

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

March 19, 2023—Second Sunday of Lent

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

Pastor John Knoester

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

"You are the seed of the Word, O people!"

Prelude

Opening Song Video: *"Life in Me" – Scripture Lullabies*

Welcome

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 91:1-4)

Reader #1: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

Reader #2: I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge
and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.

Reader #1: Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.

Reader #2: He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge.

*** Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #776 v. 1-4**

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.

3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

4. That Word above all earthly powers—
no thanks to them—abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!

Words: based on Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852, P.D.; Music: Martin Luther, 1529, alt.; harm. Johann s. Bach (1685-1750), P.D.; CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Song of Praise: LUYH #123 v. 1-2, 4

"Come to Me, O Weary Traveler"

1. Come to me, O weary traveler;
come to me with your distress;
come to me, you heavy burdened;
come to me and find your rest.

2. Do not fear, my yoke is easy;
do not fear, my burden's light;
do not fear the path before you;
do not run from me in fright.

4. Rest in me, O weary traveler;
rest in me and do not fear.
Rest in me, my heart is gentle;
rest and cast away your care.

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"Live for the kingdom of God!"

Announcements

Invitation to Transformed Living

Call to Confession: (Based on Hebrews 12:2-3)

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
the author and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy set before him endured the cross,
scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God.
Let us consider him who endured such opposition
from sinful people,
so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.
—from Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

* Prayer of Confession

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

Leader: 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.

**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.**

God's Law: (Based on Philippians 1:4-9 NSRV)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

* Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #117 v. 1,2,5 *"Blest Are They"*

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
they shall be consoled.

Refrain

Rejoice and be glad!

Blessed are you;

holy are you.

Rejoice and be glad!

Yours is the kingdom of God.

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones;
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst;
they shall have their fill.

Refrain

5. Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see.

Refrain

*(Following the Song of Thanksgiving 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: *"Christ Will Be My Hideaway" – Sovereign Grace*

"Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:31-35

Message: ***"The Kingdom of Heaven is Like a Mustard Seed ..."***

Time of Prayer

"Grow in the kingdom of God!"

* Song of Application: LUYH #899 v. 1-3 *"Seek Ye First"*

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.
2. Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

Sing acapella

3. We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia.

Words and Music: Matthew 6:33, 7:7, 4:4; para. Karen Lafferty, 1972,
© 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin Music Services; CCLI #678905

* We Profess our Faith: Our World Belongs to God

– Various Parts of Articles 55, 57-58

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: On that day we will see our Savior face to face,
sacrificed Lamb and triumphant King,
just and gracious.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: 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.**

Pastor: 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!”

**People: He has made us a kingdom of priests
to serve our God, and we will reign on earth.**

Pastor: 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.

All: Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus!

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: Sing! #123 v. 1-3 *"Bring Forth the Kingdom"*

1. You are salt for the earth, O people:
salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
Life in the kingdom of God!

Refrain

*Bring forth the kingdom of mercy;
pray for the kingdom of peace;
work for the kingdom of justice;
hope for the city of God!*

2. You are a light on a hill, O people:
light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people;
shine for the kingdom of God!

Refrain

3. You are a seed of the Word, O people:
live for the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
grow in the kingdom of God!

Refrain

*"Bring Forth the Kingdom" Words and Music: Mary Haugen; based on Matt. 5:13-16,
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Postlude

Welcome to everyone! We are so glad you chose to worship with us this Lord's Day. Today, we are having Holy Communion. Please reflect in reverence as we symbolize the body of Christ and His redemption for us. 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: 3/19	Next Week: 3/26
Sound:	Henry VZ	Mardick S.
Projection:	Hannah VH	Tim H.
Video:	France B.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

March 19, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Cadets! We are doing the Pinewood Derby instead of our normal meeting this week in the fellowship hall for those who want to come to watch or participate. There's an open class for the Non-Cadets. Weigh in starts at 6:45 and will probably go until 9 pm.

