

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
January 29, 2023 ☞ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service
Pastor John Knoester

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

*“Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven,
to earth come down;”*

Prelude

Welcome

* Sung Call to Worship: “LUYH #351 v. 1-3
“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee with thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being,
praise his holy name.

**People: Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not
all his benefits.**

Leader: Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones
who do his bidding, who obey his word.

**People: Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.**

Leader: Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere
in his dominion.

People: Praise the LORD, O my soul.

—Psalm 103:1-2, 20-22, NIV

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #560 v. 1-3

“We Praise You, O God”

1. We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.
2. We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through life’s storm and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o’ertake us, you never forsake us.
And with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.
3. With voices united our praises we offer;
our songs of thanksgiving to you we now raise.
Your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us.
To you, our great Redeemer, fore’er be praise!

Words: Julia C. Cory, 1902, alt., P.D.; Music: a. Valerius, *Nederlandsch
Gedenckclandk*, 1626, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

* God’s Greeting

* We Greet One Another

"Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown."

Announcements

Friendship House Ministry Update – Jen Hutchison

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

* Gospel Promise: Romans 5:8-11

Leader: But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:

People: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Leader: Since we have now been justified by his blood,

**People: how much more shall we be saved
from God's wrath through him!**

Leader: For if, when we were God's enemies,
we were reconciled to him through the death
of his Son,

**People: How much more, having been reconciled,
shall we be saved through his life!**

Leader: Not is this so, but we also rejoice in God
through our Lord Jesus Christ,

People: Through whom we now have received reconciliation.

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #675 v. 1-5

"By Grace We Have Been Saved"

1. By grace we have been saved through faith
and not by keeping law.
God's saints believed by what they heard
and not by what they saw. (*Ephesians 2:8*)

Refrain

Oh, how I love Jesus! Oh, how I love Jesus!

Oh, how I love Jesus, because he first loved me.

2. For all have sinned and fallen short.
God's plan not one obeyed.
Christ has for all fulfilled the law.
Believe, confess, be saved. (*Romans 3:23*)

Refrain

3. God gave to earth a perfect love
through Jesus on the cross.
While we were foes, Christ died for us.
We gained by God's own loss. (*Romans 5:8*)

Refrain

4. We know the wage of sin is death;
thank God, we shall revive.
For just as Jesus rose again,
we too are made alive. (*Romans 6:23*)

Refrain

5. Set free, we now have peace with God.
Salvation is secured.
How beautiful the feet of those
who share this gospel word. (*Romans 5:1*)

Refrain

Words: sts. Rusty Edwards; © 1996 Selah Publishing Company; Music: North American traditional; arr. Sean Ivory © 2008 Faith Alive Christian Resources; CCLI# 678905

(Following the conclusion of the song children ages 3-3rd grade are dismissed for Children's Worship)

*"Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;"*

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:27-36

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“The Life and Ministry of Jesus –
‘A Life of Love Even for One’s Enemies’”***

Time of Prayer

*“Visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.”*

* Song of Application: *“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” v. 1-3*

1. How deep the Father’s love for us,
how vast beyond all measure
that He should give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss.
The Father turns His face away
as wounds which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.
2. Behold the Man upon a cross,
my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life.
I know that it is finished.
3. I will not boast in anything:
no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Words and Music by Stuart Townend, ©1995 Kingsway’s Thankyou Music,
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* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 4,5, 8, 21

Q & A 4

Leader: Q. What does God's law require of us?

People: A. Christ teaches us this in summary in Matthew 22:

**“You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.’**

This is the greatest and first commandment.

“And a second is like it:

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

**“On these two commandments hang
all the law and the prophets.”**

Q & A 5

Leader: Q. Can you live up to all this perfectly?

**People: A. No. I have a natural tendency
to hate God and my neighbor.**

Q & A 8

Leader: Q. But are we so corrupt that we are totally unable to do any good and inclined toward all evil?

**People: A. Yes, unless we are born again
by the Spirit of God.**

Q & A 21

Leader: Q. What is true faith?

**People: A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which
I hold as true all that God has revealed to us
in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust,
which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel,
that God has freely granted,
not only to others but to me also,
forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness,
and salvation.
These are gifts of sheer grace,
granted solely by Christ's merit.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #540 v. 1-4 *“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”*

1. Holy God, we praise your name;
Lord of all, we bow before you.
Saints on earth your rule acclaim;
all in heaven above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain;
everlasting is your reign.
2. Hark, the glad celestial hymn
angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim,
in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heavens with sweet accord:
“Holy, holy, holy Lord!”
3. Lo, the apostolic train
joins your sacred name to hallow;
prophets swell the glad refrain,
and the white-robed martyrs follow;
and from morn to set of sun,
through the church the song goes on.
4. Holy Father, holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name you,
though in essence only one;
undivided God, we claim you,
and, adoring, bend the knee
while we own the mystery.

