

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
August 27, 2023

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

*"He left his Father's throne above
- so free, so infinite his grace"*

Prelude

Welcome

* Opening Hymn: LUYH #538 v. 1-4

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

1. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
who wert and art and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye made blind by sin Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.
4. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name,
in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Words: Reginald Heber; Music: John B. Dykes;

Descant: David McK. Williams; Public Domain; CCLI# 678905

* Call to Worship:

Leader: O magnify the Lord with me.

People: Let us exalt God's name together!

Leader: We will give thanks to you, O Lord,
with our whole heart;
we will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

**People: We will be glad and exult in you;
we will sing praise to your name, O Most High.**

- Based on Psalm 34:3; 9:1-2

* Song of Praise: LUYH #548 v. 1-2, 5-6

"My God, How Wonderful You Are"

1. My God, how wonderful you are;
your majesty, how bright!
How beautiful your mercy seat
in depths of burning light!
2. How wonderful, how beautiful
the sight of you must be,
your endless wisdom, boundless power,
and awesome purity!
5. No earthly father loves like you,
no mother half so mild
bears and forbears as you have done
with me, your sinful child.
6. Father of Jesus, Love divine,
great King upon your throne,
what joy to see you as you are
and worship you alone!

Words: Frederick W. Faber, 1849, alt., P.D.; Music: Thomas Turton, 1860, P.D.

* God's Greeting

* We Greet Each Other

*"Emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race!"*

Announcements

Call to Confession: Romans 3:10-12, 23-24

There is no one righteous, not even one;
there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.

¹² All have turned away,
they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even one.”

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace
through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God,
and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Sung Response: *“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”* v. 1-3

1. How deep the Father’s love for us,
how vast beyond all measure
that He should give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss.
The Father turns His face away
as wounds which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.

2. Behold the Man upon a cross,
my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life.
I know that it is finished.
3. I will not boast in anything:
no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Words and Music by Stuart Townend, ©1995 Kingsway's Thankyou Music,
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God's Will for our Lives: Based on the Ten Commandments

Pastor: You shall have no other gods before me.

***Reader: For from him and through him and to him
are all things. To him be the glory forever!***

Pastor: You shall not make for yourself an idol.

***Reader: In Christ we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation.***

Pastor: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God,
for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless
who misuses his name.

***Reader: Let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—
the fruit of lips that confess his name.***

Pastor: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.

***Reader: Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach
and admonish one another with all wisdom,
and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.***

Pastor: Honor your father and your mother,
so that you may live long
in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

**Reader: *Children, obey your parents in everything,
for this pleases the Lord.***

Pastor: You shall not murder.

**Reader: *Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ
God forgave you.***

Pastor: You shall not commit adultery.

**Reader: *You are not your own; you were bought at a price.
Therefore honor God with your body.***

Pastor: You shall not steal.

**Reader: *Those who have been stealing must steal no longer,
but must work, doing something useful
with their hands, so that they may have something
to share with those in need.***

Pastor: You shall not give false testimony
against your neighbor.

**Reader: *Instead, speaking the truth in love,
we will in all things grow up into him
who is the Head, that is, Christ.***

Pastor: You shall not covet your neighbor's house
or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**Reader: *I have learned to be content
whatever the circumstances.***

Pastor: People of God, this is God's will for our lives!

**All: "May the Spirit of God guide us to be obedient
to His Word!"**

Offering

Offertory: "The Image of God" – The Bible Project

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

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #754 v. 1,3,5

“Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak”

1. Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone.
As you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children, lost and lone.
3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.
5. O use me, Lord, use even me,
just as you will, and when, and where
until your blessed face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal; Music: Robert Alexander Schumann
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“What mercy this, immense and free,”

Scripture Reading: Psalm 8, Psalm 14, and Ephesians 2:1-10

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“TULIP FAITH – Human Nature and our Fallen Humanity”***

Time of Prayer

“For, O My God, it found out me!”

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #695 *“And Can It Be”* v. 1-4

1. And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Savior’s blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain—
for me, who caused his bitter death?
Amazing love! How can it be
that you, my Lord, should die for me?

Refrain

*Amazing love! How can it be
that you, my Lord, should die for me?*

2. He left his Father's throne above—
so free, so infinite his grace—
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race!
What mercy this, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me!

Refrain

*Amazing love! How can it be
that you, my Lord, should die for me?*

3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Your sunrise turned that night to day;
I woke—the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, your voice I knew;
I rose, went out, and followed you.

