

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

March 26, 2023—Fifth Sunday of Lent

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

Pastor John Knoester

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

“O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder”

Prelude

Welcome

* Opening Song of Praise: *“I Will Enter His Gates” 2x*

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart,

I will enter His courts with praise.

I will say, “This is the day that the Lord has made,

I will rejoice for He has made me glad.”

He has made me glad, He has made me glad,

I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

He has made me glad, He has made me glad,

I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

“He Has Made Me Glad” Psalm 100:4; Psalm 118:24 Leona Von Brethorst,
© 1976 Maranatha! Music, CCLI# 678905

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 95)

Readers: O come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us make a joyful noise to the rock
of our salvation!

**People: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving,
let us make a joyful noise to him
with songs of praise!**

Readers: For the Lord is a great God and a King
above all gods.
In His hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are His also.
The sea is His, for He made it,
and the dry land, which His hands have formed.

People: O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

All: For He is our God, and we are the people
of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #553 v. 1-4 *“How Great Thou Art”*

1. O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

*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!*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain

3. But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain

4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, “My God, how great thou art!”

Refrain

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* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

"Consider all the works thy hand hath made,"

Announcements

Invitation to Transformed Living

Call to Confession:

(Based on HC Lord's Days 3 and 33, Psalm 32, 1 John 1:8-9)

- Reader 1:** God created man and woman good
and in His own image.
They were created to truly know God their creator,
love Him with all their heart, live with God
In eternal happiness, and to praise and glorify Him.
- Reader 2:** Unfortunately, our sinful nature came about
when our first parents disobeyed God.
Since that fall we are all born in a sinful condition.
- Reader 3:** Psalm 32 says "For day and night your hand
was heavy upon me;
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.
Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
- Reader 4:** And in the New Testament, John says
"If we claim to be without sin we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just,
and will forgive us our sins and will purify us
from all unrighteousness.
- Reader 1:** What is involved in genuine repentance
or conversion?
- Reader 2:** Two things: the dying away of the old self,
and the rising to life of the new.
- Reader 3:** What is the dying away of the old self?

Reader 4: To be genuinely sorry for sin and more and more to hate and run away from it.

Sung Confession: LUYH #627 v. 1-4

"Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

1. Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
2. Just as I am, though tossed about
with many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
3. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
4. Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Words of Assurance: (Based on Psalm 130:3-4,7 HC Lord's Day 33, Romans 5:1-2)

Reader 1: If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins,
O Lord, who could stand?

Reader 2: But with you there is forgiveness;
therefore you are feared.

Reader 3: O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him
is full redemption.

Reader 4: What is the rising to life of the new self?

Reader 1: Wholehearted joy in God through Christ
and a love and delight to live
according to the will of God
by doing every good work.

Reader 2: God further assures us in Romans 5:
“Therefore, since we have been justified
through faith,
we have peace with God through
our Lord Jesus Christ ...

Reader 3: through whom we have gained access by faith
into this grace in which we now stand.
And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.”

God’s Law: (Based on Ephesians 5:8-9, HC Lords Days 1-2)

Reader 1: We are told in the Bible that we should live
as children of light out of gratitude to God
for what He has done for us through Jesus.
The fruits of that light are our good works.

Reader 2: So what are good works?

Reader 3: 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.

Reader 4: What does God’s law require of us?

All Readers: **Christ teaches us this in summary in Matthew 22:**
“You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.
This is the greatest and first commandment.
And a second is like it: You shall love
your neighbor as yourself.

* Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #844 v. 1-3, 5

“Lift Up Your Hearts Unto the Lord”

1. Lift up your hearts unto the Lord,
lift up your hearts unto the Lord.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
lift up your hearts unto the Lord!

2. In Christ the world has been redeemed,
in Christ the world has been redeemed.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
in Christ the world has been redeemed.
3. His resurrection sets us free,
his resurrection sets us free.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
his resurrection sets us free.
5. Sing alleluia to the Lord,
Sing alleluia to the Lord.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
Sing alleluia to the Lord.

