

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
April 30, 2023, 10:30 A.M. Worship Service
Pastor John Knoester

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

"How firm a foundation you saints of the Lord,"

Prelude

Welcome

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #776 v. 1,2,
"A Mighty Fortress is Our God" v. 1,2,4

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.

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

* Call to Worship: Based on Psalm 19

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

**People: Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display knowledge.**

Leader: There is no speech or language where
their voice is not heard.

**People: Their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world!**

- Based on Psalm 19:1-4

* Opening Songs of Praise:

◆ LUYH #775 v. 1-3 *“Across the Lands”*

1. You’re the Word of God the Father
from before the world began;
every star and every planet
has been fashioned by your hand.
All creation holds together
by the power of your voice.
Let the skies declare your glory;
let the land and seas rejoice.

Refrain

*You’re the author of creation,
you’re the Lord of everyone,
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

2. Yet you left the gaze of angels,
came to seek and save the lost
and exchanged the joy of heaven
for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer you fed the hungry,
with a word you calmed the sea;
yet how silently you suffered,
that the guilty may go free.

Refrain

*You're the author of creation,
you're the Lord of everyone,
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

3. With a shout you rose victorious,
wresting victory from the grave,
and ascended into heaven,
leading captives in your way.
Now you stand before the Father,
interceding for your own;
from each tribe and tongue and nation
you are leading sinners home.

Refrain

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Kingswaysongs. CCLI #678905

◆ LUYH #21 v. 1-3 *"This is My Father's World"*

1. This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.
2. This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me everywhere.

Acapella

3. This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King, let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let the earth be glad.

Words: Maltbie D. Babcock (1858-1901) P.D.; Music: English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard (1852-1930), P.D.; CCLI #678905 Music (TERRA BEATA 6.6.8.6 D): English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard (1852-1930), P.D.

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

"Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!"

Announcements

Call to Confession:

We know that nothing is able to separate us
from the love of God in Jesus Christ.
Therefore, let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done.

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Leader: What then are we to say about these things?
If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not withhold his own Son,
but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else?
Who will bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn?
It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes,
who was raised, who is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.
Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

People: No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. —Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #450 *“Neither Death nor Life”* (2x)

Refrain:

*Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come;
neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation
can ever separate us from the love of God
poured out in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

“Neither Death nor Life”; Words & Music from Romans 8:38-39, Marty Haugen © 2001, GIA Publications, All rights reserved.

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Offering: OPOP Ministries

Offertory

*(Following the conclusion of the offering children
ages 3- 3rd grade are dismissed for Children’s Worship)*

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #427 v. 1,2,5 *“How Firm a Foundation”*

1. How firm a foundation you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. “Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
5. “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!”

Words: Isaiah 43:1-5; J. Rippon’s *Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt., P.D.; Music: J. Funk’s *A Compilation of Genuine Church Music*, 1832; harm. Dale Grotenhuis (1931-2012), 1985, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources; CCLI #678905

“What more can he say than to you he has said,”

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:43-49

Prayer of Illumination

Message: **“Of Rocks and Trees”**

Time of Prayer

“To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?”

* Hymn of Application: “Cornerstone” v. 1-3

1. My hope is built on nothing less,
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

Repeat Verse 1

Chorus

*Christ alone cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love.
Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.*

2. When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.
My anchor holds within the veil.

Chorus

3. When He shall come with trumpet sound,
oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone.
Faultless stand before the throne.

Chorus (2x)

Words by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero, and Edward Mote;
Music by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero, and William Batchelder
Bradbury; © 2011 Hillsong Music Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing);
CCLI #678905

* We Profess our Faith: Our World Belongs to God st. 5-6

Leader: God holds this world in sovereign love.
He kept his promise, sending Jesus into the world.
He poured out his Spirit and broadcast his news
that sinners who repent and believe in Jesus
can live and breathe and move again
as members of the family of God.

**People: We rejoice in the goodness of God,
renounce the works of darkness,
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.**

Leader: As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience,
and set free for joyful praise,
we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work
in his world.
With tempered impatience, eager to see
injustice ended, we expect the Day of the Lord.

**People: And we are confident
that the light that shines in the present darkness
will fill the earth when Christ appears.
Come, Lord Jesus! Our world belongs to you.**

—Our World Belongs to God, st. 5-6

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: GH #197 *"The 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! “Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go,” the psalmist prayed (Psalm 71:3). May we all find that God is a “rock of refuge” where we find help for every hour of need. A hearty welcome to all who have come to worship our Creator. 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: 4/30	Next Week: 5/7
Sound:	Tim H.	Mardick S.
Projection:	Maddie D.	Beth B.
Video:	Brandon S.	Brandon S.
Offering:	OPOP Ministries	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

April 30, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

NEEDED: Volunteers to help make goodies for our GEMS Mother/Daughter Mad "Hat"ters Tea Party on May 10. We're looking for help in making bite-sized/small delicacies to serve at our Tea Party with a Twist. Baked or bought—it doesn't matter. All those young ladies with hats and fancy gowns will enjoy anything. Look for the funny lady with the fancy hat after church to answer questions...and sign up! Thank you in advance!



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

The **Taste of Latin America** night is approaching quickly! (Friday, May 19) There is a sign-up sheet by the coffee urns. Please let us know if and what you are bringing. Also, please let Beth know the ingredients of your recipe for those who have food allergies and if it is mild, hot, or "Pastor John Mouth Conflagration" hot. Thank you!



Ministry Associate Update: At its April 10 meeting the council celebrated the news that candidate Brad Diekema has accepted the call to be our Ministry Associate! Lord willing, Pastor Brad will be moving to the Mount Vernon area near the end of June, or in early July. We will keep you posted accordingly. In the meantime, please keep Pastor Brad in your prayers in the days and weeks to come as he makes this transition in his life and ministry.

The council would also like to encourage congregation members to contact Pastor Brad directly with either an encouraging email or card. His contact information is as follows:

Brad Diekema

7719 Park Lane Ave.

Jenison, MI 49428

Email Address: brad.diekema@gmail.com

Finally, the council would like to thank you for all your feedback, input, and prayers throughout these past several months. May God continue to bless us in this new season of ministry together.

Summer Block Party! Mark your calendars accordingly for **Saturday, July 29** as that will be the date of our summer block party! Darrel L. is already exploring new games and water entertainment for this year's event and Kristi S. is already making food preparations. In addition, there is always a need to help set things up, serve during the event, and take things down at the end. Please contact Mardick S. if you would like to help out accordingly. Otherwise, we encourage you to invite your friends to join us on **Saturday, July 29!**

Congregational Meeting: Save the date! **Monday, May 22 at 7pm** is the date for our annual Congregational Meeting. Our annual church budget will be presented for approval and informational reports from various church committees will be presented. **Meeting packets will be available to pick up in person in the fellowship hall following our morning service on both May 8 and 15.** All packets not picked up by the 15th will be sent out in the mail on Monday, May 16. The Council presents the following two nominees for the office of elder (2 open spots): Eliot Blom and Henry Van Zanten. The Council presents the following four nominees for the office of deacon (2 open spots): Derek Blanken, Harmen De Jong, Terryl Dykstra, and Adam Faber. If you have any questions about any items on the agenda, please contact your district Elder prior to the Congregational Meeting. Absentee ballots can be placed in Beth's mailbox by her office door.



As part of an American Lit class project, "Shalom", our very own **Derrick Vander Kooy**, and friends Reuben Hall and Kyler Paciotti, will be hosting

a **Pie and Ice Cream Social/BINGO night** here at First CRC on **May 12 at 6:00pm**. Pie and ice cream will start at 6, followed by BINGO. They are raising money for Kidstown International, which is a non-profit helping house abandoned children in India, Romania, Thailand and Nepal and teaching them to become productive adults who love the Lord. **Jason Vander Kooy just returned from a trip to Nepal and he has graciously volunteered to share his experience with a PowerPoint with the Adult Sunday School Class**, and anyone else who would like to attend, on **Sunday, May 14** at the regular Sunday School time. Please consider attending both events!

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:

April 23: <https://youtu.be/Hnv6g70rByE>

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts today:

Terri & Mandi D., Randy & Juli O.

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, 5/7:

Jeff & Monica D., Jeannette F.

Children in Worship:

Today - Heather VH, Nellie VDH

Next Week 5/7: Sheri L, Myra VDB

Worship Team:

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

Next Week: Stan B., Julie S., Adriana & Tessa S.

This week:

Choir practice today after the service.

Weds. 6:30-8:30pm: GEMS

Upcoming Dates to Note:

May 7, 6:30pm: Women's Bible Study

May 9, 7:00 am Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant

May 10, 6:30pm: GEMS Mother/Daughter "Mad 'Hat'ter Tea Party"

May 12, 6:00pm: Shalom Fundraiser Pie and ice cream social

May 14, 9:30am: Kidstown International slide show by Jason Vander Kooy (NOTE CORRECTION)

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

Monday, May 22, 7pm: Congregational Meeting

June 4: Church Potluck!

July 29, Saturday: Neighborhood "Block Party"

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.

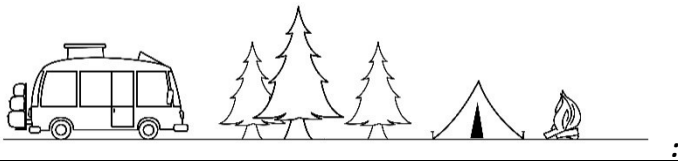
At the end of the Bible we observe another tree – the Tree of Life. The picture here is that of a restored Eden. A place where God's people may eat freely as they dwell in a city full of peace and joy.