Refrain

4. No condemnation now I dread,
for Christ, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Refrain

Words: Charles Wesley, 1738, alt, Public Domain

Music: Thomas Campbell, 1825, Public Domain

* We Profess our Faith: (Our World Belongs to God, st. 15,18,24,28)

Leader: Apart from grace we prove each day
that we are guilty sinners.
Fallen in that first sin, we fail to thank God,
we break his laws, we ignore our tasks.
Looking for life without God, we find only death;
grasping for freedom outside his law,
we trap ourselves in Satan's snares;
pursuing pleasure, we lose the gift of joy.

**People: In all our strivings to excuse or save ourselves,
we stand condemned before the God of truth.
But our world, broken and scarred,
still belongs to God.
He holds it together and gives us hope.**

Leader: God remembered his promise to reconcile the world
to himself;
he has come among us in Jesus Christ,
the eternal Word made flesh.

**People: He is the long-awaited Savior,
fully human and fully divine,
conceived by the Spirit of God and born
of the virgin Mary.**

Leader: Being both God and man, Jesus is the only Mediator
between God and his people.

**People: He alone paid the debt of our sin;
there is no other Savior!**

Leader: In him the Father chose those whom he would save.
His electing love sustains our hope:

**People: God's grace is free to save sinners
who offer nothing but their need for mercy.**

* Benediction

* Parting Praise: 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

Welcome! The prophet Isaiah proclaimed: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). We welcome all who are present today and invite everyone to drink of Christ's "living water," which can quench our spiritual thirstiness forever. 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: 8/27	Next Week: 9/3
Sound:	Mardy S.	Henry H.
Projection:	Maddie D.	Isaac D.
Video:	Tim H.	Dick G.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

August 23, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Grace Feddema has a new address:

Creekside Retirement Center
Room #530
400 Gilkey Road
Burlington, WA 98233

Worship Service Volunteers! The current worship service volunteer schedule runs through the end of October. However, near the end of September a new schedule will be made for the months of Nov., 2023-April, 2024. We are always on the lookout to include new volunteers for singing, scripture readers, sound, projection, and video! If interested, please contact Beth by Sunday, Sept. 24. If you would like to be removed from the list this would be the time to reach out to her as well. Thank you!

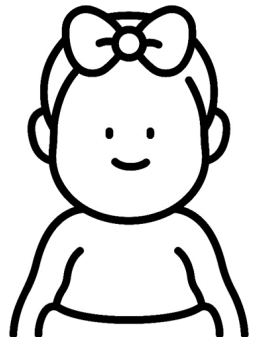
thank
you

For all your prayers, beautiful cards, words of encouragement and kindness, and phone calls, thank you so much! It was greatly appreciated. I'm so thankful that my heart valve is fixed and I am on the road to full recovery. So thankful to God's presence with me through it all!

- Judy Velasquez

Needed: ADULT Nursery volunteers

Thank you, kiddos, for signing up in droves (small droves, but still in droves, nonetheless). Now we need some ADULTS to sign up to volunteer to pair with the kids on Sunday mornings. So if you are up for some totally free snuggles, please sign up on the sheet by the coffee urns after church today.



Hymnbooks: We currently have about 100 blue Psalter Hymnals and 100 red Power and Praise songbooks for the taking in the Fellowship Hall.



**Happy 96th
Birthday to
Marcella
DeVries on
August 30th!**

Education Ministry Need:

The Sunday School year is fast approaching and plans are being made. First CRC has a legacy of children's education ministry and we want to keep it going. Teaching the truths of scripture to our youth is one of the most important ways that we respond to God's call. We have many opportunities to serve. We have Sunday School classes for all ages on Sunday morning. We also have our Children in Worship ministry every Sunday for kids 3-3rd grade. We have been blessed with faithful teachers for many years, but we can always use new people to help carry the load. There is no training needed, we have the materials and the kids. All that is required is a desire to share the Bible with our kids. Please reach out to Pastor John, Tim Van Hofwegen, Eliot Blom, or Beth with any questions or to indicate your willingness to get plugged in.

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 20: <https://youtu.be/qINFuKiqxGs>

Dear Friends,

The acrostic T.U.L.I.P. is often used to describe the five main points of Calvinism - Total Depravity, Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Irresistible Grace, Perseverance of the Saints. The 'history' of this acrostic arose out of the political and theological turmoil taking place in the Netherlands in the 17th century. In fact, one of our confessions – The Canons of Dordt – was specifically written as a result of this turmoil.

Yet, for those who encounter it for the first time the Canons can be a little confusing and perplexing. Thus, in recent decades, many Reformed theologians have been using F.A.I.T.H. as a summary acrostic instead. In a nod to both the historical and the more recent acrostics – I'll use both as we make our way through each of these five main points of Reformed theology.

The following is a tentative schedule of our study. May God bless us as we make our way through these treasured doctrines together. In His Grace, - Pastor John

1. August 27 – TULIP Faith: Human Nature and our Fallen Humanity
2. September 10 – TULIP Faith: Adopted by God
3. September 17 – TULIP Faith: Intentional Atonement
4. September 24 – TULIP Faith: Transformed by the Holy Spirit
5. October 1 – TULIP Faith: Held by God

Calendar:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts today: Terri & Joni B., Kevin & Glenda K.

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, 9/3:

Eliot & Sue B., Greg & Beth B.

Children in Worship:

Today: Angela S., Emmalyn S.

Next Week: Angela S., Isaac D.

Worship Team:

Today: Kevin & Glenda K.

Next Week, 9/3: Emmalyn S., Franchesca B.

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

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

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: Encouragement: Bless Others - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. What does "blessing others" look like? We can bless others with our words, our actions, and our attitude. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Kids in Action video "Bookmarks for Peace"

Groundwork: Love: The Guiding Principle For Christian Living. - The struggle for unity is not unique to the modern church. The Apostle Paul encouraged the Corinthian Christians to make Christ-like love their guiding principle and he taught them about spiritual gifts. Join Groundwork as we study 1 Corinthians 11-13 for guidance as we too seek to worship and live well together in community. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Pray for People Impacted by Wildfires in Canada - In the last two weeks, wildfires have forced more than 50,000 people from their homes in Kelowna, British Columbia; Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (NWT); and the First Nations communities of N'Dilo and Dettah. World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) is currently monitoring the situation and response. Please pray for people affected by wildfires in Canada this year: pray for safety for families evacuating danger zones; pray for those who have been injured. Pray too for military personnel and emergency crews; pray for wisdom and swift action among authorities and leaders. To help World Renew respond to disasters like this, please go to worldrenew.net to support World Renew DRS programs.



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**. Please pray for God's comfort and peace.

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.

Judy Velasquez is home and doing well after her heart surgery!

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 received the wonderful news that the stem cells have grafted! She hopes to be out of the hospital and into the Peter Gross cancer apartments soon. Pray that she can start eating more so she can get her feeding tube removed to get to the next step.

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*; **Grace Feddema** and **Sally Reehoorn** at Creekside in Burlington; **Bev Van Slageren** with family in Grandview, WA.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

Monday August 21 - *Climate Witness Project: Creation care*

Forest fires and heat waves continue to affect large parts of Canada and the U.S. Pray for policies that can protect the most vulnerable people from impacts of climate change. Pray that churches may heed the biblical call to stewardship and look for creative solutions.

Tuesday August 22 - *ReFrame: Burkina Faso*

A man named Bazie recently visited our partners in Burkina Faso and shared, "My soul was longing for God, but I did not know what to do; your messages on the radio enlightened me, so I decided to give myself." Praise God! Pray for our partners as they disciple radio listeners like Bazie.

Wednesday August 23 - *Cadets: New season*

The theme of our upcoming Cadet season, based on Ephesians 3:17-18, is "Rooted and Grounded." We pray that this theme will remind cadets and counselors of the breadth and depth of Christ's love. We pray that the boys and men of Cadets will reflect that love as they live for Jesus.

Thursday August 24 - *Resonate: Ukraine*

Please continue to pray for an end to the conflict in Ukraine. Pray for Resonate missionaries ministering with families and students from Ukraine and other war-torn countries. Ask God for peace.

Friday August 25 - *World Renew: East Africa*

Drought and flooding have hit East Africa in recent months, causing many failed crops and increasingly unreliable access to food. In addition, the conflict in South Sudan has caused 2.2 million people to flee to neighboring countries like Kenya and Uganda, where resources

are limited. World Renew is supplying emergency relief through partners across the region. Pray for God's peace and provision in this heartbreaking situation.

Saturday August 26 - ReFrame: India

Praise God for the testimony of a young couple in India. Although they used to run an illegal business, they recently began attending a church pastored by one of ReFrame's partners. They have also quit their old jobs and have opened a grocery store in their community. Pray that this couple will continue to grow in faith.

Sunday August 27 - Resonate: Haiti

Pray for peace in Haiti. The country continues to face many challenges including gang violence, kidnappings, and recovery from natural disasters. Ask God to protect and provide for Resonate ministry partners and everyone who is in need of food, security, clean water, and more.