

**Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!**  
**Pastor John Knoester**  
**June 25, 2023**

**10:30 A.M. Worship Service**

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

*"Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;"*

Prelude

Welcome

\* Opening Hymn: LUYH #348 v. 1-3 *"Great is Thy Faithfulness"*

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Refrain*

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

*Refrain*

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Refrain*

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23: Words: Thomas O Chisholm, 1923, © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company; Music: William M. Runyan, 1923, © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company, CCLI #678905

\* Call to Worship / Prayer of Invocation

Leader: Come among us, living Lord—  
we come to hear your living Word.

**People: We meet together in the name of Christ  
to share your mission and your sacrifice;  
to receive the power that only you can give,  
that we might live!**

Leader: God of all faithfulness, you have opened the gate  
of mercy for your people and are always ready  
to welcome those who turn to you.

**People: Look on us in your compassion,  
that we may gladly respond to your love  
and faithfully walk in your way through Jesus Christ,  
our Lord. Amen.**

\* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #256 v. 1-4

*"They'll Know We Are Christians"*

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side.  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us all one.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Words: Peter Scholtes (b. 1938) © 1966, 1967 F.E.L. Church Publications, Ltd.,  
assigned 1991 to Lorenz Corporation CCLI #678905

\* God's Greeting

\* We Greet Each Other

*"There is no shadow of turning with Thee;"*

### Announcements

Call to Confession: Matthew 22:37-40

Our Lord Jesus said:

"'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it:

'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

On these two commandments hang all the law  
and the prophets."

As God has instructed us in these great commandments,  
and because we have not lived in full obedience,  
let us now confess our sins to God,  
trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord.

—based on Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV

### Prayer of Confession

Sung Response: LUYH #884 *"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"*

Hear our prayer, O Lord,  
hear our prayer, O Lord;  
incline thine ear to us,  
and grant us thy peace. Amen.

Words: anonymous, P.D.; Words: anonymous, P.D.; Music: George  
Whelpton, 1897, P.D.

Words of Assurance: Psalm 10:8, 13-14, 17-18

The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.  
For he knows how we were made;  
he remembers that we are dust.

But the steadfast love of the LORD  
is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children,  
to those who keep his covenant and remember  
to do his commandments. —Psalm 103:8, 13-14, 17-18, NRSV

God's Will for Our Lives: Colossians 3:12-15

As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom he loves,  
you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion,  
in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience.  
Bear with one another; forgive each other  
if one of you has a complaint against another.  
The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.  
Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond.  
And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts,  
because it is for this that you were called together in one body.  
Always be thankful. —Colossians 3:12-15, NJB

Offering

Offertory

\* Song of Preparation: LUYH #899 v. 1-3 *"Seek Ye First"*

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
and his righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia.
2. Ask and it shall be given unto you;  
seek and you shall find;  
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia.

**Sing acapella**

3. We do not live by bread alone,  
but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of God.  
Allelu, alleluia.

Words and Music: Matthew 6:33, 7:7, 4:4; para. Karen Lafferty, 1972,  
© 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin Music Services; CCLI #678905

*"Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;"*

Scripture Reading: Colossians 4:2-6

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Created to Worship – Prayer”***

Time of Prayer

*“As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.”*

\* Hymn of Application: LUYH #770 v. 1-4 *“In Christ Alone”*

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
this cornerstone, this solid ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My comforter, my all in all,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh,  
fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
scorned by the ones He came to save.  
‘Til on the cross as Jesus died,  
the wrath of God was satisfied.  
For ev’ry sin on Him was laid;  
here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground His body lay,  
light of the world by darkness slain;  
then, bursting forth in glorious day,  
up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
sin’s curse has lost its grip on me;  
for I am His and He is mine,  
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
this is the power of Christ in me;  
from life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no human plan,  
can ever pluck me from His hand;  
'til He returns or calls me home,  
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

"In Christ Alone" Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, Copyright  
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- \* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 118-119

Leader: Q. What did God command us to pray for?

**People: A. Everything we need, spiritually and physically,  
as embraced in the prayer Christ our Lord himself  
taught us.**

Leader: Q. What is this prayer?

**People: A. Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For yours is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

- \* Benediction

- \* Doxology: Sing! #123 v. 1-3 *"Bring Forth the Kingdom"*

1. You are salt for the earth, O people:  
salt for the kingdom of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people:  
Life in the kingdom of God!

*Refrain*

*Bring forth the kingdom of mercy;  
pray for the kingdom of peace;  
work for the kingdom of justice;  
hope for the city of God!*

2. You are a light on a hill, O people:  
light for the city of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people;  
shine for the kingdom of God!

*Refrain*

3. You are a seed of the Word, O people:  
live for the kingdom of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,  
grow in the kingdom of God!

*Refrain*

*"Bring Forth the Kingdom" Words and Music: Mary Haugen; based on Matt. 5:13-16, © 1986, G.I.A. Publications. Use by permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.netLicense #A-711218*

Postlude

**Welcome!** This is the day that the Lord has made. Worship is our opportunity to be glad and rejoice in the Lord's house on the Lord's Day. We come as the children of God, knowing that we are welcomed here where all are meant to be one in the Lord. Let us lay down our burdens and rejoice in the Lord for the Lord is good, the Source of love. 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: 6/25	Next Week: 7/2
Sound:	Henry H.	Tim H.
Projection:	Hannah VH	Franchesca B.
Video:	Tim H./Isaac D.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

# First CRC

## Bulletin Announcements

### June 25, 2023

#### OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

**New office bearers:** The new office bearers for the upcoming church year are as follows: Council and Elder President - Darrel Lagerwey; Council and Elder Clerk - Dick Gudmunson; Council and Elder Vicar - Eliot Blom; Records Clerk - Henry Van Zanten Jr.; Deacon President - Mardick Stevens; Council and Deacon Treasurer - Jon Vander Kooy; Deacon Secretary - Hank Van Zanten; Deacon Vicar - Derek Blanken; Deacon Benevolence - Terry Dykstra Deacon Helping Hands - Fred Folkertsma. Please take the time to both encourage and thank these individuals for their service!

**Commissioning Service:** On Sunday, June 11 Elder Darrel Lagerwey and Pastor John had the opportunity to participate in the sending service for Pastor Brad in Byron Center, Michigan. If you are interested in watching a 14 minute clip of that particular part of the service - here is the link:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/18r4SFBVwRVHLCWHMdnP5y2V\\_mYdeqJPL/view?ts=6491dd58](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18r4SFBVwRVHLCWHMdnP5y2V_mYdeqJPL/view?ts=6491dd58)

**There will be an outdoor church work party** on Saturday, July 15, beginning at 9:00 AM. It will be a beautification project for the grounds of our church. Please join in with your wheelbarrows, hoes and rakes!

**Meet-n-Greet Dessert Nights with Pastor Brad:** In the weeks and months to come it's important for Pastor Brad to get to know as many members of our church family as possible. Thus, the council would like to encourage each member/family to sign up for a **'dessert night' at church sometime in the months of July and August**. Generally speaking, these will take place on **Tuesday and Thursday nights** in the church fellowship hall starting at **7 PM**. One council member will help facilitate the evening with Brad and ideally each evening date would include 2-4 additional families. You are encouraged to bring a small



appetizer/dessert to share, but please don't feel obligated. Sign-up sheets are currently on the coffee table in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Beth or Pastor John if you have any questions. Thank you!

**Attention all First CRC Members! Church Committees Update:** Sometime in the coming weeks the Executive Committee will be meeting to update/approve our current church committee lists. When it comes to the various committees for our church family we do our best to recruit, but just like our personal families sometimes it's more expedient to simply assign. Here's how you can help us in advance: If there is a specific church committee that you would like to serve on - please let Beth know no later than this coming **Monday, June 26**. In addition, if you would like to be 'removed' from a current committee that you are currently serving on please let her know that as well. If we don't hear from you - please don't be surprised if you find your name assigned to a committee this fall. We promise to do our best to match one's gifts accordingly. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve!

***The Back to School Blessing is back on!*** Stay tuned for future announcements.

***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!**

*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](https://firstcrcmv.com/?page_id=1509)*

***Worship Service YouTube Links:***

June 18: <https://youtu.be/yfBex-X892A>

***Church Potluck:*** Our next church potluck will be held on Sunday, July 2 following the morning service. Brad Diekema will be here, so this will be a good time to welcome him. Come and join us!

**Christian Education Fund: THANK YOU to all those that pledged for the coming school year. The amount needed to reach our total tuition cost of \$123,810.00 for school year 2023-2024 is \$3,250.00. Please return your pledge by June 30 to Katie Jungquist. Thank you so much for your support!**

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 – *“Confession & Assurance”*
8. Aug. 6 – *“Music”*
9. Aug. 13 – *“Professing our Faith / Creeds”*
10. Aug. 20 – *“Benediction”*

**Calendar:**

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts today:**

Melba DK, Brooke K., Greg & Tish A.

## **Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, 7/2:**

Katie J., Tim & Heather VH

## **Children in Worship:**

Today: Only God knows

Next Week: Ditto

## **Worship Team:**

Today: Kevin & Glenda K., France B. & Nellie VDH

Next Week, 7/2: Greg & B., ?

## **Upcoming Dates to Note:**

**Tuesday, July 11, 7:00am** Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant

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

**July 15, Saturday 9am:** Church Work Party

**July 29, Saturday:** Neighborhood "Block Party"

## **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](http://familyfire.com). Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

**Kids Corner: God Can Use You** - Check out the new kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). In Exodus 2, a young girl named Miriam played an important role in God's plan to save his people. How can you not only develop your God-given gifts for the future, but use them right now? Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) like the Liz and Friends episode "Future Forecast."

**Groundwork: Give Us Today Our Daily Bread** - After we acknowledge God and pray for his will, Jesus instructs us to ask God for our daily bread. Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 6:11 and discuss what this petition means we believe about God, what we're asking for, and how it forms our faith as we speak it to our heavenly Father. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Join World Renew Today to Provide Access to Clean Water-** Each year, nearly 300,000 children under age 5 die from an illness related to drinking contaminated water. Help end these preventable deaths by donating to World Renew on Clean Water Sunday. Your financial support provides clean, safe water in the world's most vulnerable communities, helping to stop waterborne illnesses, promote health, and demonstrate the love of Christ. Please donate online at [worldrenew.net/cleanwater](http://worldrenew.net/cleanwater)



People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Email the office at [secretary@firstcrcmv.com](mailto: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:**

**Greg Boon's** mother, Yvonne, started her journey to receive stem cells for her leukemia this past week. Please pray that the process goes smoothly and she will experience and quick and complete recovery.

**CONTINUING REQUESTS:**

**Trudy Van Dyke** is now receiving hospice care. Please pray for continued healing and renewed strength in the weeks to come.

Please continue to pray for **Juli Oostra** as she fights to regain her platelet levels.

Pray for **Grace Feddema**, who is having tests to determine the cause of her fall.

Please continue to pray for **Marilyn Cooke's** 3-year-old grandson, her 13-year-old grandson, and for Marilyn's pain in her right foot. It has been worse recently.

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** while she continues fighting cancer and for **Margaret VanderPol** as she recovers from surgery.

**SHUT INS:** *Nell Annema and Marion Ekkelkamp* at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley; *Shirley Boonstra* at Country Meadow Village 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 June 19 - *World Renew: Juneteenth*

Today is a U.S. holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans, opening their pathway to freedom. This day is celebrated as a turning point toward recognizing the dignity, value, and freedom due to all people. Join us as we pray for justice, healing, repentance, and unity for all God's people.

Tuesday June 20 - *World Renew: Refugees and displaced people*

Over 100 million people have been forcibly displaced worldwide due to persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations. Today, on World Refugee Day, please join us in asking God to keep these families safe, providing them with necessary food, shelter, health, and protection.

Wednesday June 21 - *Edmonton Native Healing Centre: National Indigenous Peoples Day (Canada)*

Creator, we give thanks for this day and ask for guidance and wisdom as we seek to move forward on our Pahpiyiwihke [Cree for "smile"] project. We ask for successful fundraising efforts and for great new relationships that will allow our vulnerable population to receive free dental care. Thank you, Creator, for the collection of \$12,000 of the \$30,000 we are hoping to raise for this effort. Thank you for the courage allowing us to dream big and move forward in the confidence that you will supply all our needs. Hiy, Hiy!

Thursday June 22 - *Resonate: Haiti*

Haiti is facing many challenges right now. Ask God to protect communities from violence and to provide for all who lack food, safe drinking water, and more. Ask for wisdom for Resonate's ministry leaders and partners in the ongoing work in Haiti.

Friday June 23 - *ReFrame: Prayer ministry*

Bailey recently shared this prayer request with our team: "My 15-year-old son has been struggling for several years after the sudden passing of his father. He is making some very poor choices lately. I pray that the void in his heart will be filled with love and peace and that he can see how much he is loved."

Saturday June 24 - *Resonate: Central America*

Several young adults are currently serving with our Cohort in Central America. Pray for these young adults as they serve in a grassroots ministry, build relationships and form community, and deepen and strengthen their faith.

Sunday June 25 - *World Renew: Justice for all*

We mobilize communities to identify, confront, and change unjust systems, equipping them to advocate for and work to create change. We focus on ensuring equal rights and opportunities, recognizing that injustice is often due to individual or systemic abuses of power and that peaceful and just environments enable effective community development. Please pray that we may work with wisdom as we strive to achieve justice for all.