

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

July 30, 2023

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

*"Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!"*

Prelude

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn: LUYH #513 v. 1-3**

"It is Good to Sing Your Praises"

1. It is good to sing your praises
and to thank you, O Most High,
showing forth your loving-kindness
when the morning lights the sky.
It is good when night is falling
of your faithfulness to tell,
while with sweet, melodious praises
songs of adoration swell.
2. You have filled my heart with gladness
through the works your hands have wrought;
you have made my life victorious;
great your works and deep your thought.
You, O Lord, on high exalted,
reign forevermore in might;
all your enemies shall perish,
sin be banished from your sight.
3. But the good shall live before you,
planted in your dwelling place,
fruitful trees and ever verdant,
nourished by your boundless grace.
In his goodness to the righteous
God his righteousness displays;
God, my rock, my strength and refuge,
just and true are all your ways.

PSALM 92; Words: Psalter, 1912, P.D.; Music: J. Leavitt's Christian Lyre, 1831,
P.D.; CCLI #678905

* Call to Worship / Prayer of Adoration

Leader: Holy and loving God, you spoke creation out of chaos
and brought your people out of darkness
into the marvelous light of your love.

**People: May the music of your creation and the praises
sung by your people bring joy to you and comfort
to a tormented world.**

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

**People: For he is our God and we are the people
of his pasture, the flock under his care.**

* Song of Praise: LUYH #565 v. 1-3 *“God Himself Is with Us”*

1. God himself is with us; let us now adore him,
and with awe appear before him.
God is in his temple; all within keep silence,
prostrate lie with deepest reverence.
Him alone do we own as our God and Savior;
praise his name forever.
2. God himself is with us; hear the harps resounding!
See the crowds the throne surrounding!
“Holy, holy, holy,” hear the hymn ascending,
angels, saints, their voices blending!
Bow your ear to us here; hear, O Christ, the praises
that your church now raises.
3. Fount of every blessing, purify my spirit,
trusting only in your merit.
Like the holy angels who behold your glory,
may I ceaselessly adore you,
and in all, great and small, seek to do most nearly
what you love so dearly.

Words: Gerhardt Tersteegen (1729); tr. composite, P.D.;
Music: Joachim Neander, 1680, P.D.; CCLI #678905

* God’s Greeting

* We Greet Each Other

*"Let that grace now like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee!"*

Announcements

Call to Confession: Psalm 51:1-12

Prayer of Confession – We confess our personal sin against God

Sung Response: *"Create in Me a Clean Heart"*
*"Create in me a clean heart. O God,
and renew a right spirit within me." (2x)*

Prayer of Confession - We confess our sins against each other

Sung Response: : *"Create in Me a Clean Heart"*
*"Create in me a clean heart. O God,
and renew a right spirit within me." (2x)*

Words of Assurance (Based on I John 1:8-9):

Sung Response: *"Create in Me a Clean Heart"*
(2nd half of the song only)
*"Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and renew a right spirit within me."*

God's Will for our Lives: Matthew 22:37-40

Leader: What is the great and first commandment?

**People: Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind.**

Leader: What is the second commandment like it?

People: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Leader: What does this mean?

People: Love is the fulfilling of the law.

Leader: To what does this call us?

People: To a life of faith working through love.

Offering

Offertory: *“Grace” – The Bible Project*

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

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #749 v. 1-2

“Spirit of the Living God”

1. Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
2. Spirit of the living God,
move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind,
make us one in love;
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God,
fill our lives with love.

Words: st. 1 Daniel Iverson, 1926, © 1994 Birdwing Music, admin. EMICMGPublishing.com; st. 2 Michael Baughen, 1982, © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Company; Music: Daniel Iverson 1926, © 1994 Birdwing Music, admin. EMICMGPublishing.com. CCLI# 678905

*“Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;”*

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 9:1-37

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Created to Worship – Confession & Assurance”***

Time of Prayer

*“Praise the mount – I’m fixed upon it
– mount of God’s unchanging love.”*

Hymn of Application: LUYH #521 v. 1-3a

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount— I’m fixed upon it—
mount of God’s unchanging love.

