

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
February 19, 2023—Sunday Before Lent
10:30 A.M. Worship Service
Pastor John Knoester

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

*“The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ,
her Lord;”*

Prelude

Welcome

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #251 v. 1-4

“The Church’s One Foundation”

1. The church’s one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.
2. Elect from every nation,
yet one o’er all the earth;
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.
3. Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppressed
By schisms rent asunder
By heresies distressed
Yet saints their watch are keeping
Their cry goes up how long
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song

4. 'Mid toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest

Words: Samuel J. Stone, 1866, P.D.; Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864, P.D.
CCLI #67895

* Call to Worship: Based on Isaiah 43:19-21

Leader: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

**People: We rejoice in our God, who made a way
through the desert of this world.**

Leader: Let us worship God, who caused streams of mercy
to flow in the wasteland.

**People: We are the people God has formed
through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!**

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**People: We praise God for the grace that has saved us.
Alleluia! We rejoice!**

* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #548 v. 1-2, 5-6

"My God, How Wonderful You Are"

1. My God, how wonderful you are;
your majesty, how bright!
How beautiful your mercy seat
in depths of burning light!
2. How wonderful, how beautiful
the sight of you must be,
your endless wisdom, boundless power,
and awesome purity!
5. No earthly father loves like you,
no mother half so mild
bears and forbears as you have done
with me, your sinful child.

6. Father of Jesus, Love divine,
great King upon your throne,
what joy to see you as you are
and worship you alone!

Words: Frederick W. Faber, 1849, alt., P.D.; Music: Thomas Turton, 1860, P.D.

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

"She is his new creation by water and the Word."

Announcements

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)

* Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #568 v. 1-4

"I Will Sing of My Redeemer"

All Sing:

1. I will sing of my Redeemer
and his wondrous love to me;
on the cruel cross he suffered,
from the curse to set me free.

Refrain

*Sing, oh, sing of my Redeemer,
with his blood he purchased me;
on the cross he sealed my pardon,
paid the debt, and made me free.*

Women Only:

2. I will tell the wondrous story,
how my lost estate to save,
in his boundless love and mercy
he the ransom freely gave.

Refrain

Men Only:

3. I will praise my dear Redeemer,
his triumphant power I'll tell,
how the victory he giveth
over sin and death and hell.

Refrain

All Sing:

4. I will sing of my Redeemer
and his heavenly love to me;
He from death to life has brought me,
Son of God, with him to be.

Refrain

Words: Philip P. Bliss, 1878; Music: James McGranahan; Public Domain, CCLI #678905

Offering: General Fund

Offertory Video: *"The Tree of Life"* – The Bible Project

*Song of Preparation: LUYH #762 v. 1-2 *"Ancient Words"*

1. Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
they resound with God's own heart,
O let the ancient words impart.
Words of life, words of hope,
give us strength, help us cope.
In this world where'er we roam
ancient words will guide us home.
2. Holy words of our faith
handed down to this age
came to us through sacrifice.
O heed the faithful words of Christ.
Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
they resound with God's own heart.
O let the ancient words impart.

Refrain

*Ancient words, ever true,
changing me and changing you.
We have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words impart.*

Words: Lynn DeShazo © 2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, (ASCAP), admin.
EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI #678905

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

*"From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;"*

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17, 3:1-19

Message: *"The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil"*

Time of Prayer

*"With his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died."*

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #693 v. 1-5 "Amazing Grace"
(*My Chains Are Gone*)

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now I'm 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.

Chorus

*My chains are gone, I've been set free;
my God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood, His mercy reigns
unending love, amazing grace.*

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.

Chorus

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 first begun.

Words: John Newton (sts), refrain by Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio; © 2006
worshiptogether.com songs/sixsteps Music/Vamos Publishing; admin. EMI CMG
Publishing; Music: traditional American melody; refrain and arr. Chris Tomlin
and Louis Giglio EMICMGPublishing.com; arr. Diane Dykgraaf © 2012
worshiptogether.com Songs/sixsteps Music, Vamos Publishing, admin.
EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI # 678905

* 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.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #302 v. 1-2 *"Hear Our Praises"*

1. May our homes be filled with dancing,
may our streets be filled with joy.
May injustice bow to Jesus
as the people turn and pray.

Refrain

*From the mountain to the valley,
hear our praises rise to you.*

*From the heavens to the nations,
hear our singing fill the air.*

2. May your light shine in the darkness
as we walk before the cross.
May your glory fill the whole earth
as the water over the seas.

Refrain x2

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

Postlude

Welcome to worship! Here let us seek to see God more clearly, love God more completely, and serve God more certainly. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised! 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 2/19	Next Week: 2/26
Sound:	Mardick S.	Mardy S.
Projection:	Tim H.	Hannah VH
Video:	Dick G.	France B.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

February 19, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Ministry Associate Candidate - Meet and Greet Event: Brad Diekema, our Ministry Associate candidate, will be in Mount Vernon visiting us Feb. 24-27. Due to the potential of a significant athletic event in the afternoon/evening of **Saturday, Feb. 25** - the 'meet and greet' event on that day is now a little more firmly scheduled for **10 AM** in the church fellowship hall. Coffee and pastries will be provided. ... Current plans are to do a light interview conversation with Brad that also involves an opportunity for some Q&A and more informal conversations afterward. **The council would love to see as many congregational members as possible attend this event.** We promise that the coffee served will be strong, the pastries will have plenty of sugar, the fellowship will be great, and the sporting event (hopefully sometime afterwards) will be exciting. For the purpose of knowing how much food and drink to prepare - please take the time to RSVP either through the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, or by way of a quick email to Beth by Thursday morning (Feb. 23). Thank you in advance for your attention to this and we look forward to hopefully seeing you on Feb. 25!

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: February 12: <https://youtu.be/vlObCCPjzIA>

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!

Dear Friends,

Have you ever noticed that the Bible is book-ended by trees? In the beginning of the Bible there is a tree in the Garden of Eden that God commands

our first parents not to eat from. Unfortunately, Satan uses that tree and puts a lie in our heart. As a result, the world filled with enmity and pain.

At the end of the Bible we observe another tree – the Tree of Life. The picture here is that of a restored Eden. A place where God's people may eat freely as they dwell in a city full of peace and joy.

In between these two trees are several others important trees that help tell the biblical story of God's plan of redemption. In fact, in Jesus Christ, God even uses a tree (the cross) to remove the lie in our heart. ... May God shower His grace upon us as we make our way through the *trees of Scripture* this Lenten season.

In His Grace, - Pastor John

1. Feb. 19 - *"The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil"* (Genesis 2-3)
2. Feb. 26 – Pastor Brad Diekema
3. March 5 - *"Like a Cedar of Lebanon"* (Hosea 14 and II Corinthians 2:12-17)
4. March 12 – *"Zacchaeus and the Sycamore Tree"* (Luke 19:1-10)
5. March 19 – *"The Kingdom of Heaven is Like a Mustard Seed"* (Matt. 13:31-35)
6. March 26 – *"The Ingrafted Branches of an Olive Tree"* (Romans 11:13-24)
7. April 2 – *"Parades and Palm Branches"* (Zechariah 9:9-13, John 12:12-19)
8. April 7 – *"The Tree of Crucifixion"* (Galatians 3:10-14, I Peter 2:23-25)
9. April 9 – *"The Tree of Life"* (John 20:1-18, Rev. 22:1-6)
10. April 16 – Guest Pastor
11. April 23 – GEMS Sunday
12. April 30 - *"Of Rocks and Trees"* (Luke 6:43-49)



GEMS will not be meeting on March 1 due to state basketball and school being cancelled the latter part of the week.

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts for this week: Terry & Joni B., Darrel & Sunee L.

Greeters/Coffee Hosts for next week: Derek & Heidi B., Joe & Juliana LC

Children in Worship:

Today - Heidi B. & Natalie Z.

Next Week 2/26: Angela S., Julissa O.

Worship Team:

Today: Kevin & Glenda K., France & Nellie

Next week 2/26: Eliot B., Heidi B., Kayla & Ella VH

This week:

Feb. 22, 7pm: Cadets

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Feb. 25, 10 AM: Meet & Greet with Brad Diekema

Feb. 26: Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm

Feb. 28: 7:00 am Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant

March 1: NO GEMS

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

May 19, Friday: Taste of Latin America

July 2: Saturday: Neighborhood "Block Party"

Just a friendly reminder:

If you are on the schedule for a task on Sunday, please look ahead a week or so and try to find your own replacement before contacting the office last minute. When you find your replacement, just let Beth know so she can do a switcheroo on the schedule. If you ABSOLUTELY cannot find a replacement, then call Beth. Thank you very much!

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

At-Home Faith Formation Tip - Wearing ashes on one's forehead on Ash Wednesday is a symbol of repentance. At home, invite each person to write an action for which they want forgiveness on a slip of paper. Burn the papers, saving the ashes. Talk with kids about the fact that repentance is more than saying "I'm sorry"—it means asking God to change our heart and mind. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)

Prayer Changes Things - We know prayer is powerful; it can change hearts, relationships, and circumstances. In the Prayer Guide you'll find daily items of thanks, praise, request, and lament that can remind you and your fellow church members that God is in control, and cares for his world and all people. Sign up or print PDF pages to share at crcna.org/get-involved/pray

Joy in God - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Where does real joy come from? Joy does not depend on what happens to you. It is about what God is doing inside you. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Preparing for Easter: A Family Lenten Devotional eBook.

Focus on the Cross - Lent is a season to focus on the hope of Jesus Christ. Receive a free Today devotional email series to help you refresh, refocus, and renew your faith during Lent. Or download the ebook! Subscribe at todaydevotional.com/lent.

Groundwork: Learning from the Seven Churches of Revelation - Ever believer must discern what it looks like to live out their Christian faith in the midst of a secular culture. Join Groundwork as Dr. Jeff Weima joins us to study Revelation 2-3 and discuss the sermons Jesus told John to write down for seven of the early Christian churches and what they might have to say to the Church also yet today. 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.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please continue to pray for quick healing for **Margaret Vander Pol!**

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

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 February 13 - Indigenous Family Centre: Strength and safety
Please pray that the Indigenous Family Centre (IFC) may continue to be a safe place for people to gather for cultural activities and to find healing. Pray that staff may keep up their strength in serving community members, and pray that community members may have moments of joy in their lives and comfort in their griefs. Give thanks with us for the support IFC receives.

Tuesday February 14 - Resonate: Central Asia

Pray for the spread of the good news of Jesus in a Muslim-majority country in Central Asia. "Our team continues sharing the gospel with new people we meet," say Resonate missionaries.

Wednesday February 15 - ReFrame: North America

Pray for Guia, who became a Christian and joined a church about five years ago. "My church does not have a youth program for my 14-year-old daughter, and I feel confused and lost," Guia said. Pray for wisdom as she discerns next steps for her and her daughter's growing faith.

Thursday February 16 - Safe Church: Positive change

Praise God that many churches and institutions are addressing how to ensure that people in positions of trust use their power for flourishing. Please ask God to raise up men and women to initiate incremental change that leads us on paths of righteousness, heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

Friday February 17 - *World Renew: Volunteer leaders*

We're grateful for the many volunteers who lead World Renew from across the United States and Canada, as well as in each of our program countries and through our ministry partners. When we work to support programs with local partners, we also work to build their capacity. Praise God for every volunteer who gives of their time and gifts to help lead these organizations, and pray that they may be filled with wisdom.

Saturday February 18 - *Resonate: Mexico*

Resonate missionaries James and Barbarita Lee, serving in Mexico, ask you to pray that Christian students will accept God's call to spread the gospel on their university campuses. "There are more than 200,000 university students, and only one percent are Christians," said the Lees.

Sunday February 19 - *Pastor Church Resources: Pastors*

Pastors have received a wonderful calling from God, and as a result they experience many blessings. However, their job isn't always easy. Please pray for your pastor on a regular basis. Pray for strength, wisdom, patience, health, good relationships, refreshment, and God's continuous leading in his/her life.