Words: Te Deum, 4th c.; vers. Ignaz Franz, ca. 1774; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1853, alt., P.D. Music: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774; desc. Emily R. Brink, 1986, ©1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources, CCLI # 678905

Postlude

Psalm 81 encourages worshipers to “Sing for joy to God...shout aloud to...God.” With great joy let us approach our loving Creator. With heart, soul, strength and mind let us dedicate ourselves to God. Welcome to all who have come! 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.

Dear Friends,

In the church calendar, the season between Advent and Lent is often referred to as “Epiphany season.” During this season many churches around the world spend time focusing on the earthly life and ministry of Jesus Himself. This year, we’re going to focus on some of the stories of Jesus communicated to us in early chapters of the Gospel of Luke. May God bless us in this study together.

In Christ, - Pastor John

The Life and Ministry of Jesus

1. Jan. 8 – Luke 4:14-30

“A Life of Loneliness and Rejection”

2. Jan. 15 – Luke 4:31-44

“A Life of Authority and Power”

3. Jan. 22 – Luke 5:12-26

“A Life of Heartfelt Compassion for Others”

4. Jan. 29 – Luke 6:27-36

“A Life of Love Even for One’s Enemies”

5. Feb. 5 – Luke 6:37-42

“A Life of Removing Logs and Splinters”

6. Feb. 12 – Cadet Sunday

7. Feb. 19 – TBA

Tech Team	Today 1/29	Next Week: 2/5
Sound:	Mardy S.	Henry H.
Projection:	Tim H.	Maddie D.
Video:	France B.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	1st: General Fund

Next Week is Communion Sunday!



***God meets us in the sacraments,
holy acts that call for our response...***

***In the supper our Lord offers
the bread and cup to believers to
guarantee our share in his
death and resurrection,
and unite us to him and to each other.***

***We take this food gladly,
announcing as we eat
that Jesus is our life
and that He shall come again
to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.***

From: *Our World Belongs to God* (PH – pg. 1031)

***Come share the fellowship
of the forgiven!***

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

January 29, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year and thank you so much for your gift to our ministry in December! We are so happy and blessed to have your financial support!

In Christ, Jon, Trista, Anya and Mercy Vander Wal

Be sure to grab your new Greeters/Coffee/Lemonade Host list out of your mailbox today! There is a note attached explaining how it will work in the weeks to come. Thank you!



Save the Date! ... Willing Volunteers

Needed! The Fellowship Committee would like to revive our popular "Taste of ..." fellowship night! In years past we have celebrated a "Taste of Italy" and a "Taste of Asia" evening together. More recently it's been a "Taste of Nothing" due to the pandemic. This year we would like to celebrate a "**Taste of Latin America**" night and are currently targeting **Friday, May 19** as the day to celebrate. However, in order to pull it off, the fellowship committee needs some additional help. **We are looking for willing volunteers** to help with table decorations, evening entertainment,

procuring prizes for our meal winners, and set-up/clean-up on the night of the 19th. The commitment would involve attending 1 or 2 planning meetings and then obviously whatever assignments are made. If interested helping plan this fun night together - please contact Beth Boon no later than Valentines Day (Feb. 14). Thank you!



Worship Service YouTube Links: January 22: https://youtu.be/1_1goibXLqw

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

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6. Feb. 12 – Cadet Sunday

PLEASE HAVE ANY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS OR PRAYER GUIDE ITEMS TO BETH BY 9AM THURSDAY MORNINGS TO GET THEM INCLUDED IN THE PAPER AND EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS. THANK YOU!

CALENDAR:

Greeters: Today – Greg & Beth Boon

Coffee Hosts: Today – Henry & Sharon Kuipers

Greeters/Coffee Hosts for next week:

Henry & Sharon Kuipers, Brooke Knoester

Children in Worship:

Today - Sheri & Kiera L.

Next Week 2/5: Juli O., Elly VDB

Worship Team:

Today: Henry & Pam VZ

Next week 2/5: Kevin & Glenda K.

This week:

Jan. 31: 7:00 am Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant

Feb. 3, 6:30pm: GEMS Sleepover!

