Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church! May 7, 2023 10:30 A.M. Worship Service Pastor John Knoester

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

"The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;"

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship: Ephesians 6:10-18

* Opening Songs of Praise

- * "O Church Arise" v. 1-4
 - O Church arise and put your armour on; hear the call of Christ our Captain.
 For now the weak can say that they are strong, in the strength that God has given.
 With shield of faith and belt of truth, we'll stand against the devil's lies; an army bold whose battle cry is Love, reaching out to those in darkness.
 - Our call to war, to love the captive soul, but to rage against the captor; and with the sword that makes the wounded whole, we will fight with faith and valour. When faced with trials on every side, we know the outcome is secure. And Christ will have the prize for which He died, an inheritance of nations.

- Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet, as the Son of God is stricken; then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet, for the Conqueror has risen. And as the stone is rolled away and Christ emerges from the grave, this victory march continues till the day every eye and heart shall see Him.
- So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride, give grace for every hurdle; that we may run with faith, to win the prize of a servant, good and faithful. As saints of old still line the way, retelling triumphs of His grace, We hear their calls, and hunger for the day when, with Christ we stand in glory. Keith Getty / Stuart Townend; © 2005 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #678905
- * LUYH #246 v. 1-4 (To the tune of LUYH #521) "God is Here"
 - God is here! As we, your people, meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of your Spirit into open minds and hearts.
 - Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the Word has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence as in speech, here in newness and renewal God the Spirit comes to each.

- Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.
- Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt, keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's celebration, all we have to give, receive; we who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe.

Words: st. 1-4 Fred Pratt Green, 1977, © 1979 Hope Publishing Company; st. 5 Henrietta Ten Harmsel ©1979 Hope Publishing Company; Music: J. Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813, P.D.; CCLI #678905

- * Opening Prayer
- * God's Greeting
- * We Greet Each Other

"She is his new creation by water and the Word"

Call to Confession:

The apostle John wrote: My little children,

- I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.
- But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;
- and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,
- and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. In the strength of this assurance,
- let us confess our sins to God. —based on 1 John 2:1-2

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

-Ephesians 2:19-22

Call to Grateful Living: Ephesians 4:1-6 Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Song of Thanksgiving: "You Are My All in All" v. 1-2

 You are my strength when I am weak, You are the treasure that I seek; You are my all in all. Seeking You as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up, I'd be a fool; You are my all in all.

Chorus:

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name! Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name!

 Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, Rising again, I bless Your name; You are my all in all. When I fall down, You pick me up; When I am dry, You fill my cup. You are my all in all.

Acapella

Chorus:

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name! Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name!

"My All in All" Words and Music by Dennis Jernigan, ©1990 Shepherd's Heart Music, All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI# 678905

Offering: General Fund

Offertory Video: Cascade Family Bible Camp

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

Introduction to our New Sermon Series

- * Song of Preparation: "Every Promise" v. 1-4 (Getty)
 - From the breaking of the dawn to the setting of the sun,

 I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.
 Words of power, strong to save, that will never pass away;
 I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.
 For Your covenant is sure, and on this I am secure:
 I can stand on ev'ry promise from Your word.
 - When I stumble and I sin, condemnation pressing in, I will stand on every promise of Your word. You are faithful to forgive, that in freedom I might live. So I stand on every promise of Your word. Guilt to innocence restored; You remember sins no more. So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.

- When I'm faced with anguished choice,

 I will listen for Your voice,
 and I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
 Through this dark and troubled land,
 You will guide me with Your hand,
 as I stand on every promise of Your word.
 And You've promised to complete
 every work begun in me.
 So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
- Hope that lifts me from despair; Love that casts out every fear; as I stand on every promise of Your word. Not forsaken, not alone, for the Comforter has come; and I stand on every promise of Your word. Grace sufficient, grace for me, Grace for all who will believe. We will stand on every promise of Your word.

"Every Promise" Authors: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend; © 2005 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing); All rights Reserved. CCLI # 678905

"From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 16:13-20, Hebrews 10:19-27

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "Created to Worship - God's Church, Not Ours"

Time of Prayer

"With his own blood he bought her and for her life he died.

- * Hymn of Application: LUYH #251 v. 1-5 "The Church's One Foundation"
 - The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord; she is his new creation by water and the Word. From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 - Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth; her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth. One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.
 - Though with a scornful wonder Men see her sore oppressed By schisms rent asunder By heresies distressed Yet saints their watch are keeping Their cry goes up how long And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song
 - 'Mid toil and tribulation And tumult of her war She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest

5.	Yet she on earth has union with God the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won: O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.
	Words: Samuel J. Stone, 1866, P.D.; Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864, P.D. CCLI #67895
Belgic Co	ss our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 54, nfession Article 27 der: Q. What do you believe concerning "the holy catholic church"?
Peo	ople: A. I believe that the Son of God through his Spirit and Word, ¹ out of the entire human race, ² from the beginning of the world to its end, ³ gathers, protects, and preserves for himself a community chosen for eternal life ⁴ and united in true faith. ⁵ And of this community I am ⁶ and always will be ⁷ a living member.
Lea	der: In addition, we believe and confess one single catholic or universal church— a holy congregation and gathering of true Christian believers, awaiting their entire salvation in Jesus Christ, being washed by his blood, and sanctified and sealed by the Holy Spirit.
Peo	ople: This church has existed from the beginning of the world and will last until the end, as appears from the fact that Christ is eternal King who cannot be without subjects.
Lea	der: And this holy church is preserved by God against the rage of the whole world, even though for a time it may appear very small to human eyes— as though it were snuffed out.