Words: st. 1-4 from early Christian liturgy; st. 5 Linda Stassen, 1974, © 1974
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*(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 Song Video: *"From Everlasting" – Sovereign Grace*

"I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,"

Scripture Reading: Romans 11:13-24

Message: ***"The Ingrafted Branches of an Olive Tree"***

Time of Prayer

"Thy power throughout the universe displayed;"

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #264 v. 1, 3-7 *“Lift High the Cross”*

Refrain

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

1. Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Refrain

3. From north and south, from east and west we raise
in growing unison our song of praise.

Refrain

4. O Lord, once lifted on the tree of pain,
draw all the world to seek you once again.

Refrain

5. Let every race and every language tell
of him who saves our lives from death and hell.

Refrain

6. Set up your throne, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace.

Refrain

7. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory!

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* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1

Reader 1: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: **That I am not my own, but belong, body and soul,
in life and in death, to my faithful Savior,
Jesus Christ.**

Reader 2: He has fully paid for all my sins
with his precious blood

Reader 3: and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.

Reader 4: He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven;

All: **In fact, all things must work together
for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life and makes me
wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on
to live for him.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #559 v. 1-3 *"Ten Thousand Reasons"*

Refrain

*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.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

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!

Refrain

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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Postlude

Welcome to a time of praise and worship of the Lord our God. Let us fill His house with songs of praise and feast upon His word. We especially welcome every visitor today. We are very glad you came. May the peace and joy of the Lord be yours. After the morning service all are invited to the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Tech Team	Today: 3/26	Next Week: 4/2
Sound:	Mardick S.	Tim H.
Projection:	Tim H.	France B.
Video:	Brandon S.	Dick G.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

March 26, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

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 is \$11 apiece.** 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.



World Renew Opportunity Close to Home!!

As many of you know, Dave and Nancy Visser recently served with World Renew in Texas as part of the Disaster Relief Services. It was an incredible, inspirational and rewarding experience. Recently they received word that World Renew is offering an opportunity to volunteer much closer to home - just 60 miles away! World Renew is nearly ready to go to work in Whatcom County to help them rebuild after the flooding in 2021. They are in need of volunteers to join teams to do reconstruction (both interior and exterior projects) in Everson, WA. A cook will also be needed for the team. The most common schedule for volunteers is a 3-week opportunity and here are the dates: April 1-22
uApril 22 - May13 uMay 13 - June 3

However, since we live close enough, volunteers from our area are welcome to join the team for just part of the time - or on a day-to-day basis. If you have any questions, contact Dave (872-203-0481) or Nancy (360-770-9645). You could also contact Diana Marquez (1-800-848-5818), the Volunteer Program Manager at World Renew.

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!

If you have been missing our very own Heather Van Hofwegen's super delicious cinnamon rolls all year, Easter morning is your chance to get all sugared up before the service! Starting around 9:00am Heather will be blessing us with her homemade cinnamon rolls!

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!

There is an update from Naji and Anne up on the Missionary Bulletin Board and a few copies on the shelf for you to take and read.

Worship Service YouTube Links: March 19: <https://youtu.be/GQ5n9r8t1r0>

Does anyone lay claim to the frozen salmon in the church freezer? Pastor John has been salivating over it for several weeks. I've had to hold him back from munching on it multiple times. (You know how he likes sushi!) If it is yours, please remember to take it home with you. If it is not claimed in the next 2 weeks I am going to open the freezer door and let John have it! Thanks, Beth

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 pa 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)

CALENDAR:

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

Greeters/Coffee Hosts for next week: Rich & Elly C., Spencer & Janelle D.

Children in Worship:

Today - Sheri L, France B.

Next Week 4/2: Juli O, Millie F.

Worship Team:

Today: Junior High Sunday School Kids

Next week 4/2: Greg & Beth B., Mandi D., France B & Nellie VDH

This week:

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

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

May 30, Thursday, 6-8pm: GEMS/Cadets Skating Party at Skagit Skate

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Good Friday Service: April 7 at 6:30pm

Easter Sunday Service: April 9 at 10:30am

April 16: Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm

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

May 19, Friday, 6:00pm: Taste of Latin America

June 4: Church Potluck!

