

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

March 12, 2023—Third Sunday of Lent

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

Pastor John Knoester

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

*“Amazing love that welcomes me,
the kindness of mercy”*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

CEF Update—Mardick Stevens

* Call to Worship:

Faithful God, in joy we declare,

“The sun of righteousness rises with healing in its wings!”

We ask for your Spirit to help many, both far and near,

To experience this healing power, and to join us as we say,

“May Jesus Christ be praised!”

* Sung Call to Worship: “10,000 Reasons”

Chorus:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;

worship His holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul;

I'll worship Your holy name.

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,

it's time to sing your song again.

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,

let me be singing when the evening comes.

Chorus

2. You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.

Your name is great and Your heart is kind.

For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;

ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Chorus

3. And on that day, when my strength is failing,
the end draws near, and my time has come;
still, my soul will sing Your praise unending
ten thousand years, and then forevermore!

Chorus

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.
Worship Your holy name.
Worship Your holy name.*

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* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

* Song of Praise: LUYH #574 v. 1-2

"How Great is Our God/How Great Thou Art"

1. The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;
let all the earth rejoice, let all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
and trembles at his voice, and trembles at his voice.

Refrain

*How great is our God!
Sing with me: how great is our God!
And all will see how great,
how great is our God!*

2. From age to age he stands, and time is in his hands;
beginning and the end, beginning and the end.
The godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
the lion and the lamb, the lion and the lamb.

Refrain

*How great is our God!
Sing with me: how great is our God!
And all will see how great,
how great is our God!*

Bridge (2x)

Name above all names, worthy of all praise;
my heart will sing, how great is our God!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!

Refrain (Acapella)

*How great is our God!
Sing with me: how great is our God!
And all will see how great,
how great is our God!*

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*“That bought with blood,
wholeheartedly my soul undeserving”*

Call to Confession

Sung Prayer of Confession: *“God, You’re So Good”*

1. Amazing love that welcomes me
The kindness of mercy
That bought with blood wholeheartedly
My soul undeserving

Chorus

*God You're so good
God You're so good
God You're so good
You're so good to me*

2. Behold the cross age to age
And hour by hour
The dead are raised the sinner saved
The work of Your power

Bridge

I am blessed I am called
I am healed I am whole
I am saved in Jesus' name
Highly favored anointed
Filled with Your pow'r
For the glory of Jesus' name

3. And should this life bring suffering
Lord I will remember
What Calvary has bought for me
Both now and forever

CCLI Song # 7105729 Brett Younker | Brooke Ligertwood | Kristian Stanfill | Scott Ligertwood ©KPS 1.0 (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) SHOUT! Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) worshipstogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) *For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 678905*

The Assurance of God's Pardon

* Song of Response: "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.

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*(Following the singing of this song the children are invited forward
for the Children's Message)*

Children's Message - Mrs. Rouw

*(Following the message children ages 3- 3rd grade
are dismissed for Children's Worship)*

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

"God, You're so good, Oh God, You're so good"

Scripture Reading: Luke 19:1-10

Prayer of Illumination

Message: **"Zacchaeus and the Sycamore Tree"**

Time of Prayer

"God, You're so good, You're so good to me"

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #685 v. 1-3

"I Sought the Lord, and Afterward I Knew"

1. I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew
he moved my soul to seek him, seeking me;
it was not I that found, O Savior true;
no, I was found, was found of thee.
It was not I that found, O Savior true;
no, I was found, was found, of thee.

2. Thou didst reach forth thy hand and mine enfold;
I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea;
'twas not so much that I on thee took hold,
as thou, dear Lord, took hold on me.
'Twas not so much that I on thee took hold,
as thou, dear Lord, took hold on me.
3. I find, I walk, I love; but, oh, the whole
of love is but my answer, Lord, to thee!
For thou wert long beforehand with my soul;
always, always thou lovedst me.
For thou wert long beforehand with my soul;
always, always thou lovedst me.

Words: anonymous, 1878, P.D. CCLI #678905

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #302 "*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

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Postlude

Welcome! Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy." Those are the words of the psalmist in Psalm 5:11. Whoever you are, wherever you are from, we welcome you and we invite you to "be glad" with us about God's goodness and mercy. Let us "ever sing for joy" and praise God with profoundly grateful hearts. 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.



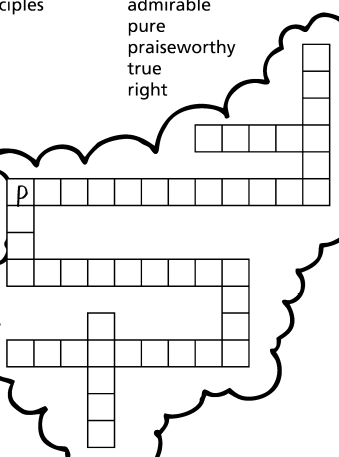
Think about these things...

