

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
August 13, 2023

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

*"I believe in God Almighty,
Father of all things that be,"*

Prelude

Welcome

- * Opening Hymn: LUYH #551 v. 1, 3, 4, 5
"All Creatures of Our God and King"

All Sing

1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice with us and sing:
alleluia, alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam,
and shining moon with silver gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Women Only

3. Cool flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear;
alleluia, alleluia!
Fierce fire, so masterful and bright,
providing us with warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Men Only

4. Earth ever fertile, day by day
bring forth your blessings on our way,
alleluia, alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
let them his glory also show:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All Sing

5. All you who are of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part;
alleluia, alleluia!
All you who pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on him cast your care:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Francis of Assisi; Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams. Public Domain; CCLI #678905

* Call to Worship

People of God, let us worship the living God today!
Remember that out of nothing
God created the heavens and earth.
Remember that God raised Jesus
from the powerlessness of death
to the power of his right hand.
Remember that not even the gates of hell
can stand against God's purposes.
Behold your God, who reigns now and forever!

* Song of Praise: "Behold Our God" v. 1-3

1. Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.

Chorus

*Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come let us adore Him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare,
come, let us adore Him!*

2. Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Chorus

3. Who has felt the nails upon His hand,
bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!

Chorus

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come let us adore Him.

*Behold our King, nothing can compare,
come, let us adore Him!*

Music & Words by Jonathan Baird / Meghan Baird / Ryan Baird / Stephen Altrogge; ©
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- * God's Greeting

- * We Greet Each Other

*"Maker of the earth, and heavens,
Keeper of the sky and sea."*

Announcements

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

- * We Confess Our Faith: (Nicene Creed)

Reader #1: We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.

Reader #2: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.

**People: For us and our salvation
he came down from heaven,
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the
virgin Mary, and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.**

* Hymn of Response: LUYH #17 v. 1-2 *“Beautiful Savior”*

1. Beautiful Savior! King of creation!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I’d love thee, truly I’d serve thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Reader #1: The third day he rose again,
according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**People: He will come again with glory
to judge both the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.**

* Hymn of Response: LUYH #17 v. 3-4 *“Beautiful Savior”*

3. Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.

Acapella

4. Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

Words: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1873, P.D;

Music: Schleissche Volkslieder, 1842, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

*(Following the singing of the last verse children ages 3-3rd grade
are excused for Children and Worship)*

*“I believe in God’s Son, Jesus,
now for us both Lord and Christ,”*

Scripture Readings: Romans 10:5-13, Ephesians 2:8-10,
Hebrews 12:1-2

Sermon Series Review

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Created to Worship: Professing our Faith –
Creeds and Confessions”***

Time of Prayer

*“Of the Spirit and of Mary
born to bring abundant life.*

* Hymn of Application: Sing! #175 v. 1-3

“I Believe in God Almighty”

1. I believe in God Almighty,
Father of all things that be,
Maker of the earth, and heavens,
Keeper of the sky and sea.
I believe in God’s Son, Jesus,
now for us both Lord and Christ,
of the Spirit and of Mary
born to bring abundant life.
2. I believe that Jesus suffered,
scourged and scorned and crucified,
taken from the cross, was buried-
True Life there had truly died.
I believe that on the third day
Christ was raised up from the grave,
then ascended to God’s right hand.
He will come to judge and save.
3. I believe in God’s own Spirit,
bonding all the saints within
one Church, catholic and holy,
where forgiveness frees from sin,
in the body’s resurrection,
for the breaking of death’s chain
gives the life that’s everlasting.
This the faith that I have claimed.

*“I Believe in God Almighty”; Text: Sylvia Dunstan (based on the
Apostles’ Creed); Music: Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en
Contradansen: Text: © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.
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* We Profess our Faith (Nicene Creed)

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* Benediction

* Doxology: 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,
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 CCLI# 678905

Postlude

In **1 Timothy 1:17** we read: "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever." We welcome everyone and invite all to join in offering honor and glory to God. Worshiping with hearts and hands and voices, we can each experience inspiration today. 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: 8/13	Next Week: 8/20
Sound:	Henry VZ	Mardick S.
Projection:	Tim H./ Emmalyn S.	Beth B.
Video:	Dick G.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

August 13, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Anjean Vander Veen is turning 95 on Mon., August 14. Hank and Anjean's 73th Anniversary is also on the 14th. They are so very thankful for God's blessings in their lives. They'd love a visit from church members (but please call first!). Thank you!

Time of Remembrance: On **Sunday, Sept. 10** the Vega and Kuipers family will be taking the time to remember and celebrate Adelaida Vega's life at the Heather Village clubhouse between **2:00-4:00 PM**. The event will be in an 'open house' style and congregational members are encouraged to stop by to comfort and encourage family members anytime during that timeframe. "Thank you" for your continued prayers for the family. A light lunch and refreshments will be served.

