

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Special Guest – Mr. Steve Gumaer
May 28, 2023 – Pentecost Sunday

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

***Please stand if you are able.**

“This my only comfort in my life and in my death”

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

* Call to Worship: Psalm 105:1-3

“Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
Make known among the nations what he has done.
Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.
Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those
who seek the Lord rejoice.”

* Sung Call to Worship: *“Raise a Hallelujah”*

I raise a hallelujah, in the presence of my enemies
I raise a hallelujah, louder than the unbeliever
I raise a hallelujah, my weapon is a melody
I raise a hallelujah, heaven comes to fight for me

I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes, hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive!

I raise a hallelujah, with everything inside of me
I raise a hallelujah, I will watch the darkness flee
I raise a hallelujah, in the middle of the mystery
I raise a hallelujah, fear you lost your hold on me!

I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes, hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive!

Sing a little louder (In the presence of my enemies)
Sing a little louder (Louder than the unbelief)
Sing a little louder (My weapon is a melody)
Sing a little louder (Heaven comes to fight for me)
Sing a little louder (In the presence of my enemies)
Sing a little louder (Louder than the unbelief)
Sing a little louder (My weapon is a melody)
Sing a little louder (Heaven comes to fight for me)
Sing a little louder!

I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes, hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive!

* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

* Song of Praise: *"Is He Worthy"*

1. Do you feel the world is broken
We do
Do you feel the shadows deepen
We do
But do you know that all the dark
Won't stop the light from getting through
We do
Do you wish that you could see it all made new
We do
2. Is all creation groaning
It is
Is a new creation coming
It is
Is the glory of the Lord
To be the light within our midst
It is
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this
It is

Chorus 1

Is anyone worthy, Is anyone whole
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's Root
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
Is He worthy, Is He worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy of this
He is

3. Does the Father truly love us

He does
Does the Spirit move among us
He does
And does Jesus our Messiah
Hold forever those He loves
He does
Does our God intend to dwell again with us
He does

Chorus 2

Is anyone worthy, Is anyone whole
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's Root
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
From ev'ry people and tribe every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom and priests
To God to reign with the Son
Is He worthy, Is He worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy, Is He worthy
Is He worthy of this
He is

Ending

Is He worthy, Is He worthy
He is. He is

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"You have fully paid for all my sins and all my debts"

Call to Confession:

Glorious God, your creation sings of your might.
Yet, we ignore the song, deny the melody,
and cry out our dissonance.
Forgive us, Great God, for our attempts
to limit or distract from the beauty of your power.
Transpose our lives so that every thought and deed
becomes an endless song to you
through our Lord Jesus, Amen.

-Carrie Steenwyk

Sung Prayer of Confession: Purple Praise #110

"Change My Heart Oh God" (sing through it 2x)

Change my heart, O God,
Make it ever true;
Change my heart O God,
May I be like You.

You are the Potter, I am the clay;
Mold me and make me, This is what I pray.

Change my heart, oh God,
Make it ever true;
Change my heart, oh God,
May I be like You.

The Assurance of God's Pardon

Therefore we rightly say with Paul that
we know nothing "except Jesus Christ and him crucified";⁵¹
we "regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value
of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord."⁵²
We find all comforts in his wounds
and have no need to seek or invent any other means
to reconcile ourselves with God
than this one and only sacrifice, once made,
which renders believers perfect forever.

- Section of Belgic Confession Article 21

* Song of Assurance: *“This My Only Comfort”*

1. This, my only comfort in my life and in my death:
You have fully paid for all my sins and all my debts
even when I struggle to believe:
with your precious blood you’ve set me free.

Chorus

*I am not my own but belong body and soul,
in my life and in death to you Lord, Christ my Lord.*

2. You preserve my life in such a way that without you
not a hair can fall from me unless you will it to
even when I'm lost in desperation
all things work together for my salvation.

Chorus

Heidelberg Catechism

Q 1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

- A. That I am not my own,¹ but belong—body and soul,
in life and in death—² to my faithful Savior,
Jesus Christ.³ He has fully paid for all my sins
with his precious blood,⁴ and has set me free
from the tyranny of the devil.⁵
He also watches over me in such a way⁶
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven;⁷
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.⁸
Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life⁹ and makes me
wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on
to live for him.¹⁰

¹ 1 Cor. 6:19-20; ² Rom. 14:7-9; ³ 1 Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:14; ⁴ 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:2; ⁵ John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:1-11; ⁶ John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:5; ⁷ Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18; ⁸ Rom. 8:28; ⁹ Rom. 8:15-16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14; ¹⁰ Rom. 8:1-17

3. Therefore by your Holy Spirit you assure me
of eternal life and make me willing and ready
even when I can't see my way through
from now on to always live for you.

Chorus (2x)

*I am not my own but belong body and soul,
in my life and in death to you Lord, Christ my Lord.*

Music and Lyrics by Jeremy Zeyl & Brian VanArnhem © Jasper Music.
Text adapted from Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1; CCLI #678905

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

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

"Even when I struggle to believe"

Scripture Readings: Luke 10:25-37

Prayer of Illumination

Message: *"The Parable of the Good Samaritan"*

Time of Prayer

"With your precious blood you've set me free"

* Song of Application: LUYH #482 vs 1-3 *"Soon and Very Soon"*

1. Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!
2. No more crying there— we are going to see the King!
No more crying there— we are going to see the King!
No more crying there— we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!
3. No more dying there— we are going to see the King!
No more dying there— we are going to see the King!
No more dying there— we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #482 *“Soon and Very Soon”* v. 4

- 4. Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We’re going to see the King!

Words: Andraé Crouch (b. 1945) © 1976 Bud John Songs (ASCAP), Crouch Music (ASCAP), admin.EMICMGPublishing.com CCLI #678905

Postlude

Tech Team	Today: 5/28	Next Week: 6/4
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Franchesca B.	Tim H/Isaac D.
Video:	Dick G.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

May 28, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Special Guest: Mr. **Steve Gumear**, the cofounder and former director of Partners Relief and Development, is with us this morning. 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.

Our annual **Congregational Meeting** was held this past Monday. **Eliot Blom and Henry Van Zanten, Jr.** were selected for the office of Elder for a 3-year term. **Derek Blanken and Terry Dykstra** were selected for the office of Deacon for a 3-year term. Installation of officers will be held during our morning service on June 4. The annual church budget 2023-2024 was approved.

We thank God for those who will be retiring from their offices: Elders Greg Ackermann and Joe LeClair; Deacons Simon LeClair and Cody See. May God continue to use them in other areas of service.

First CRC offers the option to give your offerings online, 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

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. **The correct phone number for Trudy is 360-929-5523.**

Congratulations to Our Graduates:

8th grade: Franchesca Bill, Maddie Dykstra, Caleb Link, Joel Link, Tessa Speck, Lauren Vander Bosch; 12th Grade: Jacob Blanken, Lila Faber, 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.

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”*

Worship Service YouTube Links:

May 21: <https://youtu.be/ByyPWqk6cko>

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.

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.

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts today:

Dick & Linda G. & Marty & Kristi S.

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, 6/4:

John & Judy V.

Children in Worship:

Today - Angela S & Kayla VH

Next Week 6/4: TBD

Worship Team:

Today: Juli O, Mandi D, Kiera L

Next Week: Greg & Beth B., Emmalyn S., France B.

This week:

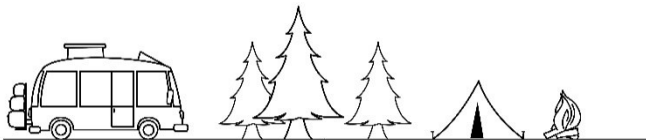
Tuesday, June 6, 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant

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:

Family Fire - is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

Kids Corner: Understanding Pentecost - Check out the new kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. The Spirit came in a powerful way and filled the people. That's because we serve a powerful God! The wind and fire are symbols for God's presence. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible story podcast "The Story of Pentecost."



How can
we
PRAY
for you?

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

NEW REQUEST:

Please pray for **Marilyn Cooke's** 3-year-old grandson, who broke his legs this past week on a trampoline and pulled one leg out of the socket. Please continue to pray for her 13-year-old grandson who is fighting depression, and for Marilyn's pain in her right foot. It has been worse recently.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Update on **Juli Oostr**a: Juli was permitted to go home with a still very low, but steadily rising platelet count. She is very weak and requests no visitors for now. Thank you for continued prayer on her behalf and also for the family.

Please pray that **Beth Boon's** dad continues to regain strength after his COPD flare-up.

Margaret Vander Pol's back surgery went very well, but there is still a lot of pain in other areas of her back. Please pray that pain will subside so she can have full healing.

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 **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 22 - Pastor Church Resources: Fellowship

Thank God for the pastors currently participating in 17 mentoring groups. Pray that fruits of well-being and resilience may grow as these pastors learn about and support one another in ministry. Ask God to provide connection opportunities for pastors who are geographically or relationally isolated from their peers.

Tuesday May 23 - Redeemer University: Guidance and provision

Ask God to continue to lead and provide (faculty, staff, students, and finances) for Redeemer University to advance the mission and vision of preparing students to reflect a distinctive Christian worldview in any vocation and place to which they are called.

Wednesday May 24 - Resonate: Michigan

“Pray for students who are moving on from Western Michigan University, bringing all they’ve experienced here back to their homes around the world,” ask campus ministers at International Campus Ministry. Pray especially for graduates who are returning as Christians to countries that are not traditionally open to Christianity.

Thursday May 25 - Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee: Canadian National Gathering

Church members from across Canada are gathering in Ottawa, Ont., this weekend for the Canadian National Gathering. A key area of emphasis will be Indigenous reconciliation. Pray that participants will

be inspired and equipped to bring their experiences back to their regions. Pray that CRC churches will be places of rich welcome for people of all backgrounds.

Friday May 26 - *World Renew: Uganda*

Our Uganda team is rejoicing and celebrating God's provision through a grant from MCIC that will help continue the work of value addition programming with our partners, Pentecostal Assemblies of God. Pray for successful management of this grant to inspire more institutions to support World Renew programming in communities facing food insecurity, injustice, and poverty.

Saturday May 27 - *Disability Concerns: Staffing changes*

Rev. Terry DeYoung recently retired as coordinator for the Reformed Church in America's Disability Concerns ministry. In this shared ministry of the CRCNA and RCA, we thank God for the impact that Terry has made since 2009 in helping churches become places where everybody belongs and everybody serves. Pray that Disability Concerns will remain vibrant in its ongoing work.

Sunday May 28 - *Resonate: Pentecost*

Give thanks that God is always with us, guides us, and leads us through the Holy Spirit. Pray that we will be more attuned to how the Holy Spirit is working. Ask for wisdom, courage, and kindness as we follow the Spirit's leading and share the love of Christ with our family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors.