

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
October 22, 2023
Pastor Brad Diekema

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

“Lord, I need you, O, I need you”

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

*** Call to Worship**

Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #532 v. 1-3 *“Be Still, for the Presence”

Soloist

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.

Worship Team

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.

All

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

*** God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other**

* Song of Praise: LUYH #574 v. 1-2

"How Great is Our God/How Great Thou Art"

1. The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;
let all the earth rejoice, let all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
and trembles at his voice, and trembles at his voice.

Refrain

How great is our God!

Sing with me: how great is our God!

And all will see how great,

how great is our God!

2. From age to age he stands, and time is in his hands;
beginning and the end, beginning and the end.
The godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
the lion and the lamb, the lion and the lamb.

Refrain

Bridge (2X)

Name above all names, worthy of all praise;
my heart will sing, how great is our God!

Refrain

3. Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!

Refrain (Acapella)

How great is our God!

Sing with me: how great is our God!

And all will see how great,

how great is our God!

Words and Music: Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves and Ed Cash © 2004
worshiptogether.com songs/SixSteps Music (ASCAP), admin. EMI CMG Publishing/
Alletrop Music (BMI); CCLI# 678905

"Ev'ry hour I need you"

Prayer of Confession

* Sung Call to Confession: "Lord I Need You" vs.

Lord, I come, I confess.
Bowing here, I find my rest.
And without You, I fall apart.
You're the one that guides my heart.

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You.
Ev'ry hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh, God, how I need You.*

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are.
And where You are, Lord, I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me.
Where You are, Lord I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me.

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You.
Ev'ry hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh, God, how I need You.*

So teach my song to rise to You
when temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You.
Jesus, You're my hope and stay.
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay.
Lord, I come, I confess.
Bowing here, I find my rest.
And without You, I fall apart.
You're the one that guides my heart.

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You.
Ev'ry hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh, God, how I need You.*

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Where grace is found is where You are.
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Holiness is Christ in me.
Where You are, Lord I am free.
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Ev'ry hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh, God, how I need You.*

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You.
Ev'ry hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh, God, how I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh, God, how I need You.*

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The Assurance of God's Pardon

Therefore we rightly say with Paul that we know nothing
"except Jesus Christ and him crucified";⁵¹
we "regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value
of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord."⁵²

We find all comforts in his wounds and have no need
to seek or invent any other means to reconcile ourselves
with God than this one and only sacrifice, once made,
which renders believers perfect forever.

Section of Belgic Confession Article 21

*Song of Assurance: "This My Only Comfort"

1. This, my only comfort in my life and in my death:
You have fully paid for all my sins and all my debts
even when I struggle to believe:
with your precious blood you've set me free.

Chorus

*I am not my own but belong body and soul,
in my life and in death to you Lord, Christ my Lord.*

2. You preserve my life in such a way that without you not a hair can fall from me unless you will it to even when I'm lost in desperation all things work together for my salvation.

Chorus

Heidelberg Catechism

Q 1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

- A. That I am not my own,¹ but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—² to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.³ He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,⁴ and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.⁵ He also watches over me in such a way⁶ that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven;⁷ in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.⁸ Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life⁹ and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.¹⁰

¹ 1 Cor. 6:19-20; ² Rom. 14:7-9; ³ 1 Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:14; ⁴ 1 Pet. 1:18-19;

¹ John 1:7-9; 2:2; ⁵ John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:1-11;

⁶ John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:5; ⁷ Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18;

⁸ Rom. 8:28; ⁹ Rom. 8:15-16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14; ¹⁰ Rom. 8:1-17

3. Therefore by your Holy Spirit you assure me of eternal life and make me willing and ready even when I can't see my way through from now on to always live for you.

Chorus (2x)

*I am not my own but belong body and soul,
in my life and in death to you Lord, Christ my Lord.*

Music and Lyrics by Jeremy Zeyl & Brian VanArnhem © Jasper Music. Text adapted from Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1; CCLI #678905

*(During the singing of the last verse the children are invited forward
for the Children's Message)*

Children's Message – Mrs. Marjo Rouw

*(Following the Children's Message children ages 3- 3rd grade are dismissed
for Children's Worship)*

Offering/Offertory: General Fund

* Song of Preparation: Purple Praise #110

“Change My Heart Oh God”

Change my heart, O God,
Make it ever true;
Change my heart O God,
May I be like You.

You are the Potter,
I am the clay;
Mold me and make me,
This is what I pray.

Change my heart, oh God,
Make it ever true;
Change my heart, oh God,
May I be like You.