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 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

A FAMILY SKATING PARTY is being sponsored by the GEMS and Cadet clubs on Thursday, March 30 from 6:00-8:00 P.M. at Skagit Skate in Burlington. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!** Bring the whole family—even babies in strollers can be wheeled around the rink. Invite your friends and neighbors—the more the merrier! Enjoy great fellowship, great exercise and great family fun. Cost: \$7.00 skater. **SEE YOU THERE** with wheels on!

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.

Our sincere thank you to those who remembered us their prayers, sent cards with hand written words of encouragement, phone calls, flowers, short visits and those who so graciously delivered a meal to us. We were truly blessed through you all. Thank you. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. - Larry & Margaret Vander Pol

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

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 12: <https://youtu.be/74SnZxB-qIQ>

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)

There is an update from the Jeff & Melissa Bos, our missionaries to Oman & Bangladesh, on the Missionary Bulletin Board.

CALENDAR:

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

Greeters/Coffee Hosts for next week: Bob DG, Keith & Jean R., Simon LC

Children in Worship:

Today - Heather VH, Maddy D.

Next Week 3/26: Sheri L, France B.

Worship Team:

Today: Kevin & Glenda K., Kayla & Ella VH

Next week 3/26: Sunday School Kids

This week:

March 22, 6:45 pm: Cadets Pinewood Derby!

Upcoming Dates to Note:

March 26: Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm

Restaurant

March 30, Thurs., 6-800 pm: GEMS & Cadets Skating Party

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: God Is Our Home Free Zone - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. When life gets overwhelming, scary and feels out of control, you need to find safe spaces like that "Home Free" zone. God is the safest place we can seek when life gets hard. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible Story Coloring Packet 6: The Miracle of Easter.

CRCNA Online Leadership Training Course Starts Tuesday - 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

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!



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 does not need to have additional foot surgery at this time, as it appears the foot is healing. Please pray for her daughter as well, who will be having a C-Section this coming Monday unless the baby arrives before then, and for her 13 year old grandson, who is fighting depression.

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 13 - *Calvin University: Future students*

Join with Calvin University in praying for the Class of 2027! These students are currently high school seniors studying around the world, discerning God's guidance for their next chapter of learning. We pray for a sizable incoming class made up of students from around the world who love Jesus and who long to think deeply, act justly, and live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world.

Tuesday March 14 - *ReFrame: Burkina Faso*

Sanogo is one of several wives to her husband, and she has struggled because she has not been able to have children. She recently came to a church where ReFrame's partners serve, and she says she appreciates our radio programs about families. Pray for strength for Sanogo as she continues to seek Christ in her life.

Wednesday March 15 - *Resonate: Michigan*

A Resonate partner church planter who ministers among people from a Muslim background received a call from a woman who professed faith in Christ a few years ago. She wants to be baptized but is facing resistance from family members. "Pray that we can work through this situation and that doors may open for her to be baptized," asks the church planter.

Thursday March 16 - *World Renew: Southern Africa*

Heavy rains have been a blessing to some in the region while causing severe damage to others. Cholera has killed more than 1,000 people in Malawi and seems to be spreading to neighboring countries. The stock of government-distributed vaccines has run out. Pray for relief and for good weather for farmers, that their crops can grow, and for city dwellers, that flooding won't cause sanitation concerns.

Friday March 17 - *Pastor Church Resources: Volunteers*

Churches rely on people who freely give of their time as small group leaders, nursery attendants, greeters, elders, deacons, and more. Pray that these volunteers have the strength and energy to continue in the good work they do. Ask God to encourage new volunteers to serve in open positions.

Saturday March 18 - *Resonate: Worldwide*

Pray for Resonate volunteers serving in communities throughout the world. Pray that they will be able to form strong relationships, learn from the community and culture where they are serving, and be able to use their gifts and skills.

Sunday March 19 - *Calvin Theological Seminary: Finishing strong*

Senior students will be taking their oral comprehensive exams this month as they prepare for graduation and ministry beyond seminary. Pray that the exams will not cause undue anxiety but will bless them in knowing how much they have learned in their studies.