

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
August 20, 2023

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

"We receive your blessing; we receive your grace,

Prelude

Welcome

*** Opening Gathering Song: LUYH #532 v. 1-3**

"Be Still, for the Presence"

1. Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.
In him no sin is found; we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.
2. Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.
He burns with holy fire; with splendor he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.
3. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him; in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Words and Music: David Evans (b.1957) ©1986, Kingsway's Thankyou Music,
admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing; CCLI# 678905

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: As we are called into worship today,
it is sobering to remember
that when God appeared on earth
in the person of Jesus,
most of the world did not recognize him
and therefore did not worship him.

Today we ask for the faith that will open our eyes
to see Jesus for who he is,
that we might worship him in truth.
People of God, behold and see your God!

**People: We open our eyes to see his glory.
We open our ears to hear his wisdom.
We open our hands to offer him gifts.
We open our mouths to sing his praise.
We open our hearts to offer him our love.
He is Lord!**

* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #560 v. 1-3 *"We Praise You, O God"*

1. We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.
2. We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you never forsake us.
And with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.
3. With voices united our praises we offer;
our songs of thanksgiving to you we now raise.
Your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us.
To you, our great Redeemer, fore'er be praise!
Words: Julia C. Cory, 1902, alt., P.D.; Music: a. Valerius, Nederlandsch
Gedenckclandk, 1626, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

* Prayer of Adoration

* Hymn of Response: Sing! #16 *"I Love You, Lord"*

I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice
to worship You; O my soul rejoice!
Take joy, my King, in what you hear;
may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

"I Love You, Lord" Text & Music: Laurie Klein (.1950), ©1978, House of Mercy, admin.
Maranatha! Music CCLI# 678905

* God's Greeting

* We Greet Each Other

"As we walk in the light shining for your face."

Announcements

Youth Group Service Project Report and Slide Show – Youth Group

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offering

Offertory Video: *"Blessing and Curse"* - The Bible Project

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #762 v. 1-2 *"Ancient Words"*

1. Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
they resound with God's own heart,
O let the ancient words impart.
Words of life, words of hope,
give us strength, help us cope.
In this world where'er we roam
ancient words will guide us home.
2. Holy words of our faith
handed down to this age
came to us through sacrifice.
O heed the faithful words of Christ.
Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
they resound with God's own heart.
O let the ancient words impart.

Refrain

Ancient words, ever true,
changing me and changing you.
We have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words impart.

*Words: Lynn DeShazo © 2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, (ASCAP), admin.
EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI #678905*

*"May the peace that you give
change the way that you live."*

Scripture Reading: Number 6:22-27

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Created to Worship - Benediction"***

Time of Prayer

"We receive your blessing as we leave this place."

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #934 v. 1-3

"God of Mercy, God of Grace"

1. God of mercy, God of grace,
show the brightness of your face.
Shine upon us, Savior, shine;
fill your world with light divine;
all your saving health extend
unto earth's remotest end.
2. Let the people praise you, Lord;
be by all that live adored.
Let the nations shout and sing
glory to their gracious King;
at your feet their tribute pay,
and your holy will obey.
3. Let the people praise you, Lord;
earth shall then its fruits afford.
Unto us your blessing give;
we to you devoted live,
all below and all above,
one in joy and light and love.

Words: Henry F. Lyte, 1834, alt., P.D.

* We Profess our Faith (Apostles Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.**

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I 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 #947 *"We Receive Your Blessing"*

1. We receive Your blessing; we receive Your grace,
as we walk in the light shining from Your face.
May the peace that You give change the way that we live.
We receive Your blessing as we leave this place.
2. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, you heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and praise the Holy Ghost.

Repeat Song

We receive your blessing as we leave this place.

Words & Music: Grace Moes & Natasha Moes
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Postlude

Welcome! The psalmist prayed: "Restore us, O Lord God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved" (Psalm 80:19). May all who have come to worship find restoration, inner peace and spiritual strength. 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: 8/20	Next Week: 8/27
Sound:	Mardick S.	Mardy S.
Projection:	Beth B.	Maddie D.
Video:	Tim H.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements August 23, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

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.

Hymnbooks: We currently have about 100 blue Psalter Hymnals and 100 red Power and Praise songbooks simply collecting dust in one of our storage rooms. For the purpose of creating more space the council has decided to keep 5 of each and to offer the rest to those who might be able to put them to better use. So if you are interested, congregational members who would like to have one for personal use are welcome to take any from the table in the Fellowship Hall over the course of the next few weeks. In addition, if you are aware of any other potential 'good home' for these songbooks - please let Beth, Rich, or Pastor John know as soon as possible. Thank you!

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 THIS WEEK SO THAT SHE CAN GET ANY CHANGES INTO THE NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY!

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.

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 13: <https://youtu.be/WOlaDmyD3rc>

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: Keith & Jean R.

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, 8/27:

Terri & Joni B., Kevin & Glenda K.

Children in Worship:

Today: Tim VH, Millie F.

Next Week: Angela S., Emmalyn S.

Worship Team:

Today: Eliot B., Heidi B.

Next Week, 8/27: Kevin & Glenda K., Adriana & Tessa S.

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Sunday, Sept 10, 2-4pm: Time of remembrance for Adelaida Vega
(Heather Village Commons)

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

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

Last Minute Announcement: Volunteers

Needed! The annual Back to School Blessing event is taking place after all this coming **Saturday, August 19th, at Skagit Valley College**. The purpose is to provide kids with backpacks and the kids and their families with other needed services. Volunteers are needed the morning of Saturday, August 19th from around 8:15 am to 12:30 pm. Hours are a bit flexible as the event runs from 9 am to 12 noon. **If interested in volunteering - please contact Aaron Formell at 805-704-4636.**



Love INC Financial Mentoring Classes: If you (or you and your spouse) would like to dig a little deeper into what the Bible says about smart household money management; AND if you would like to confidentially discuss your situation with a financial mentor who can help you put together a budget and plan for getting out of debt, then call the Love INC office as soon as possible (360 419-7061). Classes begin Wednesday, September 20– March 2024, and will be held at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Mount Vernon. NOW is the time to get organized and begin to turn things around.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Kids Corner: Encouragement: Hold Me Up! - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Who are the friends who help and encourage you? Lord, help us to encourage our family and friends when they need us. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Kids in Action video "Bookmarks for Peace"

Groundwork: Understanding Christian Freedom. - What happens when our personal freedom is in direct conflict with someone else's personal freedom? Join our Groundwork conversation as we study 1 Corinthians 9-10 to discover why Paul does not equate personal freedom with Christian freedom and why remembering the second Greatest Commandment helps us embrace our Christian freedom more fully. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Heading to University or College? - Moving to campus this fall? We'd love to help you get connected to a campus ministry community! There are over 35 CRC ministries on university and college campuses across North America, gathering students, faculty, and staff to grow together in faith as they engage God's world. To find out if there's a CRC ministry at your campus, please check resonateglobalmission.org/campus-ministry/partner-campus-ministries. If there isn't a Christian Reformed ministry at your school, you can locate a nearby CRC here: crcna.org/church-finder. For more information about our ministries, or other info about how to grow in faith while you're on campus, please contact us at campusministry@crcna.org

Prayer Request for Hawaii Wildfires - World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) requests prayers for those affected by wildfires on Maui, Hawaii. The fires were fueled by wind from Hurricane Dora, which

passed south of the islands, and persistent dry conditions across the area. Pray for God's presence to be known among those who have lost homes and loved ones. Pray for those who are injured and for medical personnel on the islands. Please pray for safety for emergency crews and search and rescue teams. You can find out more about World Renew's work at worldrenew.net



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.

Please keep **Judy Velasquez** in your prayers. The doctors were very pleased with how her heart procedure went. She will be spending the night in the hospital, but she should be able to return home soon. We give thanks to God for answered prayers!

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

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

Update on Greg Boon's Mom, **Yvonne**: The cells have grafted! PTL! Her numbers all look good and she is feeling much better this week. Please pray she can avoid Graft Vs. Host rejection and can make a full recovery. Please pray for patience while they are restricted from seeing a lot of people in the next few months.

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 14 - *Thrive: Safe Church: New season*

Please pray for Safe Church coordinators and teams as they help CRC congregations prepare for a new season of ministry programs and opportunities. May God bless our efforts to foster welcoming and respectful communities that resist abuse so that all who participate in our ministries are free to worship God and grow in faith.

Tuesday August 15 - *World Renew: International relief managers*

Praise God for these willing servants who have made great sacrifices to be able to serve our global neighbors! World Renew's international relief managers are trained and highly experienced volunteers who support our international disaster-response work. They are part of a roster of volunteers available to go, on short notice, to manage and implement international projects in response to natural disasters and conflict.

Wednesday August 16 - *Resonate: Michigan*

"We were blessed to have eight new believers baptized! We praise God for what he is doing in our community. It is a blessing to see people moving from darkness to the light of Christ," shared a Resonate church planter in Michigan.

Thursday August 17 - *Thrive: Chaplains: Veterans*

Chaplains serve patients in Veterans Administration hospitals who not only have physical injuries but also may have cognitive, emotional, spiritual, and psychological injuries. Pray for our chaplains as they provide pastoral care, and pray that our local churches may find ways to enfold veterans into their communities.

Friday August 18 - *Indigenous Family Centre: Provision*

Give thanks to God, who provides a safe place for community members to gather, bead, talk, eat, create art, and pray; and a place for staff and volunteers to work in every day. Please pray for continued support and for the health and well-being of all who come to the Indigenous Family Centre.

Saturday August 19 - *Resonate: Ontario*

“Pray that we live out our mission effectively every day to be an incredible community where people experience Jesus and his transformation,” ask campus ministers and student leaders at Momentum Campus Ministries, a Resonate partner in Ontario.