

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor Brad Diekema

July 16, 2023

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

"Will you come and follow me, if I but call your name?"

Prelude

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn: LUYH #330 v. 1-4**

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us, yours we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us, yours we are.
2. We are yours; in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way.
Keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.
3. You have promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.

4. Early let us seek your favor,
early let us do your will;
blessed Lord and only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.

Words: Hymns for the Young, 1836; attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, P.D.; Music: William B. Bradbury, P.D. CCLI #678905

* Call to Worship:

Leader: In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home
on earth.
Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

**People: Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.
He journeys with the rejected and welcomes
the weary.**

Leader: Come now, all who thirst, and drink the water of life.

**People: Come now, all who hunger,
and be filled with good things.**

Leader: Come now, all who seek, and be warmed
by the fire of love.

* Opening Hymn of Praise: *"Living Waters"* v. 1-4 (Getty)

1. Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Tired and broken, peace unspoken,
Come and drink these living waters.
2. Christ is calling, find refreshing
at the cross of living waters.
Lay your life down, all the old gone,
rise up in these living waters.

Chorus

*There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore,
praise the Lord of living waters.*

3. Spirit moving, mercy washing;
healing in these living waters
Lead your children to the shoreline,
life is in these living waters.

Chorus

*There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore,
praise the Lord of living waters.*

4. Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Love, forgiveness, vast and boundless,
Christ, He is our living waters.

Chorus

Ending

There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore,
praise the Lord of living waters.

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MusicServices.org and elsewhere by SongSolutions.org); CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: May the love of God the Father,
and the grace of Jesus the Son,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be and abide with us all.

People: Amen!

* We Greet One Another

*"Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?"*

Announcements

Call to Confession: Based on Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus, said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Sung Call to Confession: LUYH #123 v. 1-4

“Come to Me, O Weary Traveler”

1. Come to me, O weary traveler;
come to me with your distress;
come to me, you heavy burdened;
come to me and find your rest.
2. Do not fear, my yoke is easy;
do not fear, my burden’s light;
do not fear the path before you;
do not run from me in fright.
3. Take my yoke and leave your troubles;
take my yoke and come with me.
Take my yoke, I am beside you;
take and learn humility.
4. Rest in me, O weary traveler;
rest in me and do not fear.
Rest in me, my heart is gentle;
rest and cast away your care.

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Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel,
for you are my servant;

I formed you, you are my servant;

O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.

I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud,
and your sins like mist;

return to me, for I have redeemed you.

—Isaiah 44:21-22, NRSV

God's Will for Our Lives:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.

—Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV

Song of Response: LUYH #430 "You Are Mine" v. 1-4
Refrain (Solo)

*Do not be afraid; I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you, and you are mine."*

(Solo)

1. "I will come to you in the silence.
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice.
I claim you as my choice.
Be still and know I am here.

(Solo)

2. "I am hope for all who are hopeless,
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night
I will be your light.
Come and rest in me.

Refrain (All)

(Solo)

3. "I am strength for all the despairing,
healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see,
the lame will all run free,
and all will know my name.

Refrain (All) Please Stand

4. "I am the Word that leads all to freedom.
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name,
embracing all your pain.
Stand up, now walk, and live!

Refrain (All)

*Do not be afraid; I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you, and you are mine."*

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Offering: General Fund

Offertory

*(Following the offertory children ages 3-3rd grade
are excused for Children and Worship)*

*"Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,"*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:18-22

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Answering the Call"***

Time of Prayer

"Will you let my life be grown in you, and you in me?"

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #742 v. 1-3, 5

"Will You Come and Follow me"

1. Will you come and follow me,
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you, and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind,
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you, and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see,
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you, and you in me?
5. Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you, and you in me.

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* We Profess our Faith: Our World Belongs to God – Art. 41-43

Leader: Joining the mission of God,
the church is sent with the gospel of the kingdom
to call everyone to know and follow Christ
and to proclaim to all the assurance that in the name
of Jesus there is forgiveness of sin and new life for all
who repent and believe.

**People: The Spirit calls all members to embrace
God's mission in their neighborhoods
and in the world: to feed the hungry,
bring water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger,
clothe the naked, care for the sick,
and free the prisoner.
We repent of leaving this work to a few,
for this mission is central to our being.**

Leader: In a world estranged from God,
where happiness and peace are offered
in many names and millions face confusing choices,
we witness— with respect for followers
of other ways— to the only one in whose name
salvation is found: Jesus Christ.

**People: In Jesus, God reconciles the world to himself.
God loves all creation; his compassion knows
no bounds.**

Leader: Jesus Christ rules over all.

**People: To follow this Lord is to serve him
wherever we are without fitting in,
light in darkness, salt in a spoiling world.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #328 v. 1-3 *"Lead On, O King Eternal"*

1. Lead on, O King eternal,
the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation
your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.

2. Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace.
For not with swords' loud clashing
or roll of stirring drums—
with deeds of love and mercy
the heavenly kingdom comes.

3. Lead on, O King eternal;
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o'er us,
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might.

Words: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1888, alt., P.D.; Music: Henry T. Smart, 1836, P.D. CCLI #678905

Postlude

Welcome to our services of worship and praise! We pray that all will find strength, security, and fellowship with God and with one another. 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: 7/16	Next Week: 7/23
Sound:	Mardy S.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Beth B.	Maddie D.
Video:	Brandon S.	Emma S./Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

July 16, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Please pick up your copy of the new committee list on the shelf by the mailboxes!

Men's Breakfast Bible Study: We are going to take a summer break from gathering at Shari's on Tuesday mornings. We hope to gather again later in the summer. If you'd like to join us, keep an eye on the bulletin for an announcement.

Just a friendly reminder to please remember to turn out the lights in church if you are the last one there!

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

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!

If you are a long-time visitor of our church and would like to be assigned a mailbox, please let Beth know! Call Beth at 360-336-2405 or email her at www.secretary@firstcrcmv.com.

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!**

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”*

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*

Worship Service YouTube Links:

July 9: https://youtu.be/l-QlY6_Ow8w

Calendar:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts today: Sarah Z., Jack & Trudy VK

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, 7/23: John & Dena K., Henry & Pam VZ

Children in Worship:

Today: No idea

Next Week: Someone

Worship Team:

Today: Henry, Pam & Sylvia VZ, Adriana & Tessa S.

Next Week, 7/23: Mandi D., Kayla & Ella H

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Saturday, July 15, 9am: Church Work Party

Saturday, July 29: Neighborhood "Block Party"

Sunday, Sept. 24, 2:00pm: Skagit County Crop Hunger Walk

Saturday, Dec. 2: FountainView Choir and Orchestra

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

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 July 15, 2023.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Volunteer with World Renew Disaster Response Services - Are you looking for volunteer opportunities to help others and serve God? Make a life changing difference with World Renew Disaster Response Services this fall in Boutte, Louisiana; Whatcom County, Washington; or Sarasota, Florida! For dates and more information, go to worldrenew.net/volunteer. We can't wait to hear from you!

Kids Corner: God Is With You - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. David wrote Psalm 139 to remind himself of the truth that God is always near. We can rest in the knowledge that God knit each of us together in our mother's womb (Psalm 139:13-14). He has been with us from the beginning and will never leave us. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Kids in Action video "Wherever You Go."

Groundwork: For Yours is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory Forever. Amen. - For centuries, Christians around the world have concluded the Lord's Prayer the same way. Join Groundwork as we conclude our study of the Lord's Prayer by studying 1 Chronicles 29:11, Revelation 7:11-12, Psalm 24:1, and 1 Corinthians 1:20 to discuss the biblical importance of these words, what we mean when we say them, and why we end the Lord's Prayer this way. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



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

NEW REQUESTS:

Please pray for **Jill Rouw and the entire Rouw family**, as Rinie passed on to glory Tuesday morning this past week. Please pray for comfort and peace as they mourn his passing. Memorial service information will be forthcoming.

Please pray for **Houston, B.C.** as a wildfire has come very close to the town. Pray for those who may be evacuated, the firemen, and for

much needed rain to quell this firestorm.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please keep **Judy Velasquez** in your prayers. She is home, but is still waiting to have her heart procedure. Please pray for patience that all will be fulfilled in God's timing!

Please continue to pray for **Juli Oostra, Grace Feddema and Trudy Van Dyke**

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.

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* with family in Grandview, WA.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

Monday July 10 - *ReFrame: Burkina Faso*

Pray for Josep, a young man who recently joined our partners in Burkina Faso in French-language media ministry. Pray that his work will be a living testimony of life in Christ in a Muslim-majority context.

Tuesday July 11 - *Resonate: Michigan*

Give thanks for people finding a faith community through Rise Up, a Resonate-partner church plant in Cedar Springs, Mich. Please pray for Rise Up as they continue to find ways to serve their community.

Wednesday July 12 - *World Renew: Latin America*

Many young people in Latin America are vulnerable to poverty and

harm. In Guatemala and Honduras, for example, it is rare for girls to receive an education beyond grade school. Pray that families may have the courage and conviction to support their children through schooling that will help them succeed.

Thursday July 13 - *Global Coffee Break: Conference*

Please pray for the West Coast Korean Conference hosted by Global Coffee Break's new partner, Center for Coffee Break Ministry, July 13-15. May small group leaders be equipped and encouraged. Pray for the planning team and their energy, for safety for those who travel, and for God's name to be lifted high.

Friday July 14 - *Thrive: Safe Church: Discernment*

We give thanks that synod adopted the Code of Conduct for Ministry Leaders, and we pray that councils may discern how best to implement it in their congregations. May God continue to grow our commitment to be communities that protect the dignity and value of each person.

Saturday July 15 - *Resonate: Ontario*

Pray for the young adults who are serving this summer with the SoCo Beach Project, a Resonate partner in Ontario. Ask the Holy Spirit to work in and through them as they work with a local ministry, build relationships, and grow spiritually.

Sunday July 16 - *ReFrame: Egypt*

Pray for ReFrame's partners in Arabic media ministry in Egypt. They are working on several new programs, including a video series for young people. Pray that word spreads about these new programs and that young people will be blessed by the gospel messages in them.