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I’ve come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

- 3A. Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I’m constrained to be!
Let that grace now like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:

Silent Prayers of Confession

Communal Prayer of Confession

Hymn of Response: LUYH #521 v. 3b-4

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

V. 3B

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here’s my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt., P.D.; Music: J. Wyeth’s *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813, P.D.; CCLI # 678905

Please Stand

- * 4. Oh that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face
Full arrayed in blood-washed linen
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry
Bring Thy promises to pass
For I know Thy pow'r will keep me
Till I'm home with Thee at last.

* Benediction

* Doxology: LUYH #366 *"My Jesus, I Love Thee" v. 1-4*

1. My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
2. I love thee because thou hast first loved me
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
3. I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,
and say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Acapella

4. In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright.
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

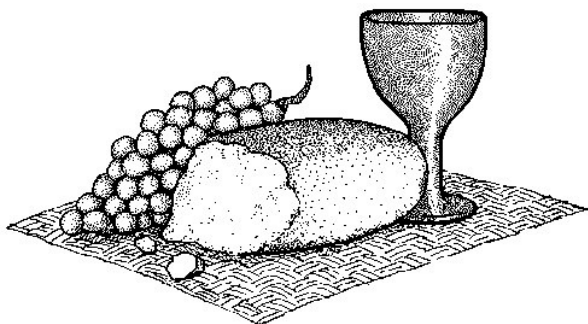
Words: William R. Featherstone, ca. 1862, P.D.; Music: Adoniram J. Gordon,
1876, P.D.; CCLI #678905

Postlude

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever" (Psalm 118:1). We **welcome** everyone to this hour of worship! Let us offer our gratitude and praise to our Creator. May this be a time of inspiration and joy for us all. 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.

Next Week is Communion Sunday!

*God meets us in the sacraments,
holy acts that call for our response...*



*In the supper our Lord offers
the bread and cup to believers to
guarantee our share in his
death and resurrection,
and unite us to him and to each other.*

*We take this food gladly,
announcing as we eat
that Jesus is our life
and that He shall come again
to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.*

From: *Our World Belongs to God* (PH – pg. 1031)

***Come share the fellowship
of the forgiven!***

Tech Team	Today: 7/30	Next Week: 8/6
Sound:	Henry H.	Tim H.
Projection:	Hannah VH	France B.
Video:	Dick G.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund/ Benevolence Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

July 30, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Grace Feddema has moved to assisted living at Creekside. She is slowly gaining some strength in her left arm and leg. She also wants to express her thanks for all the 'get well' and birthday cards she received. They are much appreciated!

Synod 2023: FAQ summary documents of Synod 2023 are currently available on the shelf near the church mailboxes.

Just a friendly reminder: If you use Beth's office, please leave it as you found it. Thank you!

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

Meet-n-Greet Dessert Nights with Pastor Brad: There are still nights open, so feel free to still sign up!

It's that time of year again! Say CHEESE! If you would like your church directory picture updated, please bring or send Beth your picture. If you would like a picture taken, Beth will have her camera here for the first **3 WEEKS ONLY in AUGUST** after the morning service. If you are hankering for your piece of "cheese!", please let Beth know what Sunday to expect you. If you are a long-time visitor, we would also love to add you to our directory! Thank you!



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 23: <https://youtu.be/zFqYIHK3zaU>

Calendar:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts today: Randy & Peggy Burr., Hank & Sylvia VZ

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, 8/6: Greg & Tish A., Sarah Z., Juliana

LC

Children in Worship:

Today: Heidi B., Maddie D.

Next Week: ??

Worship Team:

Today: Greg & Beth B., Emmalyn S.

Next Week, 8/6: Men's Group

Upcoming Dates to Note:

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

SUNDAY, Dec. 3: FountainView Choir and Orchestra

(Sorry, had some momentary calendar dyslexia there)

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Groundwork: Only Glorify Jesus - The Apostle Paul offers a valuable perspective on power, authority, and leadership in the church, and a vital reminder that Christ is the foundation upon which we should build all things. Join Groundwork as we study 1 Corinthians 3 to gain a better understanding of what it means to dwell in Christ and live and work as believers today. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Kids Corner: Don't Be Afraid - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. We all feel afraid at times. Maybe like the disciples in Matthew 8, you have been scared during a storm. Just like Jesus was with his disciples during the storm, it's important for us to remember that God promises to never leave us in our times of need. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible story podcast "Jesus Calms the Storm."

