

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

March 5, 2023—Second Sunday of Lent

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

Pastor John Knoester

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

“What can wash away my sin?”

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

* Call to Worship: Based on Psalm 92:1-2,4,12-13

Leader: It is good to praise the Lord and make music
to your name, O Most High.

**People: To proclaim your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night.**

Leader: For you make us glad by your deeds, O Lord;

People: We sing for joy at the work of your hands.

Leader: The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

**People: Planted in the house of the Lord,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.**

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #513 v. 1-3

“It Is Good to Sing Your Praises”

1. It is good to sing your praises
and to thank you, O Most High,
showing forth your loving-kindness
when the morning lights the sky.
It is good when night is falling
of your faithfulness to tell,
while with sweet, melodious praises
songs of adoration swell.

2. You have filled my heart with gladness
through the works your hands have wrought;
you have made my life victorious;
great your works and deep your thought.
You, O Lord, on high exalted,
reign forevermore in might;
all your enemies shall perish,
sin be banished from your sight.
3. But the good shall live before you,
planted in your dwelling place,
fruitful trees and ever verdant,
nourished by your boundless grace.
In his goodness to the righteous
God his righteousness displays;
God, my rock, my strength and refuge,
just and true are all your ways.

PSALM 92; Words: Psalter, 1912, P.D.; Music: J. Leavitt's Christian Lyre, 1831,
P.D.; CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Song of Praise: "*Come and Rejoice*" v. 1-3

1. Come with rejoicing, the Father is calling,
those who would worship in spirit and truth;
Come with your singing, come with thanksgiving,
Jesus our Savior, has made all things new.

Chorus

*Come and rejoice, O holy nation,
come and sing praises to Him;
Come and bow down, worship before Him,
Jesus, the King of all kings, Jesus, the King of all kings.*

2. The Lord of creation is full of compassion,
seated in splendor adorned with all grace;
majestic and glorious, reigning victorious,
now and forever enthroned on our praise.

Chorus

3. With the sound of the trumpet he summons the nations,
calling a priesthood to go in His name;
to show forth His power to this generation,
to worship before Him, a kingdom of praise.

Chorus

*Come and rejoice, O holy nation,
come and sing praises to Him;
Come and bow down, worship before Him,
Jesus, the King of all kings, Jesus, the King of all kings.*

"Come and Rejoice" Don Moen / Gerrit Gustafson; © 1989 Integrity's Hosanna! Music
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"Nothing but the blood of Jesus"

Invitation to Transformed Living

Call to Confession: (Based on Isaiah 30:15,18)

In repentance and rest is your salvation,
in quietness and trust is your strength,
but you would have none of it.

Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you;
he rises to show you compassion.

For the LORD is God of justice.

Blessed are all who wait for him! —Isaiah 30:15, 18, NIV

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: (Based on Psalm 103 and Hebrews 10:10)

Leader: The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse, nor will he keep
his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those
who fear him; as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear
him.

We have been made holy through the sacrifice
of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**People: This is God's gospel promise:
to forgive our sins and give us eternal life
by grace alone because of Christ's one sacrifice
finished on the cross.**

—Psalm 103:8-13 NRSV, Hebrews 10:10, NIV;
Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 66

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

*(Following the offertory 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)*

* Song of Preparation: "Every Promise" (Getty) v. 1-4

1. From the breaking of the dawn
to the setting of the sun,
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.
Words of power, strong to save,
that will never pass away;
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.
For Your covenant is sure,
and on this I am secure:
I can stand on ev'ry promise from Your word.
2. When I stumble and I sin, condemnation pressing in,
I will stand on every promise of Your word.
You are faithful to forgive,
that in freedom I might live.
So I stand on every promise of Your word.
Guilt to innocence restored;
You remember sins no more.
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.

3. When I'm faced with anguished choice,
I will listen for Your voice,
and I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
Through this dark and troubled land,
You will guide me with Your hand,
as I stand on every promise of Your word.
And You've promised to complete
every work begun in me.
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
4. Hope that lifts me from despair;
Love that casts out every fear;
as I stand on every promise of Your word.
Not forsaken, not alone,
for the Comforter has come;
and I stand on every promise of Your word.
Grace sufficient, grace for me,
Grace for all who will believe.
We will stand on every promise of Your word.

