

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
February 5, 2023 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service
Pastor John Knoester

* **Please stand in body or in spirit**

"I will rise from waters deep"

Prelude

Opening Song Video: *"A Christian's Daily Prayer"* - Sovereign Grace

Welcome/Announcements

* Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 91:2 and Romans 10:9,10)

Leader: Let us worship God.

**People: He is our refuge and our fortress, our God,
in whom we trust.**

Leader: Let us confess with our mouths, "Jesus is Lord,"
and believe in our hearts that God raised him
from the dead.

**People: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved."**

Leader: Let us call upon our true God, believing him
in our hearts, confessing him with our mouths,
worshipping him in spirit and in truth.

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #511 v. 1-3

"Amid the Thronging Worshippers"

1. Amid the thronging worshipers
the Lord, our God, I bless;
before his people gathered here
his name will I confess.
Come, praise him, all who fear the Lord,
the children of his grace;
with reverence sound his glories forth
and bow before his face.

2. The burden of the sorrowful
the Lord will not despise;
he has not turned from those who mourn,
he listens to their cries.
His goodness makes me join the throng
where saints his praise proclaim,
and there will I fulfill my vows
with those who fear his name.
3. He feeds with good the humble soul
and satisfies the meek,
and they shall live and praise the Lord
who for his mercy seek.
The ends of all the earth will hear,
the nations seek the Lord;
they worship him, the King of kings,
in earth and heaven adored.

Psalm 22; Words: Psalter, 1912, P.D.; Music: Laura A. Tate, 1912, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

* Hymn of Response: LUYH #521 v. 1-3

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount— I'm fixed upon it—
mount of God's unchanging love.
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt., P.D.; Music: J. Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813, P.D.; CCLI # 678905

"Into the saving arms of God."

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: (Based on Titus:4-8)

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,
he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done,
but because of his mercy.

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal
by the Holy Spirit whom he poured out on us generously
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
so that, having been justified by his grace,
we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Responding in Gratitude - Offering: 1. General Fund; 2. Benevolence

Offertory Song Video:

"How Rich a Treasure We Possess" – Sovereign Grace

*(Following the offertory the children ages 3-3rd grade
are dismissed for Children and Worship)*

"I will sing salvation songs,"

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:37-42

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“The Life and Ministry of Jesus –
A Life of Removing Logs and Splinters”***

Time of Prayer

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #691 v. 1-5 *“Amazing Grace”*

1. Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
3. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Words: st. 1-4 John Newton, 1779, st. 5 A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, P.D.
Music: Virginia Harmony, 1831; adapt. and harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900, P.D.;
CCLI# 678905

*(During the singing of this hymn the children will be returning from Children
and Worship and the elders are invited forward to serve communion)*

“Jesus Christ has set me free.”

We Celebrate Communion Together

Declaration of God's Invitation and Promises (Based on Luke 13:29, 24:30-31)

Summary of Scriptural Teaching: (Based on HC Q&A 79)

Leader: Christ calls the bread his body and the cup his blood, or the new covenant in his blood.

People: **Christ has good reasons for these words.
He wants to teach us that as bread and wine nourish
our temporal life, so too his crucified body
And poured-out blood truly nourish our souls
for eternal life.**

Leader: But more important, he wants to assure us, by this visible sign and pledge, that we, through the Holy Spirit's work, share in his true body and blood as surely as our mouths receive these holy signs in his remembrance,

People: **and that all of his suffering and obedience
are as definitely ours as if we personally had suffered
and paid for our sins.**

Preparing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Invitation

Distribution: *(As the elements are being served)*

1. 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.

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

Words and Music: Reuben Morgan © 1998 Hillsong Music Publishing (APRA),
admin. in the US and Canada EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI #678905

2. LUYH #682 v. 1-3 *“Before the Throne of God Above”*

1. Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.
2. When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.
3. Behold him there! The risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless righteousness;
the great unchangeable “I AM,”
the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Savior and my God,
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

Words: Charitie Lees DeCheney Bancroft (1841-1923), P.D.; Music: Vikki Cook,
1997, ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship, admin. EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI
#678905

3. LUYH #833 v. 1-3 "There is a Redeemer"

1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Chorus:

*Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.*

2. Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.