Jack and Trudy Van Klaaveren have a new address and cell phone numbers: 19817 Soundview Dr. NW, Stanwood, WA 98292. Jack's Cell: 425-870-1990; Trudy's Cell: 425-870-1991.

If you have any address or phone number changes, please let Beth know so she can update the new directory. Thank you!

We will be putting together a Nursery Schedule soon. If you are 5th grade and up and would like to volunteer in this capacity, please let Beth or Catherine VanderKooy know or sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you.

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

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:

August 6: <https://youtu.be/2dT45gmHKV8>

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”*

It’s that time of year again! Say CHEESE! If you would like your **church directory picture OR OTHER INFORMATION** 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!

Calendar:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts today: Jeremy & Shanna V, Greg & Beth B.

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, 8/20: Keith & Jean R.

Children in Worship:

Today: Heidi B., Franchesca B.

Next Week: Tim VH, Millie F.

Worship Team:

Today: Stan B., Julie, Adriana & Tessa S.

Next Week, 8/20: Eliot B., Heidi B.

Upcoming Dates to Note:

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

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Passionate about church ministry? Come work for The Network! - The CRCNA has an online community dedicated to helping ministry leaders from local congregations connect. We are looking for an Online Community and Content Manager to help us keep The Network (crcna.org/Network) running smoothly. This 15 hour/week position can be done remotely from anywhere across the United States or Canada, and will play a key role in connecting people with stories, conversations, and other content of interest. Learn more and apply at crcna.org/careers.

Family Fire - 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: God is Powerful - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. This week, as a family, talk about God's greatness and find strength in the assurance that the enemy is no match for our mighty God. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Summer Praise Scavenger Hunt.

Groundwork: Sex, Food, And Faith-Informed Choices. - Should your faith impact the choices you make in life? Only the big ones or the everyday ones too? Join Groundwork as we study 1 Corinthians 7-8 to hear the Apostle Paul's guidance for how faith influences our decisions - even the ones we make about sex and food. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



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.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please pray for the **Vega and Kuipers** families as they mourn the loss of Michelle's mother **Adelaida** this week. Please pray for God's comfort and peace in the midst of their grief.

Please keep **Juli Oostra** and her family in your prayers that her platelet levels will continue to rise so that Juli can get back to good energy levels.

Continue to pray for the **Rouw family** as they mourn the loss of Rinie.

Please keep **Judy Velasquez** in your prayers as she will have a heart clip procedure done on August 16, at Swedish Hospital in Seattle.

Please continue to pray for **Grace Feddema** and **Trudy Van Dyke**.

Please continue to pray for **Marilyn Cooke** and her family members.

Please pray for **Greg Boon's mother, Yvonne Boon**, who is recovering from her stem cell transplant. Pray that her body will accept the new cells in the next week. Please also pray for Greg's Dad, Dave, as his health is also a concern.

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 August 7 - *ReFrame: Anxiety*

Pray for people affected by anxiety. A woman named Tara who uses our daily devotions recently shared with ReFrame's prayer team, "I have recently started having bad anxiety attacks that can last for days. It's affecting my whole life and my health. Please pray that I can find a way to stop these without taking medication."

Tuesday August 8 - *Resonate: Ontario*

Pray for a student at the University of Toronto. Campus ministers share that this student has been joining with their community but no longer believes in God. Ask the Holy Spirit to work in this student to draw him back into a relationship with Christ.

Wednesday August 9 - *World Renew: Asia*

In our Asia ministry team we participate in livelihood development, maternal and child health, food security, and much more. Many people in local communities are struggling to feed their families on day wages, running low on resources as they host refugees, and losing land because of rising sea levels. Praise God and continue to pray for the many program participants who are finding greater opportunities to succeed.

Thursday August 10 - *ReFrame: Today devotions*

Pray for Valerie, a Today reader recovering from alcohol addiction.

May these words from the August 10 devotional reading help to guide her: "God, help me to see the power of the resurrection. Open my eyes and heart to the new things you are doing in and through and around me. Amen."

Friday August 11 - *Thrive: Disabilities Inclusion: Partnership*

We thank God for bringing Rev. Jeremy Simpson to work with Disability Concerns in the RCA. We thank God for the deep partnership between the CRC and RCA disability ministries, and we ask God for guidance and wisdom as we adjust to many changes with Thrive, staffing, and how our partnership works.

Saturday August 12 - *Resonate:TLT partnerships*

Praise God for networking and mobilizing partners with Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) to equip church leaders in new regions. For instance, Andrew from Nigeria is training in Cameroon, and Elmer from Peru is working in Mexico. Pray for wisdom, energy, and effectiveness in potential new initiatives.

Sunday August 13 - *Thrive: Diversity: Diversity Sunday*

Dear Lord, we lift up efforts to create hospitable experiences for diaspora and ethnic leaders in our classis meetings. Hospitality leaders are working to create spaces of belonging where all of God's people feel welcomed, seen, and heard. We ask also that your people may give generously today as the Christian Reformed Church continues to support the "growing edge" of our denomination. Amen.