People: And so this holy church is not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place or certain people. But it is spread and dispersed throughout the entire world, though still joined and united in heart and will, in one and the same Spirit, by the power of faith.

- * Hymn of Response: LUYH #247 v. 1-3 *"I Love Your Church, O Lord"*
 - I love your church, O Lord! Her saints before you stand, dear as the apple of your eye and graven on your hand.
 - Beyond my highest joy
 I prize her heavenly ways,
 her sweet communion, solemn vows,
 her hymns of love and praise.
 - I love your church, O God, the people you have called, the church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.

Words: Timothy Dwight, 1800, alt., P.D.; Music: Aaron Williams, 1770, P.D. CCLI #678905

- * God's Blessing
- * Parting Praise: LUYH #489 v. 1-3 "By the Sea of Crystal"
 - By the sea of crystal saints in glory stand, myriads in number, drawn from every land. Robed in white apparel, washed in Jesus' blood, they now reign in heaven with the Lamb of God.
 - Out of tribulation, death, and Satan's hand, they have been translated at the Lord's command. In their hands they're holding palms of victory. Hark! the jubilant chorus shouts triumphantly:

 "Unto God Almighty, sitting on the throne, and the Lamb, victorious, be the praise alone." God has wrought salvation; he did wondrous things. Who shall not extol thee, holy King of kings!

Words: William Kuipers, 1933, based on Revelation 4-5, © 1976 Faith Alive Christian Resources; Music: John Vanderhoven, 1933, © 1976 Faith Alive Resources; CCLI #678905

Postlude

Welcome to the House of God. The Lord is always near to those who gather in his name. Let us eagerly call upon God and make a joyful noise with songs and prayers of praise. Glory be to God! 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: 5/7	Next Week: 5/14
Sound:	Henry H.	Mardy S.
Projection:	Franchesca B.	Maddie D.
Video:	Brandon S.	Tim H./Isaac D.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

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 reoccurring donations. For information on this and other ways to give please check the "Give" page on the church's website: <u>https://firstcrcmv.com/?page_id=1509</u>

Please let Sylvia know if you plan to attend the **Taste of Latin America** night and whether you are bringing food or not. Thank you!



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!**



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!

Worship Service YouTube Links:

April 30: https://youtu.be/e6WBk66a0QY

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 today and May 15.** We have a few extra packets made if we missed your name **and you would like one for information.** 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 Jr. 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.

Ministry Associate Update: Pastor Brad Diekema's acceptance letter has been received and is currently posted on the bulletin board outside of the church office. Please continue to keep Pastor Brad in your prayers in the weeks to come as he makes plans to move to the area in late June. Pray not only that the transition itself goes well, but also as he prepares for his classis exam in early October. **Special Guest:** Mr. Steve Gumear, the cofounder and former director of Partners Relief and Development, will be with us on **Sunday, May 28**. Currently Steve and his wife Oddny are leading a variety of relief work in Ukraine. In addition to proclaiming God's Word to us he will also be updating us on what God is doing in the midst of the conflict.

There is a new newsletter from our missionaries **Brett and Angela Nicholson** with some exciting news for them as a family. You may view it at the following link: <u>https://firstcrcmv.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/</u><u>Missionary-Update-on-the-Nicholsons.pdf</u>

Copies of *"Today's Christian Living"* for May 2023 are available for you to pick up on the hallway shelf.

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts today: Jeff & Monica D., Jeannette F.

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, 5/14:

Adam & Katie F, Marinus & Jill R.

Children in Worship:

Today - Sheri L, Myra VDB Next Week 5/14: Juli O., Rayah O.

Worship Team:

Today: Stan B., Julie S., Adriana & Tessa S. Next Week: Kevin & Glenda K., Nellie VDH, Emmalyn S.

This week:

Choir practice today after the service.

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

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

Weds. 6:30-8:30pm: GEMS Mother/Daughter Mad Hatter Tea Party

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

Upcoming Dates to Note:

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,

The 'short answer' to why God creates, saves, and sustains us is for the praise of His glory. In other words, you and I were *created to worship!* That's the primary purpose not only of our individual lives, but also as a church. Together, we are called to worship our Triune and living God!

This being said, when it comes to corporate worship, it's fair to ask **why** do we worship the way that we do? What is the main purpose of some of our specific liturgical elements on Sunday morning? What are some of the biblical and theological reasons for why we do them?

