

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

November 12, 2023

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

* Please stand if you are able.

“Jesus, name above all names”

Prelude

Welcome

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #601 v. 1-4

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

1. All hail the power of Jesus’ name!
Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!
2. O seed of Israel’s chosen race
now ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all!
3. Let every tongue and every tribe
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all!
4. Oh, that with all the sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.
We’ll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all!

Words: st. 1-3 Edward Perronet, 1780, alt., st. 4 John Rippon, 1787, alt., P.D.;

Music: Oliver Holden, 1793, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

* Call to Worship

Leader: Let us worship God.

**People: "He is our refuge and our fortress,
our God, in whom we trust."**

Leader: Let us confess with our mouths, "Jesus is Lord,"
and believe in our hearts that God raised him
from the dead.

**People: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved."**

Leader: Let us call upon our true God,
believing him in our hearts,
confessing him with our mouths,
worshiping him in spirit and in truth.
—based on Psalm 91:2; Romans 10:9, 13

* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #676 v. 1-3

"Oh, How I Love Jesus"

1. There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear,
the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain

*Oh, how I love Jesus! Oh, how I love Jesus!
Oh, how I love Jesus, because he first loved me.*

2. It tells me of a Savior's love,
who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood,
the sinner's perfect plea.

Refrain

3. It tells of one whose loving heart
can feel my deepest woe;
who in each sorrow bears a part
that none can bear below.

Refrain

*Oh, how I love Jesus! Oh, how I love Jesus!
Oh, how I love Jesus, because he first loved me.*

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

"Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord."

Announcements

Ministry Report – World Renew

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Call to Confession:

The apostle John wrote:

My little children, I am writing these things to you
so that you may not sin.

But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous;

and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,

and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God.

—based on 1 John 2:1-2, NRSV 14

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance:

Leader: This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance:

People: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Leader: There is one God; there is one mediator
between God and humankind, Christ Jesus,

**People: who gave himself as a ransom for all,
to whom we testify.**

Leader: Great indeed is the mystery of our religion:

**People: He was revealed in flesh,
vindicated in spirit, seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed in throughout the world,
taken up in glory.**

—based on 1 Timothy 1:15; 2:5-6; 3:16, NRSV

* Hymn of Response: LYUH #453 v. 1-5

"How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.
2. It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.
3. O Jesus, Shepherd, Guardian, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.
4. How weak the effort of my heart,
how cold my warmest thought;
but when I see you as you are,
I'll praise you as I ought.
5. Till then I would your love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of your name
refresh my soul in death.

Words: John Newton, 1779, P.D. CCLI #67809

Offering

Offertory Video: Friday Night Feasts at Church on the Ave

*(Immediately following the offering children ages 3 – 3rd grade
are invited to attend Children and Worship)*

* Song of Preparation: *"Jesus, Name Above All Names"* 2x

Jesus, name above all names:
Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word. (repeat song)

"Jesus, Name Above All Names" Naida Hearn, © 1974, 1978 Scripture in Song. Admin.
by Maranatha! Music CCLI# 678905

"Emmanuel, God is with us."

Scripture Reading: I John 2:12-14

Intro to Today's Message

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "**Christian Assurance**"

Time of Prayer

"Blessed Redeemer, Living word."

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #363 v. 1-3

"Blessed Assurance: Jesus is Mine"

1. Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

3. Perfect submission: all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

Words: Fanny Crosby, 1873, P.D; Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873, P.D. CCLI #678905

*(During the singing of this hymn the children will be returning from
Children and Worship and the elders are invited forward to serve
communion)*

We Celebrate Communion Together

Declaration of God's Invitation and Promises (Based on Luke 13:29, 24:30-31)

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from east and west, from north and south,
and sit at the kingdom of God.

When our risen Lord was at the table with his disciples,
he took the bread, and blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them.

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.
This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those
who trust him to share the feast that he has prepared.

Summary of Scriptural Teaching:

God meets us in the sacraments,
holy acts in which his deeds elicit our response.
In the supper our Lord offers the bread and cup to believers
to guarantee our share in his death and resurrection,
and to 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*, st. 40

Preparing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Invitation

Distribution

Sharing of the Bread:

Take, eat, remember and believe that the body
of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness
of all our sins.

Take, drink, remember and believe the precious blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness
of all our sins.

Response of Praise and Prayer

* God's Blessing

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

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.
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! Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life." Our Savior invites us to His table, a table of love that has been prepared for us. Jesus, Our Savior, lived, died and lives again for each one of us. Let us worship our God today and praise Him for His love. After the worship service, we invite you to join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Tech Team	Today: 11/12	Next Week: 11/19
Sound:	Henry H.	Mardick S.
Projection:	Tim H/Joel L.	Tim H/Caleb L.
Video:	Brandon S.	France B.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

November 12, 2023

The deadline for announcements is Thursday, 9AM.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Choir: Practice today after the service.