“Change My Heart, O God” Text and Music: Eddie Espinosa (b. 1953), ©1982 Mercy/
Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services CCLI# 678905

“My one defense, my righteousness”

Scripture Readings: 1 John 2:3-11

Prayer of Illumination

Message: “A Profound Obedience”

Time of Prayer

“O, God, how I need you”

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #770 vs 1-3 “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.

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #770 "In Christ Alone" vs 4

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, Copyright © 2002 Thankyou Music; All rights reserved. Used by permission.CCLI# 678905

Postlude

Welcome! We cordially welcome all who worship with us today. With joyful hearts let us approach God and share kindness toward one another. 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: 10/22	Reformation Svc. 10/28:	Next Week: 10/29
Sound:	Henry VZ	Tim H.	Mardick S.
Projection:	Tim H.	Beth B.	Maddie D.
Video:	Emmalyn S.	Dick G.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

October 22, 2023

The deadline for announcements is Thursday, 9AM.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Choir: Join us for choir after today's service!

If you are interested and able to bring cookies to serve after the Reformation Day service, please let Beth know. Thank you! **If you are planning to attend the Reformation Day Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 28 at 4pm, there is a sign-up sheet** by the coffee so that we can give Heather VH a good idea of how much food to prepare. Thank you.

If you signed up to volunteer for the Nursery, please check your mailbox for the new schedule that goes through January.

Every summer we enjoy the beautiful flowerbeds along the front and sides of our church which Clarence and Eleanor Klunder so lovingly plant and care for. We heartily thank them for their many years of providing this loveliness for us. Now they would like to pass on this task to someone else who loves flowers and wants to add beauty to our church. Anyone desiring to do this task starting next spring, please contact Dave Visser or a member of the building committee.

Women's Bible Study: This year we will study the book *"The Gospel on the Ground"* which is about the grit and glory of the early church in Acts. We will meet on Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the council room on October 15, 29, November 12, 26. Books are in the mailboxes of those who signed up. If you still would like to join the group 1 extra book is available in the church office.

The First CRC Chili Cookoff and Pumpkin Carving Contest FUNDRAISER hosted by our own Youth will be **Friday evening, Oct. 27 from 6-8pm**. If you love to make chili, bring a pot to be judged by your fellow church family. If you just love to EAT chili, come and eat! For the pumpkin carving contest, we are hoping to have pumpkins available, but check with Beth or Julie Speck beforehand to be sure. Don't forget to bring your checkbook to support our church's youth group!

The New Church Directories are in your mailboxes! Our very own Pastor Brad has earned the distinction of finding the very first mistakes and has won the prize of going first in the chili line on Friday! (The Elder and Deacon districts are correct in the back of the directory and half-correct above the picture section.) Certainly there will be other mistakes to be found. To whomever finds the greatest amount will win the prize of being my assistant next year!

Come and bring your family and friends to the **Reformation Day Service at the First CRC of Mount Vernon on Saturday, October 28, at 6:00 PM.** Rev. Zach King will be proclaiming God's Word to us this year. Rev. King is currently serving as the General Secretary of the CRC. Coffee and refreshments will be served following the service and a nursery will be provided. In addition to the evening service, Rev. King will also be making a denominational ministry presentation at 2 PM that day. This will be followed by a time of Q&A and an early evening meal at 4 PM. For dinner preparation purposes we kindly ask that you rsvp to secretary@firstcrcmv.com no later than Wednesday, October 25. You don't need to rsvp if you are going to just attend the presentation or evening service.

There is a sign-up sheet for ingredients for our Christmas Blessing. We are planning to put together 350 cookie mixes to distribute to our neighbors. More details about date and time we'll be putting together the mixes will be forthcoming in the announcements.

Just a reminder that Adult Sunday School has started up again!

Worship Service YouTube Links:

October 15: <https://youtu.be/RC8R25H62t8>

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

Dear Friends,

The main purpose of John's letters to the early church is to lead those who already believe to a deeper understanding of faith and to greater assurance of salvation. In addition, John is also writing to combat the various false teachers and teachings that had infiltrated the church.

No doubt John's letters to the early church is just as relevant and applicable for the church today. Therefore, in the months to come, we

are going to spend some significant time studying this particular book of the Bible. The purpose of doing so is not only for deeper understanding of faith and greater assurance, but so that such faith will be evident through both obedience to God's commands and greater love for one another. ... May God bless us as we engage in this important study together.