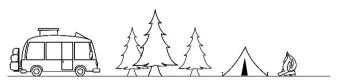
In the weeks to come, I plan to do a general survey of Reformed worship itself as well as teach on some of the specific liturgical elements themselves. The hope, of course, is that better understanding will lead to even deeper appreciation and gratitude for the very reason we are created, saved, and sustained in Christ. May God bless our study in the weeks to come!

In His Grace, - Pastor John

Tentative Sermon Schedule:

- 1. May 7 "God's Church, Not Ours"
- 2. May 14 "Keeping Sunday Special and Biblical Guidelines for Worship"
- 3. May 21 "Liturgy, Scripture, and Preaching"
- 4. June 4 "Offering and Prayer"
- 5. June 18 "Music and Creeds"
- 6. June 25 "Sacraments"
- 7. July 2 "Benediction"

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:

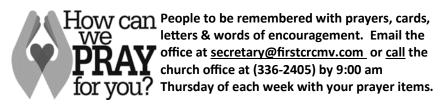
Kids Corner: Life is Both Hard and Good - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. God understands feelings of disappointment. In fact, both Isaiah 45:3 and 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 warn us that not everything is going to be easy. But, the verses also tell us that when life is hard, God is still there for us. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Liz and Friends episode "Consider It Pure Joy."

Groundwork: Follow: Jesus on the Shore - The disciples' story of meeting Jesus on the shore helps us recognize that Jesus is in the ordinary and that he's willing to fellowship with us right where we're at. Join Groundwork as we study John 21 to learn how keeping our focus on the resurrected Jesus and his simple command for us to follow him cultivates our faith. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Celebrate Women - Next week, we celebrate women in our communities of faith near and far. Women who are supported physically, mentally, and spiritually are better equipped to support their own families and communities. On Mother's Day, please consider giving a gift to celebrate a special woman in your life through World Renew. Your gift will honor your loved one – and support other women to flourish fully as well, as God intends for them. For more information or to give online, go to worldrenew.net/womenofhope.

Serve in Mississippi with World Renew - After the damage caused by tornadoes that stayed on the ground for approximately 100 miles across Mississippi, join World Renew this October for one week with your church to serve homeowners by repairing homes. Will you answer the call to rebuild hope in Rolling Fork, Mississippi? If interested, email cgibson@worldrenew.net to sign up or with questions.

The Banner Needs You! - The Banner is the CRC's award-winning monthly magazine. It is delivered free in print and online to every household in the CRC, and their annual donation appeal makes it possible. Please support this journalistic ministry and keep the community conversation going. You can give online now at: TheBanner.org/Give



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 May 8: ReFrame: Japan

Pray for a radio listener in Japan who has been feeling depressed. "I had a really hard time yesterday, and I wished I didn't wake up today," the listener wrote. "Today I woke up earlier than usual and listened to your radio program." Pray that this listener will continue to find ways to grow in his spiritual and mental health.

Tuesday May 9: World Renew: Zambia

Since 1990, World Renew has been working alongside Zambian churches and organizations to help improve agricultural and health skills as well as literacy, maternal health, income generation, and diaconal development. Please pray for us and our partner organizations as they continue in this work.

Wednesday May 10: Resonate: Ontario

Resonate missionary Greg Sinclair asks you to pray for the Farsi Fellowship at Willowdale CRC in Toronto. Many Farsi speakers who have come to Toronto as refugees have found a faith community through this ministry. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue drawing people into a relationship with Christ.

Thursday May 11: Cadets: Season wrap-up

As our Cadet season draws to a close, our theme "AMAZING," based on Joshua 3:5, continues to remind cadets, counselors, and the rest of us to strive to be holy and recognize the many ways God blesses us. Pray that the boys we have worked with will look for, find, and share the amazing things God is doing as they live for Jesus.

Friday May 12: ReFrame: North America

Pray with Joy, who recently shared this request with our prayer team: "My husband and my son are not speaking. My husband has made a decision to move out of our home, and he does not want my son to move with us. I'm suffering, and I'm in agony." Pray for peace and reconciliation in Joy's home.

Saturday May 13: Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations: Unity

In a world that is increasingly polarized, we pray for unity among all Christfollowers. May we be image bearers in this unity as we connect with each other over denominational divides. May we also reflect the Father's love across religious differences as we seek to dialogue with people of other faiths. And may unity begin here "at home" as we prepare for Synod 2023.

Sunday May 14: World Renew: Mother's Day

Around the world, women are often denied basic human rights and opportunities. Genesis 1:26-27 teaches that men and women are created equally in the image of God. World Renew sees women as capable and strong, resilient and essential to God's plan to restore creation. This Mother's Day, pray with us for women's rights around the world so that they can make positive changes for their families and communities.

Tech Team	Today: 5/7	Next Week: 5/14
Sound:	Henry H.	Mardy S.
Projection:	Franchesca B.	Maddie D.
Video:	Brandon S.	Tim H./Isaac D.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund