sheets every month. With a strong desire to keep our church's commitment to provide these meals, it has been decided to ask our members to provide only the hot dish portion of the meal. A purchased dessert will be provided. The hope is that by eliminating the request for desserts, there will be more people available to make a hot dish and everyone can get an occasional break from having to prepare something every month. A huge thank you to all who faithfully help support this ministry, either monetarily or by providing food. Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

CALENDAR:

Greeters: Today - Henry & Pam VZ

Next Week 1/15: Hank & Sylvia VZ

Coffee Hosts: Today - Katie J., Elly C.

Next Week 1/15: Hank & Sylvia VZ

Children in Worship: Today - Heidi, Emily
Next Week 1/15: Heather & Ella VH

Worship Team:

Today: Stan B, Julie, Adrianna, and Tessa S.
Next week: Organ only

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Jan. 15 – Sunday School Resumes!!

Jan. 17: 7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study at Shari’s Restaurant

Jan. 18 GEMS Christmas Party

Jan. 22: Ladies Bible Study

Jan. 25: Cadets

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

At-home Faith Formation Tip - Faith5 is a simple five-step faith formation practice that your family or household can do together. First, share your highs and lows of the day. Then read a Bible verse or story together. Talk about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows, pray for one another's highs and lows, and bless one another. Faith5 is great for people of all ages! Check out Faith5.org for more. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)

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.

God is Calling You - Check out the kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. This week: You have a role to play in God’s big story--and God is calling you to submit your gifts, talents, and work to him right now. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the The Bible in One Year Plan.

Groundwork: God Is Still Working - Life is messy. Sometimes that mess is our own doing and sometimes it is not. Join Our Groundwork conversation as we study the story of Rahab and the spies in Joshua 2 and see how God remains active, even in the messiness of our lives. We'll discuss his providence and learn to look for it in the most unlikely circumstances of our lives. Listen now at Groundworkonline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



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:

Trudy Van Dyke will be transferred to life care Sedro Wooley today or tomorrow. From there she will be move to an assisted living facility. Please keep her in your prayers as she makes this move and adjustment.

Keep **Marilyn Cooke** in your prayers. She has bone spurs and is wearing a boot currently to see if it will help heal them. If not, surgery will be done. Pray for healing for Marilyn.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Sally Reehorn has returned to her home in Creekside. She is still very weak. Pray for healing and strength for Sally.

Alice De Vries home now and is slowly but surely recovering from her recent mini-strokes. At the present time she would prefer phone visits over in-person visits. She is very grateful for all the many encouraging cards that have been sent and prayers offered on her behalf. Please pray for a full recovery for Alice in the weeks ahead!

A brief update here on **Adelaida Vega**. In addition to her previous surgery she did end up having her gall bladder removed on the 29th. Thankfully, all went well and she released from the hospital on the afternoon of the 30th. She is now resting and recovering at home. The

family is deeply grateful for all the many prayers and cards they received. Please continue to keep Adelaida in your prayers.

Please pray for **Terry's mom, Jeanne Beezhold**, as she has been 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 and Shirley Boonstra** 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; *Hank & Anjean VanderVeen* at *The Bridge* in Mount Vernon; *Sally Reehoorn* at Creekside in Burlington; *Bev Van Slageren* at family in Grandview, WA.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

Monday January 2 - World Renew: Staffing

Praise God with us for bringing talented and passionate individuals to fill several positions on the World Renew team. Pray that our new colleagues may transition quickly and be able to share their gifts fully. Pray also for team cohesion, for willingness to learn from one another, and for God's holy creative spark to touch our work.

Tuesday January 3 - Resonate Global Mission: Haiti

In the past few years, Haiti has experienced many challenges, including earthquakes, a presidential assassination, and kidnappings. "Pray for the Haitian people, for peace and justice to return to this land. Pray for God's provision and for the gospel to go forward," said Luis Pellecer, regional mission leader.

Wednesday January 4 - ReFrame Ministries: New spiritual habits

In the new year, people around the world are looking for new ways to connect or reconnect with Christ. Pray for new spiritual habits to form this year. Pray that online tools like podcasts and devotions can help form lifelong relationships with Christ.

Thursday January 5 - *Safe Church: Light*

As daylight hours increase in the Northern Hemisphere, we pray for safe shelter for all who are most vulnerable to being victimized by abuse. We pray for people with hidden emotional and spiritual trauma, that they may find safety, respect, and homes full of faith, hope, and love. Lord, shine your great light in all dark places!

Friday January 6 - *Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations: Unity*

The world is watching the church, so we pray, pleading for unity within our denomination, among different denominations, and among Christians all around the world. As Jesus prayed, may we be brought to complete unity so that the world will know Jesus and the Father's great love everyone (John 17:23).

Saturday January 7 - *Resonate: Nicaragua*

Give thanks for the ways God is working through Resonate partner IMPACT clubs in Nicaragua. "They are designed to build relationships around community service. As the Nicaraguan leaders do that, they so effortlessly share the 'hope within' that each year over 10 kids come to know Christ and are baptized," said Steve Holtrop, regional mission leader.

Sunday January 8 - *ThereforeGo Ministries: SERVE*

As the new year begins, we can't help being excited for SERVE 2023! Please join us in praying for youth groups who are still deciding where to SERVE in 2023. We still have several exciting sites available, and we pray that our sending teams will find the right sites for them!