"Every Promise" Authors: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend; © 2005 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing); All rights Reserved. CCLI # 678905

"What can make me whole again?"

Scripture Reading: Hosea 14 and II Corinthians 2:12-17

Message: ***"Like a Cedar of Lebanon"***

Time of Prayer

"Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

* Song of Application: CH #337 v. 1-4 *"Nothing But the Blood"*

1. What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus

*O precious is the flow
that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

2. For my pardon this I see,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing, this my plea,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus

3. Nothing can for sin atone,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus

4. This is all my hope and peace,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus

Text: Robert Lowry; Music: Robert Lowry; Public Domain

* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 33

Q & A 88

Leader: Q. What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?

People: **A. Two things: the dying-away of the old self, and the rising-to-life of the new.**

Q & A 89

Leader: Q. What is the dying-away of the old self?

People: **A. To be genuinely sorry for sin and more and more to hate and run away from it.**

Q & A 90

Leader: Q. What is the rising-to-life of the new self?

People: **A. Wholehearted joy in God through Christ and a love and delight to live according to the will of God by doing every kind of good work.**

Q & A 91

Leader: Q. What are good works?

People: **A. Only those which are done out of true faith, conform to God's law, and are done for God's glory; and not those based on our own opinion or human tradition.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #859 v. 1-4 *"Be Thou Vision"*

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art-
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.
3. Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only first in my heart,
high king of heaven, my treasure thou art.
4. High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Irish hymn, 8th c; tr. Mary E. Byrne; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, Music: Irish melody; arr. Jack Schrader; © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. CCLI#678905

Postlude

Welcome! Let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation, poured out for us in Jesus Christ. Welcome, one and all! 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 3/5	Next Week: 3/12
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry H.
Projection:	Maddie D.	Beth B.
Video:	Brandon S.	France B.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

March 5, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Ministry Associate Update: At its February 27 meeting the council made the decision to recommend Brad Diekema to the congregation for the Ministry Associate position. In addition, the council is also recommending that the nature of the call be that of a bivocational two year term call. The expectation would be that Brad would be with us for a minimum of a year, but then would be encouraged to begin exploring a full-time ministry call in year two. The next step in the process is for the congregation as a whole to vote on extending an official call. Lord willing, we hope to do this by way of a brief town hall meeting following our morning service on **March 19**.

Absentee ballots are available in advance for those who are unable to attend. Please let Beth know if the office and she will put one in your box or give one to you in person. Vote and return it to Beth's box by March 19 AM. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out to a council member in advance.

Would you like to purchase an *Easter Lily or Bible* in memory of a loved one? They will be placed at the front of the church on Easter Sunday. If you would like to order, please call or leave a message for Beth at the church office (336-2405) by Monday, April 2. **The cost of the lilies are yet to be determined.** Bibles from the Gideons are \$5 apiece. Make checks payable to the First Christian Reformed Church and turn the money into the church office. Lilies may be taken home after the Easter services.

March is here and it's time to make a joyful noise! You are invited to join the choir for our spring season on Sunday, March 12. Enjoy your coffee time after the service then come join us. We rehearse in church on the piano side!
"Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!" Psalm 105:2
Any questions, contact Joni Beezhold

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

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!

Worship Service YouTube Links: February 25: N/A due to server error

CALENDAR:

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

Greeters/Coffee Hosts for next week: Greg & Beth B., Sheri L

Children in Worship:

Today - Angela S., Caleb L.

Next Week 3/12: Tim VH, Lauren VB

Worship Team:

Today: Henry & Pam VZ, France B> & Nellie VDH

Next week 3/12: Sheri L., Juli O., Kierra L.

This week:

March 8, 7:00pm: Cadets

Upcoming Dates to Note:

March 12: Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm

March 14: 7:00 am Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant

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

May 19, Friday: Taste of Latin America

July 29, Saturday: Neighborhood "Block Party"

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Kids Corner: Sorting Out Our Fears - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. This week: Managing fear is a muscle we can strengthen just like we can strengthen our leg muscles to run faster. Learning to run fast and learning to calm fear both take practice, but they are worth it! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Preparing for Easter: A Family Lenten Devotional eBook.

