

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
May 21, 2023
Pastor John Knoester

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

“I love to tell the story;”

Prelude: Sylvia Van Zanten

Welcome

Ministry of Music: ***“God Is on the Move”***

Song Video and Sunday School Children

Testimonies of Faith: Sunday School Children

Sunday School Report: Tim Van Hofwegen

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord:
all creation worship you, the father everlasting.
To you all angels and all the heavenly powers
cry aloud; the cherubim and seraphim,
sing in endless praise.

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

*** Opening Hymn: LUYH #540:1-4 *“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”***

1. Holy God, we praise your name;
Lord of all, we bow before you.
Saints on earth your rule acclaim;
all in heaven above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain;
everlasting is your reign.

2. Hark, the glad celestial hymn
angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim,
in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heavens with sweet accord:
“Holy, holy, holy Lord!”
3. Lo, the apostolic train
joins your sacred name to hallow;
prophets swell the glad refrain,
and the white-robed martyrs follow;
and from morn to set of sun,
through the church the song goes on.

Sing Acapella

4. Holy Father, holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name you,
though in essence only one;
undivided God, we claim you,
and, adoring, bend the knee
while we own the mystery.

Words: Te Deum, 4th c.; vers. Ignaz Franz, ca. 1774; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1853, alt., P.D.; Music: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774; desc. Emily R. Brink, 1986, ©1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources, CCLI # 678905

* God’s Greeting

* We Greet Each Other

“Twill be my theme in glory”

Announcements

Call to Confession:

The proof of God’s amazing love is this:
While we were sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace
to help in time of need.

Trusting in God’s faithfulness and compassion,
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

—based on Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16, NRSV

Sung Prayer of Confession: **“My Worth Is Not in What I Own”** vs. 1-5

1. My worth is not in what I own;
not in the strength of flesh and bone.
But in the costly wounds of love at the cross.
2. My worth is not in skill or name;
in win or lose in pride or shame.
But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross.

Chorus

*I rejoice in my Redeemer.
Greatest treasure, wellspring of my soul.
I will trust in Him, no other;
my soul is satisfied in Him alone.*

3. As summer flowers we fade and die;
Fame, youth and beauty hurry by.
But life eternal calls to us at the cross.
4. I will not boast in wealth or might,
or human wisdom's fleeting light.
But I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross.

Chorus

5. Two wonders here that I confess:
my worth and my unworthiness.
My value fixed, my ransom paid at the cross.

Graham Kendrick / Keith Getty / Kristyn Getty
© Gettymusic (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)
Make Way Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)
CCLI #678905

Words of Assurance: Romans 5:8-9; II Corinthians 1:3-5

⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood,
how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath
through him!

—Romans 5:8-9

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,
⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles,
so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort
we ourselves receive from God.

⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ,
so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

—II Corinthians 1:3-5

Call to Holy Living: Colossians 3:12-17

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness and patience.

¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another
if any of you has a grievance against someone.
Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all
together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
since as members of one body you were called to peace.
And be thankful.

¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly
as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom
through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit,
singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

—Colossians 3:12-17

* Song of Thanksgiving: "**Compassion Hymn**" vs. 1-3

1. There is an everlasting kindness
You lavished on us
when the radiance of heaven
came to rescue the lost;
You called the sheep without a shepherd
to leave their distress
for Your streams of forgiveness
and the shade of Your rest.

2. And with compassion for the hurting,
You reached out Your hand
as the lame ran to meet You
and the dead breathed again;
You saw behind the eyes of sorrow
and shared in our tears,
heard the sigh of the weary,
Let the children draw near.

Chorus

*What boundless love what fathomless grace
You have shown us O God of compassion
Each day we live an off'ring of praise
As we show to the world Your compassion.*

3. We stood beneath the cross of Calv'ry
and gazed on Your face,
at the thorns of oppression
and the wounds of disgrace;
For surely You have borne our suff'ring
and carried our grief
as You pardoned the scoffer
and showed grace to the thief.

Chorus

*What boundless love, what fathomless grace
You have shown us ,O God of compassion!
Each day we live, an off'ring of praise
as we show to the world Your compassion.*

Keith Getty/Kristyn Getty/Stuart Townend © 2008 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

Offering: General Fund

Offertory: Public Reading of Scripture – The Bible Project

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

“To tell the old, old story”

Scripture Readings: John 4:7-26 and I Timothy 4:10-16

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Created to Worship – Liturgy, Scripture, and Preaching”***

Time of Prayer

“Of Jesus and his love.”

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #262:1-3 ***“I Love to Tell the Story”***

1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain

*I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

2. I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

Refrain

3. I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

Refrain

Words: A. Catherine Hankey, 1866, P.D.; Music: William G. Fisher, 1869, P.D.;

* We Confess our Faith: Our World Belongs to God

Leader:

God gives this world many ways to know him.
The creation shows his power and majesty.
He speaks through prophets, poets, and apostles,
and, most eloquently, through the Son.
The Spirit, active from the beginning,
moved human beings to write the Word of God
and opens our hearts to God's voice.

People:

**The Bible is the Word of God,
the record and tool of his redeeming work.
It is the Word of truth, breath of God,
fully reliable in leading us to know God
and to walk with Jesus Christ in new life.**

Leader:

The Bible tells the story of God's mighty acts
in the unfolding of covenant history.
As one revelation in two testaments
the Bible reveals God's will
and the sweep of God's redeeming work.

People:

**Illumined and equipped by the Spirit,
disciples of Jesus hear and do the Word,
witnessing to the good news
that our world belongs to God,
who loves it deeply.**

*God's Blessing

*Parting Praise: ***"All Glory Be to Christ" vs. 1-3***

1. Should nothing of our efforts stand,
no legacy survive;
unless the Lord does raise the house,
in vain its builders strive.
To you who boast tomorrow's gain,
tell me what is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn;
all glory be to Christ.

Chorus

*All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
all glory be to Christ!*

2. His will be done, His kingdom come,
on earth as is above,
who is Himself our daily bread;
praise Him, the Lord of love.
Let living water satisfy
the thirsty without price;
we'll take a cup of kindness yet;
all glory be to Christ.

Chorus

3. When on the day the great I Am,
the faithful and the true,
the Lamb who was for sinners slain,
is making all things new.
Behold our God shall live with us
and be our steadfast light.
And we shall e're his people be;
all glory be to Christ.

Chorus

Chorus: Sing acapella

Words and Arrangement by Dustin Kensrue; Music: Traditional Scottish Folk Tune
© 2012 We Are Younger We Are Faster Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.);
CCLI #678905

Postlude

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

Welcome to the House of the Lord! We have come to bring our worship to our God. May we do so in our singing, praying, giving, preaching and listening. May God be glorified. 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: 5/21 | Next Week: 5/28 |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Sound: | Mardick S | Tim H |
| Projection: | Hannah VH | Franchesca B |
| Video: | Franchesca B | Dick G |
| Offering: | General Fund | General Fund |

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

May 21, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

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 months 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 this study in the weeks to come!

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 – “Our Offerings”
5. June 18 – “Sacraments” (Communion Sunday)
6. June 25 – “Prayer”
7. July 30 – “Music”
8. Aug. 6 – “Confession & Assurance”
9. Aug. 13 – “Professing our Faith / Creeds”
10. Aug. 20 – “Benediction”

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

Worship Service YouTube Links:

May 14: <https://youtu.be/sgfJovi6CR0>

Choir: There will be no more choir practices. Enjoy your summer. Thanks to all who participated. Thank you, Joni, for directing and Jill for accompanying.

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. 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.

Christian Education Fund:

Pledge forms are in your mailboxes for the 2023-2024 school year. The cost of the ministry for the 2023-2024 school year is \$129,500.00. Please return your pledge forms in mailbox #85.

Also please remember to pay your pledges for the current school year.

In order for the Christian Education Fund to continue we need to fulfill our pledges for both school years by May 31. If you have any questions regarding your pledges, please contact Katie Jungquist, 428-3818.

Trudy Van Dyke would love to come and worship on Sundays. Please call the office if you are willing to pick her up and bring her back after the service. A low to mid-size car works best.

Congratulations to Our Graduates:

8th grade: Franchesca Bill, Maddie Dykstra, Caleb Link, Joel Link, Tessa Speck;
12th Grade: Jacob Blanken, Rayahna Oostra, Hannah Van Hofwegen, Caitlin Vander Kooy; College: DJ Droog.

If we missed someone please call the church office and we will correct that.

Church Potluck: Our next church potluck will be held on Sunday, July 2 (*not June 4 as previously planned*) following the morning service. Brad Diekema will be here so this will be a good time to welcome him. Come and join us.

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!**

Join C.A.R.E. Medical Center (formerly Pregnancy Choices) for our Baby Bottle Campaign, running from Mother's Day to Father's Day!

C.A.R.E. Medical is a ministry that serves women and their partners in their medical and personal needs here in the Skagit Valley. Their medical clinic provides free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, and STI testing. Through the Thriving Hearts Program, they personally and directly partner with underprivileged women through one-on-one mentoring relationships with mature women of God. Thriving Heart also provides resources to these women, such as baby clothes, maternity clothes, formula, and home goods. By participating in this Baby Bottle fundraiser, you can support the work of Thriving Heart in directly providing for the needs of these women and their children. We invite you to be a part of this invaluable ministry! Simply pick up a bottle in the foyer, fill it with change, bills, or checks, and return it to the church by Father's Day. Thank you for supporting our community's moms, dads, babies, and children!

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.

