

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

February 26, 2023—First Sunday of Lent

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

Guest Pastor Brad Diekema

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

*“Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
breathe new life into my willing soul.”*

Prelude

Opening Song Video: *“Psalm 8”* – Josh Alexander Wilson

Welcome

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

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

1. All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Serve him with joy, his praises tell,
Come now before him and rejoice!
2. Know that the Lord is God indeed;
he formed us all without our aid.
We are the flock he comes to feed,
the sheep who by his hand were made.
3. O enter then his gates with joy,
within his courts his praise proclaim.
Let thankful songs your tongues employ,
O bless and magnify his name.
4. Because the Lord our God is good,
his mercy is forever sure.
His faithfulness at all times stood
and shall from age to age endure.

Words: William Kethe, 1561 at., P.D.; Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551, P.D.;
CCLI# 678905

* Call to Worship: Based on Revelation 15:3-4

Leader: Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty!

People: Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.

Leader: Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory
to your name?

**People: For you alone are holy. All nations will come
and worship you!**

* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #601 v. 1-4

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

1. All hail the power of Jesus’ name!
Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!
2. O seed of Israel’s chosen race
now ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all!
3. Let every tongue and every tribe
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all!
4. Oh, that with all the sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.
We’ll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all!

* God's Greeting:

* We Greet One Another

*"Bring the presence of the risen Lord
to renew my heart and make me whole."*

Announcements

Invitation to Transformed Living

Call to Confession: (Based on 1 Peter 2:4-7)

The very stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

Come now to Christ, that living stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious.

Whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.

Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ,

let us confess our sins before God and one another.

—based on 1 Peter 2:4-7, NRSV

* Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: (Based on Psalm 91:14-15)

Those who love me, I will deliver, says the Lord;

I will protect those who know my name.

When they call to me, I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them

and honor them and show them my salvation.

Receive the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

—based on Psalm 91:14-15, NRSV

Call to Holy Living (Based on Colossians 3:12-15)

"As the chosen of God, then, the holy people
whom he loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion,
in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience.

Bear with one another; forgive each other

if one of you has a complaint against another.

The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.

Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond.

And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts,

because it is for this that you were called together in one body.

Always be thankful. —Colossians 3:12-15, NJB

* Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #366 v. 1-4 *“My Jesus, I Love Thee”*

1. My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
2. I love thee because thou hast first loved me
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
3. I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,
and say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
4. In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright.
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Words: William R. Featherstone, ca. 1862, P.D.; Music: Adoniram J. Gordon,
1876, P.D.; CCLI #678905

*(During the singing of the last verse the children
are invited forward for the Children's Message)*

Children's Message – Marjo Rouw

*(Following the message children ages 3-3rd grade
are invited to go to Children's Worship)*

Offering: General Fund

Offertory Video: *“When We See Your Face” – Sovereign Grace*

*“Cause your Word to come alive in me;
give me faith for what I cannot see;”*

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61:1-11

Message: ***“A Promise for Restoration”***

Time of Prayer

*"Give me passion for your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me."*

* Song of Application: 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,
CCLI# 678905

* We Profess our Faith: Our World Belongs to God – Art. 55-58

Leader: Our hope for a new creation is not tied
to what humans can do,
for we believe that one day every challenge
to God's rule will be crushed.
His kingdom will fully come, and the Lord will rule.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

People: **We long for that day when our bodies are raised,
the Lord wipes away our tears,
and we dwell forever in the presence of God.
We will take our place in the new creation,
where there will be no more death
or mourning or crying or pain,
and the Lord will be our light.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

Leader: On that day we will see our Savior face to face,
sacrificed Lamb and triumphant King,
just and gracious.
He will set all things right, judge evil,
and condemn the wicked.
We face that day without fear,
for the Judge is our Savior,
whose shed blood declares us righteous.
We live confidently, anticipating his coming,
offering him our daily lives—
our acts of kindness, our loyalty, and our love—
knowing that he will weave even our sins
and sorrows into his sovereign purpose.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

People: **With the whole creation we join the song:
“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom
and strength and honor and glory and praise!”
He has made us a kingdom of priests
to serve our God, and we will reign on earth.
God will be all in all, righteousness and peace
will flourish, everything will be made new,
and every eye will see at last that our world
belongs to God. Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus!**

* God’s Blessing

* Parting Praise: "All Glory Be to Christ" v. 1-2

1. Should nothing of our efforts stand,
no legacy survive;
unless the Lord does raise the house,
in vain its builders strive.
To you who boast tomorrow's gain,
tell me what is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn;
all glory be to Christ.

Chorus

*All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
all glory be to Christ!*

2. His will be done, His kingdom come,
on earth as is above,
who is Himself our daily bread;
praise Him, the Lord of love.
Let living water satisfy
the thirsty without price;
we'll take a cup of kindness yet;
all glory be to Christ.

Chorus

3. When on the day the great I Am,
the faithful and the true,
the Lamb who was for sinners slain,
is making all things new.
Behold our God shall live with us
and be our steadfast light.
And we shall e're his people be;
all glory be to Christ.