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

12. April 30 - *"Of Rocks and Trees"* (Luke 6:43-49)

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT



Cascade Family Bible Camp (July 6-10): Registration is all online again this year and is easier than building and launching a rocket with your seven-year-old! You can register to camp in your tent or RV or choose to stay in a comfortable cabin. Along with inspiring speakers and great kids' programs, Warm Beach Camp is a great outdoor facility with plenty to do. Our keynote speaker this year is Todd Statham. He is a campus pastor at The University of British Columbia (Okanagan campus). As a university chaplain, he helps undergraduates, international students and professors grow in faith in Christ and think Christianly about their studies and research. Ordained in the Christian Reformed Church, Todd has previously served as a missionary in Malawi and a university lecturer in Germany.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Kids Corner: Never Alone, God's Promise To Us - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Do you ever feel alone, even in a group of people? You may feel lonely, but God promised that he is with us. He promised to make us strong and be with us (Isaiah 41:10). He is a promise-keeper! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible story podcast "The Woman at the Well".

Groundwork: Believe: Jesus and the Disciples - Studying Jesus' first appearance to his disciples and later his appearance to Thomas offers us encouragement for our faith even when believing in Jesus isn't easy.

Join our Groundwork conversation as we study John 20:19-31 to learn why belief in Jesus is a lifestyle, not a one time event, and why Jesus' promises to his disciples give us hope yet today. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

The Banner's Counting On You! - Please support the award-winning, journalistic ministry of the CRC by donating online today. \$500,000 is needed every year to keep The Banner going. The more money we are able to raise, the less we need to draw on ministry shares, releasing those funds for other ministries in the CRCNA. Give now at: TheBanner.org/Give

Pray for Synod 2023 - Join believers across the denomination for 40 days of prayer in preparation for Synod 2023. Beginning on April 30 and concluding on June 8, 2023, each day readers will receive a Bible text, a prayer, and some suggested questions for reflection or conversation. All of the prayers are intended to reflect the theme of Synod 2023: Longing to be Like Christ, which is based on Philippians 2:1-11, summarized by verse 5: "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus." Learn more and sign up at www.crcna.org/longing-to-be-like-christ



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.

NEW REQUESTS:

Dick Gudmunson's father, Gus passed away early on Thursday. Please keep Dick, Linda, and the entire Gudmunson family in your prayers during this time of loss. May God's peace be overwhelmingly present even in the midst of the sorrow.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Margaret Vander Pol has two compression fractures and is experiencing significant back pain. An MRI is being scheduled and spine doctor is being consulted. She is currently waiting to hear word as to whether she is a good candidate for spine surgery. Please pray for relief from the pain and wisdom for her doctors on how best to provide such relief.

Please keep **Adelaida Vega** in your prayers as she enters hospice care. Pray for **Michelle and Darin** and their family as they enter this time.

Marilyn Cooke is happy to no longer have to wear the boot but she is still experiencing foot pain. Praise God that her new grandson has come home, but please continue to pray for her 13 year grandson for relief from his 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 Meischke*** 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 April 24 - *Women's Leadership: Eastertide prayer*

Lord, in this season we remember Mary Magdalene, who encountered you on the morning of your resurrection. As we pray for the women of the CRC, comfort us in our moments of grief and difficulty. Help us to recognize your presence in our lives. Embolden us to share the good news of your resurrection. May our witness draw others to run to you for salvation. Amen.

Tuesday April 25 - *Resonate: Japan*

Resonate missionary Larry Spalink asks you to pray for a new believer who decided to follow Jesus after connecting with a church in Japan. Please pray that this person's friends, family, and neighbors will be interested in learning about the gospel.

Wednesday April 26 - *ReFrame: Chinese ministry*

Pray for a new development in ReFrame's Chinese ministry, bringing together American and Chinese scholars who are developing a Chinese public theology. Ask God to provide the necessary people and funding for this work and to strengthen the Chinese church effectively for his

kingdom.

Thursday April 27 - *World Renew: Nicaragua*

People in Nicaragua look forward to the rainy season that typically begins in mid-May, changing the landscape after the long and harsh dry season. Please pray that God brings renewal, energy, and life in all of its fullness to Nicaragua this year.

Friday April 28 - *Resonate: Lithuania*

Several Resonate missionaries serve at LCC International University in Lithuania. The university is celebrating the baptism of a number of students on Easter Sunday. Give thanks for these students, and please pray that they will continue growing in faith.

Saturday April 29 - *Global Coffee Break: Inspirational Women's Conference*

Please pray for this gathering of women today in Burlington, Ont., around the theme "I belong, completely and forever. In Christ, we belong," based on Romans 12:5. May many come to know Jesus, and may leaders be encouraged in their journey.

Sunday April 30 - *GEMS Girls' Clubs: GEMS Sunday*

Thank God for using GEMS to help girls and leaders grow in Christ for almost 65 years. They learn they are loved, and their call is "to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God" (Mic. 6:8). Ask God to continue to strengthen leaders in their mission to help bring girls into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus.