

# **Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!**

**Pastor John Knoester**

**April 2, 2023 – Palm Sunday**

**\* Please stand in body or in spirit**

*“Hosanna, loud hosanna,”*

Prelude

Welcome

\*Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #145 v. 1-3

*“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”*

1. Hosanna, loud hosanna  
the little children sang;  
through pillared court and temple  
the lovely anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them,  
close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises,  
the simplest and the best.
2. From Olivet they followed  
mid an exultant crowd,  
the victory palm branch waving,  
and chanting clear and loud.  
The Lord of earth and heaven  
rode on in lowly state,  
nor scorned that little children  
should on his bidding wait.
3. “Hosanna in the highest!”  
That ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer,  
the Lord of heaven, our King.  
O may we ever praise him  
with heart and life and voice,  
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.

*Words: Jennette Threlfall, 1873, P.D.; Music: Gesangbuch der Herzogl,  
Hofkapelle, Württemberg, 1784, P.D.; CCLI #678905*

Ministry of Music: *"Shout Hosanna" (Jumping Up and Down)* –  
Sunday School Children

\* Call to Worship:

Leader: Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

**People: Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!**

Leader: Lo, your king comes to you;

**People: triumphant and victorious is he,**

Leader: humble and riding on a donkey,

**People: on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**  
—Zechariah 9:9, NRSV

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes  
in the name of the Lord.

**People: Hosanna in the highest!**  
—based on Psalm 118:26, NRSV

\* Hymn of Praise: GH #375 v. 1-3

*"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"*

1. All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.  
You are the King of Israel  
and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming,  
the King and Blessed One.
2. The company of angels  
is praising you on high,  
and we with all creation  
in chorus make reply.  
The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present.

3. To you before your passion  
they sang their hymns of praise;  
to you, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise.  
As you received their praises,  
accept the prayers we bring,  
for you delight in goodness,  
O good and gracious King!

Words: Theodulph of Orleans, ca. 820; tr. John M. Neale, 1851, alt., P.D.; Music:  
Melchoir Teschner, 1615; harm. William H. Monk, 1861, P.D.

\* God's Greeting

\* We Greet Each Other

*"The little children sang;"*

Announcements

Call to Confession:

Like the people who greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem  
and then later pronounced "Crucify him,"  
we are fickle people who often deny Christ  
in our thoughts, words, and deeds.  
Remembering the events of Jesus' last week  
helps us see ourselves for what we are:  
sinners in need of a Savior,  
a Savior—praise God—we have in Christ.  
In honesty and hope, we confess now our sins to God.

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance:

Leader: Hear the Word of the Lord from Psalm 118:  
Let those who fear the Lord say,  
"His steadfast love endures for ever."  
Out of my distress I called on the Lord;  
the Lord answered me and set me free.  
The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he has become my salvation.  
I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

**People: In Christ, God answers us and sets us free!  
In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

—based on Psalm 118:4-5, 14, 17, NRSV

\* Song of Thanksgiving: *“His Mercy is More” v. 1-3*

1. What love could remember no wrongs we have done  
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more
2. What patience would wait as we constantly roam  
What Father so tender is calling us home  
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

*Chorus*

*Praise the Lord His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness new every morn  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more*

3. What riches of kindness He lavished on us  
His blood was the payment His life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

*Chorus*

*Praise the Lord His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness new every morn  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more*

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Offering: General Fund

Offertory

*(After the offering the children are invited forward  
for the Children’s Message)*

Children’s Message – Mrs. Marjo Rouw

*(Following the children’s message children ages 3-3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
are dismissed for Children and Worship)*

\*Song of Preparation: LUYH #148 v. 1-2, 6

• "My Song is Love Unknown"

1. My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me.  
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I that for my sake,  
oh, who am I that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
2. He came from heaven's throne salvation to bestow;  
but they refused, and none the longed-for  
Christ would know.  
This is my friend, my Friend indeed,  
This is my friend, my friend indeed,  
who at my need, his life did spend.
6. Here might I stay and sing of him my soul adores:  
never was love, dear King, never was grief like yours.  
This is my friend in whose sweet praise,  
this is my friend in whose sweet praise  
I all my days would gladly spend.

*Words: Samuel Crossman; Music: John D. Edwards; arr. Albert Chung  
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*"Through pillared court and temple"*

Scripture Readings: Zechariah 9:9-13, John 12:12-19

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Parades and Palm Branches"***

Time of Prayer

*"The lovely anthem rang"*

\* Hymn of Application: CH #353 v. 1-3 *"Victory in Jesus"*

1. I heard an old, old story, how the Savior came from glory,  
how He gave His life on Calvary to save a wretch like me.  
I heard about His groaning,  
of His precious blood's atoning,  
then I repented of my sins and won the victory.

*Chorus:*

*O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever!  
He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood.  
He loved me ere I knew Him, and all my love is due Him.  
He plunged me to victory, beneath the cleansing flood.*

2. I heard about His healing,  
of His cleansing power revealing,  
how He made the lame to walk again  
and caused the blind to see;  
and then I cried "dear Jesus,  
come and heal my broken spirit,"  
and somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory.

*Chorus*

3. I heard about a mansion He has built for me in glory,  
and I heard about the streets of gold  
beyond the crystal sea;  
about the angels singing, and the old redemption story,  
and some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory.

*Chorus*

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\* God's Blessing

\* Parting Praise: GH #197 "Trees of the Field" 2x

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;  
There'll be shouts of joy,  
and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
the trees of the field will clap their hands  
while you go out with joy.

Text: Isaiah 55:12; para. Steffi G. Rubin, 1975; Tune: Stuart Dauermann, 1975; Text and Music ©1975 Lillenas Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #678905

Postlude

**Welcome** to this Palm Sunday service. Let us unite our minds and hearts in praising Christ the King. Let us exhibit the same joyful spirit as those who first shouted: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" After the worship service, we invite you to join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

***We are Celebrating the Lord's Supper  
on Good Friday this week.***

***God meets us in the sacraments,  
holy acts that call for our response...***

***In the supper our Lord offers  
the bread and cup to believers to  
guarantee our share in his  
death and resurrection,  
and unite us to him and to each other.***

***We take this food gladly,  
announcing as we eat  
that Jesus is our life  
and that He shall come again  
to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.***

From: *Our World Belongs to God* (PH – pg. 1031)

***Come share the fellowship  
of the forgiven!***

<b>Tech Team</b>	<b>Today: 4/2</b>	<b>Good Friday: 4/7</b>	<b>Easter: 4/9</b>
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry H.	Mardy S.
Projection:	France B.	Beth B.	Tim H.
Video:	Dick G.	France B.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	Benevolence	General Fund

# First CRC

## Bulletin Announcements

### **April 2, 2023**

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

**This morning is the last chance to purchase a Bible or Easter lily for the Easter Service.** The lilies are \$11 apiece, and the Bibles are \$5 apiece. Please make your checks out to First CRC and give to Beth after the service.



**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 ♦ April 22 - May13 ♦ May 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.

*First CRC offers the option to give your offerings online, including setting up automatic and recurring 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](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 26: [https://youtu.be/5UTcDF\\_E6eY](https://youtu.be/5UTcDF_E6eY)

Dear Friends,

"Thank you" from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful birthday celebration following our morning service this past Sunday morning. So grateful as well for all the many encouraging words, cards, and well-wishes throughout these past few weeks. I feel truly blessed and am incredibly thankful to God for the opportunity to be a part of such a loving church family. Looking forward to many more 'celebrations' as together we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! In His Love, Pastor John



**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!**

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)

**CALENDAR:**

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

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts Good Friday:** Brad & Crystal DK, Joy F.

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts for Easter:** Melba & Michelle DK, Brandon & Julie S.

### **Children in Worship:**

Today - Juli O, Millie F.

Next Week 4/9: Alyssa A., Emmalynn S.

### **Worship Team:**

Today: Greg & Beth B., Mandi D., France B & Nellie VDH

Good Friday 4/7:

Easter Sunday: Henry & Pam VZ

### **This week:**

**NO GEMS**

**Communion during Good Friday Service**

### **Upcoming Dates to Note:**

**Good Friday Service: April 7 at 6:30pm**

**Easter Sunday Service: April 9 at 10:30am**

**April 11: 7:00 am Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant**

**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:**

**Today is World Renew Sunday** - Today, we will receive an offering to support the work of World Renew. World Renew comes alongside communities experiencing poverty, hunger, injustice, and violence to help build long-term pathways towards flourishing. We are excited to join in this work as a faithful response to the God who can accomplish abundantly more than all we ask or imagine. Thank you for giving as you are able to help end global poverty. You can also give online at [worldrenew.net/world-renew-sunday](http://worldrenew.net/world-renew-sunday)

**Kids Corner: Jesus' Palm Sunday** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). How do you picture Jesus' entry into Jerusalem? No marching band. No banners waving. Doesn't sound like how Aladdin arrived in that popular Disney movie, does it? Check out

all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible story podcast "Palm Sunday and the Arrest."

**Groundwork: Remembering Jesus' Sacrifice on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday** - Christians around the world mark the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with reflection and special worship services. Join Groundwork as we study John 13:34-35, Mark 15:1-15, and Matthew 27:45-50 to discuss the meaning of these holy days, re-examine our expectations, and reflect on Jesus Christ's example. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Email the office at [secretary@firstcrmv.com](mailto: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 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 named Malakai David Lee Heartzell! 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 27 - *Resonate: Middle East***

Being a missionary is tough work. Following a call from the Holy Spirit, a Resonate missionary in the Middle East started a new ministry to support and care for missionaries on the field who are burned out. Ask God to work through this ministry to renew these leaders for their work.

### **Tuesday March 28 - *ReFrame: Today devotions***

Pray for Molly, a Today reader who recently was released from prison and is asking for prayers for strength; she lost her husband while in prison and is also a recovering addict.

### **Wednesday March 29 - *World Renew: Partnerships***

Our ministry teams around the world work closely with local churches and nongovernment organizations to implement trainings, projects, and programs. Pray for wisdom and accountability to nurture continued trust with each partner organization. Pray for equity and inclusion, that World Renew may be a constant seeker of justice in its work in communities.

### **Thursday March 30 - *Diversity: Togetherness***

Pray for the "One Family" conversation in which the Council of Delegates seeks to encourage the gifts and voices of ethnic minority leaders in their classes across Canada and the United States. May these leaders find a sense of belonging and appreciation as the Christian Reformed Church grows through their efforts of evangelism and discipleship.

### **Friday March 31 - *Resonate: South Korea***

Emily, a Resonate missionary in South Korea, has been leading English classes for children. "We have had the opportunity to introduce some of these children to the gospel for the first time because their parents want them exposed to English," said Emily. Pray that the Holy Spirit will continue drawing these children into a relationship with Jesus.

### **Saturday April 1 - *ReFrame Ministries: Peace that endures***

Pray for peace in the places where ReFrame's partners are facing violence, including Ukraine, Burkina Faso, and India. Pray especially for

listeners who are accessing ReFrame programs from bomb shelters or refugee camps.

**Sunday April 2 - *World Renew: Refugee resettlement***

For decades, CRC members have welcomed refugees into their churches and homes. Our faith compels us to aid vulnerable strangers. Jesus made this clear as he reminded his followers, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27). Join us in praising God for his faithfulness, and ask for continued hope and healing for displaced peoples around the world.