ICS Fall Courses - Check out the new courses offered at the Institute for Christian Studies this fall. Explore Jim Olthius' 'theopoetic philosophy' in "A Cosmic Theopoetics of/for Love", "Biblical Foundations: Narrative, Wisdom, and the Art of Interpretation" with Nik Ansell, or "Critical Theory and Religion: The Frankfurt courses are offered online, so you can take them no matter where you are. Tuition is \$1,500 to take a course for credit, \$600 to audit, or \$400 for first-time auditors and alumni. To learn more or register, email

registrar@icscanada.edu or visit icscanada.edu/fall-courses to see more offerings.

Serve in the Middle East - Five times a day people are called to prayer in the Middle East. Do you feel the call to live and serve where the majority population is strongly influenced by the Islamic religion and culture? Resonate is recruiting young adults to serve with Cohort Middle East. Live in community, serve in a grassroots ministry, and



grow in your faith. Learn more at www.resonateglobalmission.org/cohort

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 our Youth Group members and leader as they travel for their mission trip (Friday the 28th/Sat. 29th and August 5), safety during their projects, good weather and for God to be shown through them while they are serving others.

Please pray for **Greg Boon's mother, Yvonne Boon**, who received a stem cell transplant this past Thursday. Pray that the cells rebuild and that she remains infection free after the process.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please keep **Juli Oostra** and her family in your prayers. Juli's platelet levels have dropped back down to 15,000. She is back on the high dose of steroids and going in for additional IV steroid treatments over the next several days. Please pray for strength, perseverance, peace and healing for Juli. Pray too for her family as they anxiously journey with her. "Thank you" in advance for all your many prayers in the days to come.

Continue to pray for the **Rouw family**, as they lay Rinie to rest on Monday the 31st.

Please keep **Judy Velasquez** in your prayers as she awaits her heart procedure.

Please continue to pray for **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 will require another 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 24 - *World Renew: West Africa*

In several West African countries Christianity is viewed with suspicion or fear. Pray for World Renew's partners in ministry there who courageously persist in doing justice and loving mercy in such a challenging context, and for God's protection of local churches in their ongoing ministries.

Tuesday July 25 - *Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee: Reflecting*
A year ago today the pope apologized for the Roman Catholic Church's participation in the Indigenous residential school system. Please pray for Indigenous people on the road to reclaiming their culture. Pray also for the CRC as we repent of wrongdoing and seek to move forward in a restorative way.

Wednesday July 26 - *Thrive: Disability Inclusion: Disability advocates*

We thank God for the 22 regional disability advocates working in their classes to recruit and support disability advocates in local churches. May they be energized in their work, and may churches be responsive. Pray also for volunteers to emerge in the classes and regions that do not yet have these advocates.

Thursday July 27 - *Resonate: Japan*

Resonate missionaries Ken and Jeannie Lee work with young adults in Japan and ask for prayers that “drifting, overworked, and anxious youth may find freedom in Christ.”

Friday July 28 - *Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations Committee: Global relationships*

We pray that international relationships forged during synod and other assemblies this year will continue to grow. May God continue to encourage ecumenical representatives and create opportunities for us to meet with them.

Saturday July 29 - *ReFrame: Japan*

Lift up Yamato, who has been hospitalized for a year and listens to ReFrame’s audio program Asa no Kotoba (“Morning Word”) devotional message. Pray that he will feel surrounded by God’s peace and that he will receive healing, comfort, and a deepening connection with Christ.

Sunday July 30 - *World Renew: Disaster Response Services (DRS)*

When our volunteers first dispatch to locations devastated by natural disasters, they begin by learning about the local community, and at times they must challenge assumptions about the needs in an area. As our volunteers serve, they offer and receive Christ’s love in tangible ways. We thank God for these volunteers!