Groundwork: Heavenly Visions to Encourage Our Faith - Seeing heaven's perspective of the cosmic, spiritual battle between God and evil provided John comfort while he was exiled on the island of Patmos. Join Groundwork as we study Revelation 7-14 and discuss the meaning of the images and numbers in John's famous heavenly visions and the comfort we can continue to find in the eternal truths those vision conveyed. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Build Communities of Hope on World Renew DRS Sunday - Today's offering for World Renew Disaster Response Services builds hope in communities across the U.S. and Canada. World Renew DRS helps homeowners like Mrs. Brown who may not be able to recover from a flood or other disaster on her own. Please give generously in today's offering for World Renew DRS. You can also give online at worldrenew.net, call 1-800-552-7972, or email info@worldrenew.net to give or learn more.

Summer Service Trips with World Renew DRS - Looking for ways to serve with your congregation or youth group this summer? Join World Renew DRS to repair homes after natural disasters all across the US and Canada! We have sites available in Washington, Kentucky, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, and more! Contact Chris, our Groups Program Manager, at cgibson@worldrenew.net if interested or with questions.

Lent At-home Faith Formation Tip - Many Christians practice giving something up for Lent in order to make more space for God. If you have kids in your household, think together about how you might make more space for God this week. For example, you might take a technology break each day and spend the time reading about Jesus' life and ministry in The Jesus Storybook Bible or Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible and talking about the stories together. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)

The Architecture of Prayer - The Center Art Gallery at Calvin University presents The Architecture of Prayer, a survey of church architecture exploring a selection of the most thoughtful liturgical projects of the 21st century. On display until April 7th, the exhibition showcases drawings and travel photography of historic church buildings in dialogue with new projects built after 1999—contributed by 40+ internationally-recognized practices and local firms. To explore the exhibition virtually, visit: https://bit.ly/arch_pray



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 awaiting her MRI results. Please pray for her daughter as well, who is expecting a baby on March 20, and for her grandson, who is having difficult times.

Praise God that **Maxine Greidanus** will not have to do chemotherapy for the next 3 months!

Continue to pray for **Adelaida Vega 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 27 - Resonate: Nicaragua

Pray for the Nehemiah Center, a Resonate partner ministry in Nicaragua. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue working through this ministry and in the many ways its leaders serve churches and communities there.

Tuesday February 28 - World Renew: Haiti

Our team in Haiti experienced many challenges last year because of violent demonstrations, gang clashes, and attacks on banks and public markets. Food insecurity is reported to be acute, with more than half of the population starving and unable to access basic health services. Despite these difficulties, stories of positive change in communities have encouraged and motivated World Renew to persevere. Pray for the restoration of dignity, and pray that vulnerable families may be able to meet their needs.

Wednesday March 1 - Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee: Urban ministries

The CRC's three urban Indigenous ministries in Canada are located in Regina, Sask.; Winnipeg, Man.; and Edmonton, Alta. They provide numerous services for many people. In 2022 the Indigenous Christian Fellowship provided twice as many snacks as in 2021. Please pray for the staff members who run these programs, asking God to provide the resources they need.

Thursday March 2 - *ReFrame Ministries: Japan*

A man named Kenji recently contacted our Japanese ministry team to say, "Last year, I wandered in my faith many times. Thanks to your intercessory prayers and your online radio program, I was able to stay in the Christian faith. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart." Pray that Kenji will continue to grow in faith this year.

Friday March 3 - *Resonate Global Mission: Cambodia*

Pray for Resonate missionaries Ly Chhay and Navy Chann-Chhay as they work with pastors in rural Cambodia. Ask the Holy Spirit to help strengthen these pastors and their churches, that the gospel may continue to spread.

Saturday March 4 - *Safe Church: Training*

We pray today for the organizers and presenters at the Annual Inter-Classis Safe Church Conference in Waterloo, Ont. Workshops will focus on repentance and accountability; power, trust, harm, and abuse; responding restoratively; and the use and misuse of power in the church. Pray that all who attend today may continue to learn about the dynamics of abuse and how best to move forward as the church in their communities.

Sunday March 5 - *World Renew: Earthquake recovery*

We grieve with the many people in Türkiye and Syria who have lost family members, homes, and livelihoods. Pray for our team as we assist with recovery efforts in Syria, where factors such as ongoing food insecurity, a harsh winter, large numbers of displaced persons, and risks of cholera make this disaster even more catastrophic.