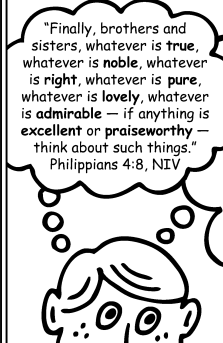
With so many things to remember each day, the apostle Paul provides guidelines in Philippians 4:8 (NIV) for what should fill our minds.

Directions: Match each word in column 1 to the word in column 2 that means the same thing. Then use the words from column 2 to fill in the boxes below.

<p>COLUMN 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> correct commendable extremely good having high moral principles deserving respect pleasant real wholesome 	<p>COLUMN 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> excellent lovely noble admirable pure praiseworthy true right
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"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things." Philippians 4:8, NIV





Tech Team	Today: 3/12	Next Week: 3/19
Sound:	Henry H.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Beth B.	Hannah VH
Video:	Tim H.	France B.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

March 12, 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 today after the service! 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

Christian Education Fund

For those parents that are part of the CEF do not forget to check the First CRC CEF box on the registration form when registering for next school year. Also a reminder that all pledges for this school year are due by the end of May.

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: March 5: <https://youtu.be/x6Ya-aOXgg>

CALENDAR:

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

Greeters/Coffee Hosts for next week: Randy & Peggy B, Marjo R.

Children in Worship:

Today - Tim VH, Lauren VB

Next Week 3/19: Heather VH, Maddy D.

Worship Team:

Today: Sheri L., Juli O., Kierra L.

Next week 3/19: Kevin & Glenda K., Kayla & Ella VH

This week:

March 12: Women’s Bible Study, 6:30pm

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

March 15, 6:30pm: GEMS

Upcoming Dates to Note:

March 26: Women’s Bible Study, 6:30pm

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

May 19, Friday: Taste of Latin America

July 29, Saturday: Neighborhood "Block Party"

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Lent At-home Faith Formation Tip - During Lent, many Christians try to become more aware of the suffering of others as we remember Jesus' suffering and sacrifice. How might you do this? Consider volunteering as a family, with friends, or on your own at a ministry of mercy, or visiting members of your congregation who can't physically join you in worship on Sundays. (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

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: I'm Worried! - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. It's natural to feel worried now and then, but God helps us turn worry into excitement for the awesome things he has planned for us. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Preparing for Easter: A Family Lenten Devotional eBook.



How can
we
PRAY
for you?

People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Email the office at secretary@firstcrmv.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 continued 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.

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 March 6 - *Disability Concerns: Training and awareness*

We thank God for the 75 attendees at our virtual "Get in the Loop" event. Please pray that church leaders and tech people will be receptive to adding loop systems so that people with hearing aids can hear at church. Pray also that churches will make accessibility a priority as they budget.

Tuesday March 7 - *Resonate: West Africa*

A Resonate missionary serving in a Muslim-majority country in West Africa recently had the opportunity to share the gospel with a group of people. Pray that the Holy Spirit will work in each person's heart.

Wednesday March 8 - *Communications: Annual Day of Prayer*

Join CRC congregations and members in asking for God's blessing on the world, our nations and communities, crops and industry, and the church worldwide.

Thursday March 9 - *ReFrame: India*

ReFrame's partners in India ask for prayers after some states in India are passing new anticonversion laws. "The central government is planning to introduce a national anticonversion law after a high-profile advocate named religious conversion by force as a threat to national security. Pray for the truth to prevail and for the Lord's justice to be done."

Friday March 10 - *World Renew: Gender equity*

The 67th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women is taking place Mar. 6-17 in New York. Representatives of member states, UN entities, and nongovernment organizations from all regions of the world are invited to attend, and World Renew has a voice at the table. Pray that our team will help grow the credibility of faith-based organizations in the area of gender equity.

Saturday March 11 - *Resonate: Seattle*

Resonate partner campus ministries aren't just for students—they support faculty and staff too! Campus ministers at Graduate Christian Fellowship at the University of Washington in Seattle share that several new faculty members are interested in joining the faculty fellowship. May this be an encouraging faith community for them.

Sunday March 12 - *Raise Up: Educational Care: Growth*

New doors are opening for partners around the globe to use Educational Care (EC). Planning for new EC programs in India and Indonesia has begun. Some Latin American contacts are also interested in introducing EC into their region. Pray that our team will have wisdom and patience in the process.