Chorus

3. When I stand in glory, I will see His face;
there I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.

Chorus

Words and Music: Melody Green (b. 1946)©1982 Birdwing Music(ASCAP)/BMG
Songs (ASCAP)/ Ears to Hear Music (ASCAP), admin. EMICMGPublishing.com
CCLI# 678905

Sharing of the Bread and Cup:

Take, eat, remember and believe that the body of our Lord
Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness
of all our sins.

Take, drink, remember and believe the precious blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness
of all our sins.

Response of Praise and Prayer

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #938 "My Friends, May You Grow in Grace"

Sing 2 times, acapella second time through

My friends, may you grow in grace
and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

My friends, may you grow in grace
and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory, now and forever,
now and forever, amen.

To God be the glory, now and forever,
now and forever, amen.

* Postlude

Welcome! Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life." Our Savior invites us to His table, a table of love that has been prepared for us. Jesus, Our Savior, lived, died and lives again for each one of us. Let us worship our God today and praise Him for His love. After the worship service, we invite you to 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 2/5	Next Week: 2/12
Sound:	Henry H.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Maddie D.	Beth B.
Video:	Tim H.	Brandon S.
Offering:	1st: General Fund 2nd: Benevolent Fund	Cadets

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

February 5, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

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!

Save the Date! Brad Diekema, our Ministry Associate candidate, will be with us here in Mount Vernon the weekend of Feb. 24-27. Currently the tentative plans are to do a potluck style 'meet and greet' event on the evening of **Saturday, Feb. 25** (more details to come). Pastor Brad will preach for us on Sunday morning and then briefly meet with the council on Monday night. If all goes well, the next step in the process would be

to meet again as a congregation in the ensuing weeks for the purpose of voting on a call. Please continue to keep Brad and the entire process in your prayers in the weeks to come.

First CRC offers the option to give your offerings online, including setting up automatic and recurring 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

ATTENTION WOMEN OF ALL AGES: A NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY IS STARTING SOON!

We will be exploring together the book of Isaiah in this 7-week Bible study and video series by Melissa Spoelstra entitled "Isaiah: Striving Less and Trusting God More".

"As you study the chapters Isaiah wrote—from his challenging words to the nation of Israel to his prophecies of the Messiah to come—learn to rest in God's promises and grow in trust. Unpacking Isaiah's words will reveal that you can trust God more than your own human effort or the counterfeits the world suggests. You won't be striving harder, but instead trusting more deeply the Faithful One who is so worthy of our utter dependence. In Him you'll find the comfort and peace you need to sustain you."

We will meet the second and fourth Sundays at 6:30pm, starting February 26. Please sign-up on the sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer. We would love to have you join us!



There is one more meal available on the 9th for Larry & Margaret VanderPol. The link to get to the schedule is: [Meal Train for Larry and Margaret Vander Pol](#) in your electronic email announcements.

Worship Service YouTube Links: January 29: <https://youtu.be/Dz03AKzma7U>

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/Coffee Hosts for this week: Henry & Sharon Kuipers, Brooke Knoester

Greeters/Coffee Hosts for next week:

Eliot & Sue B., Kevin & Glenda K.

Children in Worship:

Today - Juli O., Elly VDB

Next Week 2/12: Alyssa A., Kayla VH

Worship Team:

Today: TBD

Next week 2/12: Stan B., Julie S, Adriana & Tessa S.

This week:

Feb. 10, 7pm: Cadets

Feb.13: 7:00 am Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant

Upcoming Dates to Note:

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

July 29: Saturday: Neighborhood "Block Party"

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

Mid-America Reformed Seminary is excited to announce that their 2023 Center for Missions and Evangelism Conference will take place on **October 6-7, 2023**. This conference is an opportunity for individuals, churches, and organizations to come together and learn about the theme of ***Beyond the Walls: Faithful Mission in an Age of Adversity***.