Heather Village, a Christian retirement community in Mount Vernon, has an opening for a Maintenance Supervisor. This position is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance operations of the buildings and grounds in the community. To qualify, a candidate must be a Christian and have good interpersonal skills. An ideal candidate would have a working knowledge of electrical and plumbing systems, carpentry and painting skills, and would be expected to be available for on-call emergencies. This is a full-time position that could be shared between two people; pay is dependent on experience. For more information or to submit a resume or list of qualifications, please contact the Heather Village Manager by mail at Heather Village, 925 Heather Circle, Mount Vernon WA 98273 or by email at hvoffice2021@gmail.com prior to June 10, 2023.

There is a new newsletter from our missionaries **Brett & Angela Nicholson** and from **John & Trista Vander Wal**. You may view them at the following links: <https://firstcrcmv.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Missionary-Update-on-the-Nicholsons.pdf>

<https://firstcrcmv.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Vander-Wal-May-2023.pdf>

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts today:

Fred F, Wiebe & Johnna VDH

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, 5/28:

Dick & Linda G. & Marty & Kristi S.

Children in Worship:

Today - ?, Hannah VH

Next Week 5/28: Angela S & Kayla VH

Worship Team:

Today: Eliot B, Heidi B. Kayla VH, Ella VH

Next Week: Juli O, Mandi D, Kiera L

This week:

May 21, 6:30pm: Women's Bible Study (Last Meeting)

Monday, May 22, 7pm: Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant

Upcoming Dates to Note:

July 2: Church Potluck! Brad Diekema will be here.

July 29, Saturday: Neighborhood "Block Party"

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:

Thank You for Supporting Women of Hope. - Thank you for your generous gifts for women worldwide through World Renew on Mother's Day. Your support for our Women of Hope offering is equipping women with lifelong strength and health. As a result, you are helping their families and communities fulfill God's desire to see all people flourish. For more information or to give online, go to worldrenew.net/womenofhope

Kids Corner: Great Joy. Deep Roots. - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. In Psalm 92, the writer takes great joy in God's faithfulness, praising him day and night. When we praise God, we share his goodness with others. Praising God also helps us grow deep roots of gratitude that can last for a lifetime. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the The Bible in One Year Plan.

Groundwork: Money and the Attitude of Your Heart - Can we strike a balance between being grateful for what we have and not being overly attached to it? Join Groundwork as we dig into Mark 10:17-27, Matthew 6:19-24, and 1 John 2:15-17 to reflect on such a balanced attitude toward money and possessions. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



Thank you so much for your prayers and words of encouragement as my dad has been going through his significant health struggle. Lord willing, he will recover enough to back to doing some of the things he wants to do in the next few weeks! Beth, Greg and family



How can
we
PRAY
for you?

People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Email the office at secretary@firstcrmv.com or call the church office at (336-2405) by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

NEW REQUEST:

Please keep **Hank & Anjean Vander Veen and family** in your prayers as they mourn the passing of their daughter **Judi**.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Beth's Dad, Rev. Paul Treick, has made a very good recovery. While he is still on hospice care at the moment, he hopes to be able to come off of it in the next few weeks. Please pray that his next COPD flare up is not as severe.

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.

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 15 - from: Resonate: Nicaragua “Many of our students and their families have experienced deep pain and brokenness,” said missionaries Liam and Jessica Starkenburg, who serve with Nicaragua Christian Academy International. “Ask God to redeem, heal, restore, and uphold this amazing community.”

Tuesday May 16 - from: Raise Up: Timothy Leadership Training: Videos Timothy Leadership Training is working with DECIBEL, a ministry organization in Europe, to format materials into micro-videos for distribution on smartphones. Pray that these videos will open up opportunities for leadership training in some of the most difficult-to-reach places in the world.

Wednesday May 17 - from: Calvin Theological Seminary: Graduates Nearly 50 students will be graduating this month. Rejoice with our graduates and their families and the churches and others who have supported them. Pray for them as they transition to ministry positions, further studies, or other places where God may lead them.

Thursday May 18 - from: Faith Formation: Ascension Day On this day we reflect on our risen and ascended Lord, and we give thanks that he lives to intercede for us and will return one day to make all things new.

Friday May 19 - from: Resonate: Germany The Berliner Stadtmission (Berlin City Mission) is a Resonate partner in Berlin, Germany, where missionaries David Kromminga and Mary Buteyn serve. This ministry hosts language cafes where immigrants and refugees can learn German and make friends. David and Mary give thanks for the many people coming to these language cafes! Pray for opportunities to share the gospel.

Saturday May 20 - from: World Renew: Disaster Response Services (DRS) This past year 133 young people, ages 19-30, volunteered with our DRS program. DRS has been steadily working to grow this volunteer base by attending conferences alongside college program administrators and through direct connections with student ministry leaders to explain and encourage student engagement. Pray that these recruitment efforts continue to be fruitful.

Sunday May 21 - from: ReFrame: India

ReFrame's partners in India recently hosted an event for seekers in a remote village of northern India. Pray that the 70 attendees will continue to use the devotions and audio programs they used and discussed at the event. Pray also for their safety, since many people in their region are opposed to the Christian faith.