Chorus

*All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
all glory be to Christ!*

Chorus: Sing acapella

Words and Arrangement by Dustin Kensrue; Music: Traditional Scottish Folk Tune
©2012 We Are Younger We Are Faster Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.); CCLI
#678905

Postlude

Welcome! This is the day that the Lord has made. Worship is our opportunity to be glad and rejoice in the Lord's house on the Lord's Day. We come as the children of God, knowing that we are welcomed here where all are meant to be one in the Lord. Let us lay down our burdens and rejoice in the Lord for the Lord is good, the Source of love. 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 2/26 | Next Week: 3/5 |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| Sound: | Mardy S. | Tim H. |
| Projection: | Hannah VH | Maddie D. |
| Video: | France B. | Brandon S. |
| Offering: | General Fund | General Fund |

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

February 26, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

This morning we welcome Brad Diekema, who is our Ministry Associate Candidate. He will be leading us in worship this morning.

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)

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!

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

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 17: <https://youtu.be/vSOWSB083d8>

CALENDAR:

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

Greeters/Coffee Hosts for next week: Agnes B., Bob P., Cody & Angela S.

Children in Worship:

Today - Angela S., Julissa O.

Next Week 3/5: Angela S., Caleb L.

Worship Team:

Today: Eliot B., Heidi B., Kayla & Ella VH

Next week 3/5: Henry & Pam VZ, France B> & Nellie VDH

This week:

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

There is NO GEMS THIS WEEK.

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

Upcoming Dates to Note:

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

May 19, Friday: Taste of Latin America

July 2, Saturday: Neighborhood "Block Party"

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

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.

Kids Corner: A Friend Named Jesus - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Think about your best friend. What do you like about your best friend? How do you know you have a good friendship? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Preparing for Easter: A Family Lenten Devotional eBook.

Groundwork: Worshipping Christ, the Lamb Who is Worthy - When the world tries to squash our faith and it seems like evil is winning, Christians can find encouragement in Revelation. Join Groundwork as we explore John's visions of heavenly worship in Revelation 4-5. We'll discuss the truths these visions convey and why they offer valuable assurance for our faith. Listen now at Groundworkonline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

World Renew DRS Sunday is Next Week - The damage from a tornado, flood, or hurricane is overwhelming for people who have lost their belongings, but you can help. Join us for World Renew DRS Sunday on March 5, 2023. Your prayers and financial support provide vital services for those in need. Visit worldrenew.net, call 1-800-552-7972, or email info@worldrenew.net to give or learn more.

Lent At-home Faith Formation Tip - Engage in Lent with a Lenten journey calendar similar to an Advent calendar. On a large piece of paper, draw a path with 40 stepping stones on it, and an empty tomb at the end of the path. Since Lent started on Feb. 22, color in all the stepping stones from then until today. Each day, color in another stone and pray together. For help with explaining what Lent means to young children, check out tinyurl.com/LentQuestions. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)

Free Online CRC Leadership Training! - Register now to take the Thriving Essentials virtual training in March at no cost (limit 25 persons). The two, 2 hour-long evening Zoom sessions (March 21 + 28) can help get all church leaders on the same page concerning the key concepts of Mission, Discipleship, Discernment, and Leadership. Take the class for yourself, then decide if attendance would benefit your core church leadership. More info at: crcna.org/Thrive



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**.

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 20 - ReFrame: India

The village of a man named Manoj is surrounded by forests and mountains, so it takes hours to travel there from the nearest city. Still, he and about 30 participants from similar parts of India traveled to attend a training for pastors and lay leaders led by ReFrame's Hindi ministry partners. Please pray for young leaders like Manoj as they minister in remote areas.

Tuesday February 21 - Resonate: Japan

"Pray for God's wisdom and courage for Japanese Christians to share the gospel with their family, friends, and coworkers," said Ken and Jeannie Lee, Resonate missionaries in Japan.

Wednesday February 22 - *Worship: Ash Wednesday*

Pray for worship leaders and pastors as they enter this busy season of Lent. May they find time for reflection and rest, even as their workload increases and expectations are high. May God bless the work of their hands, enliven the work of their minds, and tend to the work of their hearts as they live out their important and beautiful calling to serve God's church.

Thursday February 23 - *World Renew: Peace*

Pray for peace that surpasses understanding for all who face turmoil in our world. Pray for families who don't know where their next meal will come from, for dedicated staff and volunteers who work hard and are often stretched thin, and for the many millions of people in countries where unrest and uncertainty are a daily reality. Praise God that we serve the Prince of Peace.

Friday February 24 - *Resonate: Michigan*

Campus ministers at International Campus Ministry, a Resonate partner at Western Michigan University, ask you to pray for connections with students. Pray that the campus ministry leaders may continue to build new relationships.

Saturday February 25 - *ReFrame: Cuba*

Dedice reads our Spanish-language devotions, Cada Día, and asks for prayers for her and her family in Cuba. Pray for their spiritual and physical well-being, and may they continue to read God's Word every day.

Sunday February 26 - *Centre for Public Dialogue: First Sunday of Lent*

As we begin to observe Lent, let us consider our interdependence and how injustice experienced by one of us can affect the peace and prosperity of all. Praise God for good policies, and ask for eyes to see broken systems in order to seek peace and flourishing for all in the places where God has placed us.