This year's conference will feature keynote speakers and panel discussions on various topics related to this particular focus on missions and evangelism. We have a fantastic lineup of speakers sharing their insights and experiences and are confident that this conference will be an incredible opportunity for growth and inspiration.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Biblical Study Tour to Italy (May 22 - June 2, 2023): Visit the Vatican with its Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Cathedral; the impressive monuments of ancient Rome; Pompeii and Mt. Vesuvius; Assisi (home of St. Francis); Florence; Ravenna; and St. Mark's Basilica in Venice. Join Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading biblical scholar, for this inspirational tour. Contact Dr. Weima at [weimje @calvinseminary.edu](mailto:weimje@calvinseminary.edu) or [616-328-3110](tel:616-328-3110).

At-home Family Faith Formation Tip - Looking for creative ways to pray with kids? Check out the free resource 5 Ways to Pray with Kids from DWELL At Home at tinyurl.com/5wayspray. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)

God Made us Different...On Purpose! - Check out the new kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. The Bible says that each of us—differences and all—is created in the image of God. God wants us to love one another and talk about how we can grow together with all our differences. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Kids Corner Valentine Cards.

Groundwork: Stay Faithful to God, Serve the Lord - In Joshua's farewell speech to the Israelites he recalls that all his strength, successful leadership, and victories are God's doing. He urges Israel to remember it too. Join Groundwork as we study Joshua 23-24 and discuss how we can continue to remember our promise-keeping God and all he has done for us through the work of Jesus Christ. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Offering for Pastor Church Resources - On Sunday, February 19, we'll be taking a collection for Pastor Church Resources (PCR). This ministry focuses on the health and wellbeing of pastors, ministry leaders, congregations, and classes. Your gift enables PCR to resource, encourage, and support CRC churches and leaders in significant ways.



How can
we
PRAY
for you?

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 has moved to Where the Heart Is. Her new address is:
Where the Heart Is
410 Norris St., #114
Burlington, WA 98233

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

Marilyn Cooke is scheduled for an MRI of her foot on Feb. 24, and then her doctor hopes to know how to treat it best for the pain she is having. She is so thankful for all of the prayers from our congregation.

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 30 - *Resonate: Japan*

The Japanese are one of the largest unreached people groups in the world. "Pray for God's wisdom and courage for Japanese Christians to share the gospel to their family and friends," ask Resonate missionaries Ken and Jeannie Lee, who serve in Japan.

Tuesday January 31 - *ReFrame: Prayer ministry*

Pray for Mark, a man who recently shared a request with our prayer ministry team. "We have gotten far away from a regular church connection," Mark said. "I know that we need to get back, but this addiction and also struggling with social anxiety and depression have made it tough."

Wednesday February 1 - *Race Relations: Black History Month*

We remember the contributions of persons of Black African heritage who have had a positive impact on our lives. Lord, help us to understand that Black history includes all of us. May the day come when the stories of Black people are so widely taught that a Black history month is no longer needed. Help us to make a better world possible by speaking up for the oppressed and working tirelessly to ensure that no one is excluded from your table. We have a stained history; we need cleansing, Lord. Cleanse us from unrighteousness.

Thursday February 2 - *Resonate Global Mission: Ontario*

Give thanks for a family who found a faith community at The Table, a Resonate partner church plant in Ontario. Anna and Jason discovered the love of Christ through The Table's hospitality. Please pray for this family as they continue to grow as disciples.

Friday February 3 - *World Renew: Disaster Response Services (DRS)*

Disaster Response Services is responding in the United States to the aftermath of Hurricane Ian in Florida and to flooding damage in Whatcom County, Washington. Pray for these projects and for all of our volunteers. Pray also for the Salvation Army and for Undercurrent youth services in the Maritime Provinces whose ongoing work to assist people affected by Hurricane Fiona is supported by World Renew Canada.

Saturday February 4 - *ReFrame Ministries: Japan*

Kaori, a listener in Japan, says that as Japan faces population decline and aging, her family is concerned that their family line will die out. She was encouraged by the story of Ruth and Naomi, however, which she heard on our "Let's Open the Bible" audio program. Pray that more people in Japan will open their hearts to God's Word.

Sunday February 5 - *Calvin Theological Seminary: New semester*

Our spring semester began on January 30. Pray for our faculty and for our distance, residential, and international students as they begin new courses. Pray for deep learning as God continues to shape students for ministry.