July 29, 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: Jesus Cried - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Through crying with his friend, Jesus set an example for us by showing empathy towards others. And by feeling for our friends, listening to them, and being with them, we can follow Jesus and show his love. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible Story Coloring Packet 6: The Miracle of Easter.

Groundwork: Experiencing Palm Sunday with Jesus - During Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the crowds hailed him as king. Join Groundwork as we examine Matthew 21:1-9, Mark 11:11-17, Luke 19:41-44, and John 12:12-19 to discuss the meaning of Palm Sunday and observe Jesus' actions and countenance as he experiences the events of that first Palm Sunday. Listen now at Groundworkonline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

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.

Join us for World Renew Sunday - More than 700 million people around the world live in extreme poverty (on less than \$1.90 a day). Next week, World Renew and churches across the US will be partnering together to help build pathways out of poverty for the world's vulnerable people. Visit worldrenew.net/world-renew-sunday to learn more and come prepared to give next week for World Renew Sunday.

World Renew Responds to Tropical Cyclone Freddy - Last weekend, Tropical Storm Freddy hit Malawi, Mozambique, and Madagascar, sweeping through some countries twice with wind and rain, causing landslides that destroyed roads, hospitals, and schools. World Renew has released emergency funds to provide blankets, food, and tarps to those who lost homes and loved ones. You can help families displaced by the storm. Please give online at worldrenew.net/cyclonefreddy, call 1-800-552-7972 to give by credit card, or mail your check made out to World Renew with "Tropical Cyclone Freddy" in the memo line to: World Renew, 8970 Byron Commerce Drive, Byron Center, Michigan 49315-7400.



How can
we
PRAY
for you?

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's foot is healing, so no surgery at this time. Her daughter gave birth to a healthy baby boy this past week! Praise God! Please continue to pray 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 20 - *Faith Formation: Belonging*

Pray for children to experience belonging in their church communities as part of God's big family. Pray for church leaders and congregations to welcome children to contribute to the life of the church and to become communities that nurture and encourage the faith of their youngest members.

Tuesday March 21 - *World Renew: Asia*

Give thanks that one of our Asia teams completed a three-month flood recovery program, helping more than 1,000 ethnic minority families. We are hopeful that with the planting of new crops a good harvest will come. Pray for this program and many others like it that offer support for subsistence farmers across several countries in Asia.

Wednesday March 22 - *ReFrame: China*

Pray for the population of China as they navigate challenges that can occur while ending COVID lockdowns: high rates of infection, little access to medical supplies, and overly full hospitals. Pray for opportunities for believers to share their faith and hope in the midst of this complex season.

Thursday March 23 - *Resonate: Nicaragua*

Pray for our partner IMPACT clubs in Nicaragua. These clubs provide a safe space for young people to learn about servant leadership from a biblical perspective, to form friendships, and to serve their communities. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue working through these clubs.

Friday March 24 - *Chaplaincy and Care: Hospice care*

Our hospice chaplains assess and care for the spiritual needs of patients and their loved ones. Anticipatory grief and adjustment to reducing capacities is an ever-present reality. Often questions about God and eternity and concerns for loved ones left behind are raised. Please pray for these chaplains who walk with individuals and families in these settings while presenting the peace and love of God.

Saturday March 25 - *Candidacy Committee: Raising leaders*

We praise God for his faithfulness to draw many diverse people into ministry in the CRCNA. Ask the Spirit to fill those who are working toward candidacy with encouragement and endurance. Pray also for the many mentors and classis teams who partner in this work. May the Lord grant joy in their conversations and discernment as they counsel and guide.

Sunday March 26 - *Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee: Preparations*

Father in heaven, we ask for your blessing on the preparations for Synod 2023. Bless the reports being written, the hearts of all who will attend, and the sending of invitations to ecumenical guests. May your name be glorified.