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Apr. 21, Friday: "Movie Night" in the Fellowship Hall

July 29: Saturday: Neighborhood "Block Party"

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Disability Concerns Get in the Loop Event - Calling all church audio/visual technicians: Dr. Juliette Sterkens and Dr. David Myers are experts in how churches can support people living with hearing loss through hearing loop technology. Join us on Monday, February 6, at 7:30 pm (Eastern) when Sterkens and Myers explain both the benefits and best practices in utilizing hearing loop technology. There will be time for questions as well. Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) and ASL interpretation will be provided. Register today! <https://bit.ly/dcloopevent>

At-Home Faith Formation Tip - "Pausing with children to read and to wonder about meanings in words and in illustrations of Bible stories is a spiritual practice," writes Elizabeth Caldwell in *I Wonder: Engaging a Child's Curiosity about the Bible*. For a list of some wonderful Christian picture books, visit bit.ly/FFpicturebooks. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)

Teamwork on Three! 1...2...3 - Check out the new kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Anyone who plays sports knows the importance of teamwork. Paul reminds us of the working together in Galatians 6. We are to carry each other's burdens. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Kids Corner Valentine Cards.

Groundwork: God Is In Control - Just like the Israelites needed to trust God to provide the victories that would finally give them the Promised Land, we too need to learn to trust that God is in full control and will provide for us. Join Groundwork as we study we Joshua 10-11 to remember God's faithfulness and that it is not our own strength or

skill, but God's provision and leadership that will bring eternal rest for all his people. Listen now at Groundworkonline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Annual Inter-Classis Safe Church Conference - Classis Huron's annual inter-classis safe church event is happening in person again this year! Join us on Saturday, March 4, 2023, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm at Waterloo CRC, Waterloo, Ontario. Dr. Amanda Benckhuysen, Ministry Team Leader for Safe Church, will speak on "The Use and Misuse of Power in the Church." Christian Horizons Education Director Steve Snider's presentation will focus on supporting a person living with a disability. Carol Penner will present on "Repentance and Accountability: Forgiveness is Not the First Step." For more information and registration go to <https://www.wmott.ca/scc>

Race Relations Sunday - February 5 - Next week is Race Relations Sunday when we gather to celebrate Christ Jesus, our Lord, whose redeeming work gathers our diversity into one unified body. On this special Sunday, your dedicated prayers and offerings strengthen the CRCNA's work in Race Relations, where they resource and educate congregations as together we dismantle the causes and effects of racism within the body of believers and throughout the world. Get more information at: crcna.org/Race



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.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please continue to pray for quick healing for **Margaret Vander Pol**, as she recovers from hip surgery.

Trudy Van Dyke will be moving to Where the Heart Is quite soon. Please pray for a smooth transition during this time.

Continue to pray for healing and strength for **Sally Reehorn**.

Keep **Marilyn Cooke** in your prayers. She has bone spurs and is wearing a boot currently to see if it will help heal them. She will find out on January 31st what is to be done about her pain.

Alice De Vries is 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!

Continue to pray for **Adelaida Vega, 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; *Trudy Van Dyke* at *Where the Heart Is*. *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 23 - GEMS Girls' Clubs: Love and truth

It's not easy being a girl today. Girls are anxious, lonely, and fearful. But everything changes when a girl hears who God is and everything that he says about her. A girl's hope increases, and her fear dissipates. Pray for GEMS girls' clubs and their leaders as they share God's love and truth with girls everywhere.

Tuesday January 24 - World Renew: Education

Today is the International Day of Education. As we support education in many ways, pray with us that communities trying to build schools for their children will be blessed with all the resources and people power they need. Praise God for the many participants in our literacy programs as they learn to read and to try new possibilities!

Wednesday January 25 - Chaplaincy and Care: Emergency relief

When events like floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes affect so many lives, active and retired chaplains from across North America are called upon to provide emergency support, critical incident debriefing, and spiritual care. Pray for these chaplains providing such support in communities that are suffering.

Thursday January 26 - Resonate: Michigan

“Pray that we continue to be invited into students’ stories and that we can share Christ,” ask campus ministers at International Campus Ministry, a Resonate partner at Western Michigan University.

Friday January 27 - ReFrame: Japan

In Tokyo, Japan, Maaya shared, “I listen to your radio program every day. The other day I learned that my neighbor is a Christian, and I’m thinking of sharing the program with him too. Could you send me a CD with the recording?” Pray for fruitful conversations between Maaya and her neighbor.

Saturday January 28 - Raise Up: Global Coffee Break: Writers

Pray for our writing team as they follow God’s lead to create new Discover Your Bible studies and revise existing ones. Ask God to oversee the process from start to finish, that this work may help to further his kingdom.

Sunday January 29 - Calvinist Cadet Corps: Cadet Sunday

Our theme “Amazing,” based on Joshua 3:5, continues to remind cadets, counselors, and their families to strive to be holy and to recognize the many ways God blesses us. We pray that the boys in Cadets will look for, find, and share the many amazing things God is doing as they live for Jesus.