In His Grace, Pastor John and Pastor Brad

Tentative Sermon Schedule (Texts & Titles to be added as we go):

1. October 8 (I John 1:1-4) – *“Introduction to I John and The Word of Life”*
2. October 15 (I John 1:5-2:2) – *“Walking in the Light”*
3. October 22 (I John 2:3-11) – *“A Profound Obedience”*
4. November 12 (I John 2:12-14) – *“Christian Assurance”*
5. Nov. 19 (I John 2:15-17) – *“Loving the World”*

Calendar:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts today: Wayne & Rhea D.,
John & Dena K.

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, Oct. 29: Spencer & Janelle D., Melba DK

Children in Worship:

Today: TBD

Next Week: TBD

Worship Team:

Today: Sheri L., Mandi D., Kiera L.

Next Week, Sat., Oct. 28, 6 pm: Men's Group

Oct. 29: Henry & Pam VZ, Sylvia VZ, Nellie VDH, Emmalyn S.

Nursery:

Nov. 5: Catherine & Noah VK

Nov. 12: Elly VB & Emmalyn S.

Today:

Choir practice after the service

This Week:

Wed., Oct. 25 7-9pm – Cadets

Friday, Oct. 27, 6pm: Chili Cookoff and Pumpkin Carving, hosted by the Youth Group

Saturday, Oct. 28 6pm: Reformation Day Service

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Sun., Oct 29, 6:30pm: Women's Bible Study

Oct. 31, 7:00am – Men's Bible Study at Shari's

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) is having their Soup-er Fundraiser Benefit on Friday, November 3 at 6 pm at 1000 Fountain Street, Burlington. Please RSVP to CEF Skagit at 360-424-1014.

Family Promise is having a fundraiser "Night without a Bed" on October 21 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. This will be held at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. More information can be found on bulletin boards.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

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's Partnership Gives Us Hope - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. We know that God is "always ready to help in times of trouble" (Psalm 46:1). This week's devotion is all about how God is willing to help you. He can work with you to help you and others. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible story podcast "The Story of the Prophets."

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Keep track of God's good gifts using a format that works for you. Some ideas: keep a gratitude journal; express your thankfulness on paper strips placed inside a Gratitude Jar; write or draw things for which you are grateful on a paper tablecloth during mealtimes. Save your lists and drawings and revisit them when you need a reminder of God's provision. Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject



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:

Jill Klunder's surgery has been rescheduled and will now take place on December 15.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please pray for the family of **Trudy Van Dyke**, who passed away last week. The Memorial Service is scheduled for October 24, at 10 AM, here at First CRC.

Please continue to pray for those members who have lost loved ones recently.

Pray for continued healing for **Margaret VanderPol** strives to get her strength back with physical therapy.

Please keep **Juli Oostra** in your prayers for stable platelet levels.

Continue to pray for **Maxine Greidanus** while she continues fighting cancer.

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; **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 October 16 - *ReFrame: Burkina Faso*

Our partners in West Africa ask for prayers for young people who are dependent on or addicted to social media. Pray for youth volunteers with these ministry partners as they promote responsible use of social media, organize alternative offline activities, and raise awareness of the signs of social media addiction.

Tuesday October 17 - *World Renew: Bangladesh*

Though news stories have subsided, the Rohingya refugee crisis continues. More than 960,000 refugees—of whom more than half are children—are navigating challenges of extreme weather, deadly clashes between rival groups operating in refugee camps, and a worsening hunger crisis. Pray for God's peace, protection, and provision for these vulnerable people.

Wednesday October 18 - *Resonate: Michigan*

"Please pray for our incoming cohort of young adult volunteers as they face the pressures of busy schedules and daily stressors," asks Nathan Groenewold, who leads Cohort Detroit. Ask God to work in and through these cohort fellows.

Thursday October 19 - *Indigenous Christian Fellowship: Healing*

Indigenous Christian Fellowship is developing a ceremonial garden to provide a sacred space for people to experience healing and forgiveness through ceremonies. Pray that the Creator's Spirit will be present to help facilitators and participants in ceremonies to experience the healing love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

Friday October 20 - *ReFrame: Japan*

A radio listener in Japan recently shared that they attempted suicide earlier this year. Since then, they've gotten help from doctors and from their faith community. Pray that this listener will find joy in their life and get the help they need.

Saturday October 21 - *Resonate: Sudan*

Resonate missionaries in the Middle East ask for prayer for an end to the war in Sudan. Pray for God's comfort for all who are grieving, for God's providence for all who are in need, and for God's peace to reign.

Sunday October 22 - *Thrive: Faith Formation: New school year*

Please pray for children and parents as they face the new schedules, challenges, emotions, and more that come with a return to the school year. Pray especially for opportunities for faith-engaged conversations when parents and their children are together.