This morning we welcome volunteers from World Renew who will share an update on this ministry arm of the CRC. World Renew's Disaster Relief Service has completed its work in Whatcom County. This week Dave Visser and three other volunteers will be driving the equipment and tool trailers back to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Please pray for safety and no snow for this eastbound caravan.

Since we do not have a picture of Thomas or Simon in the directory, we will be having a contest to draw the best picture of them, 1.5 inch by 1.5 inch. The winner will have their picture photocopied and cut out to be pasted in everyone's copies. Please have your renditions to Beth by Nov. 15.

Today is the last day to drop off coats for Church on the Avenue's Coat Drive!

Worship Service YouTube Links:

Sunday, 11-05 Service: <https://youtu.be/eorsTPBseNw>

Movie Night! Our traditional fall movie night has been scheduled for **Friday, November 17 at 7:00 PM**. On that night we will be showing the movie **"I Can Only Imagine"** in the church fellowship hall. Popcorn will be provided, but you are encouraged to bring your own comfortable seating, candy, and favorite soft drink. You are also encouraged to invite your extended family members and friends. We hope to see you there!

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.

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. ***Please have your ingredients at church by Friday, Dec. 1. December 2*** is the date set to put the jars together and distribute them. There is a sign-up sheet next to the ingredients list. We're still in need of **16** – 10 pound bags of flour, and **9** – 10 pound bags of sugar.

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

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: Terry & Mandi D., Jill R.

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, Nov. 19: Randy O., Adam & Katie F.

Worship Team:

Today: Kevin & Glenda K., France B., Nellie VDH

Next Week, Nov. 19: Eliot B., Heidi B., Kayla & Ella VH

Nursery:

Today: Elly VB & Emmalyn S.

Nest Week, Nov. 19: Glenda K & Lauren VDB

Children in Worship:

Today: Angela S., Leia V.

Next Week, Nov. 19: Tim H., Kenzi S.

Today:

6:30pm: Women's Bible Study

This Week:

Tues, Nov. 14, 7:00am – Men's Bible Study at Shari's

Weds., Nov. 15, 6:30-8:30pm: GEMS

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Fri., Nov. 17, 7:00pm: Family Movie Night

Fri., Dec. 1: Please have your Christmas Blessing Ingredients to church by today

Sat., Dec. 2, 9:00am: Christmas Blessing Assembly and Distribution

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

For the fourth year in a row, **New Earth Recovery will host the Noel Harp Ensemble** in a musical benefit concert. To experience the magic of a Celtic harp Christmas, the public is invited to attend the concert on Friday, December 1 at 7:00 pm. The performance will take place at Bethany Covenant Church, 1318 S. 18th Street, Mount Vernon. Freewill offerings will be held.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Thank You for Your World Hunger Sunday Offering! - World Renew gives praise to God for the generous-hearted people like you who support our mission and help us to share Christ's hope with communities struggling with hunger and poverty. Your generosity helps equip families with the resources they need and, in the process, reflects God's love and abundance. To learn more about how you can help people in need, please visit worldrenew.net

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.

Let's Extend Christ's Love - As we prepare for Thanksgiving, we remember that parents worldwide struggle to provide for their children. In rural Laos, six percent of babies die in infancy, but World Renew is training health volunteers in 13 villages to support women before, during, and after childbirth. Your gift on Thanksgiving Day makes it possible for more families to find hope through World Renew's Free A Family® program.

Kids Corner: Talking About God When We're Scared - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. It can be scary to step out of your comfort zone and tell someone about God. This week's devotion is all about not letting your fear hold you back. God will be with you just like he was with Moses (Exodus 3:12). And he has promised you that you can do all things with his help (Philippians 4:13). Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible story podcast "Paul in Athens."

Groundwork: In His Mercy, God Chose You - When someone we love doesn't share our belief in Jesus, we often experience grief and heartache. Join Groundwork as we study Paul's lament for his fellow Jews in Romans 9-11. Together we'll learn about God's sovereign choice and our free will and we'll discover comfort in the truth that God, in his mercy, has chosen us. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - End-of-year giving opportunities abound at this time of year, so be intentional about your giving. Consider doing some research to discover a new local ministry or organization that supports a cause you care about deeply, and then give generously of your time, talents, and treasure to help it flourish. Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject



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.

NEW REQUESTS:

Jill Klunder is home and recuperating from her heart surgery. Please pray for swift healing!

Keith Rasmussen continues to undergo various tests for his heart. In addition, he recently developed a UTI and is receiving treatment for that too. Please continue to pray for a complete recovery in the days and weeks ahead.

Juli Oostra's platelet levels have come up from very low numbers, but they still have a ways to go so she can regain strength. Please pray that will do so rapidly. We thank God for the progress already made.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Yvonne Boon is finished a round of chemo last Sunday, and the goal is still for her to be able to come home on the 15th. Then she will continue chemo in Wenatchee.

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.

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 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 November 6 - *Calvinist Cadet Corps: Reflecting*

Our theme "Rooted and Grounded," based on Ephesians 3:17-18, reminds the boys and men involved in Cadets of the great love of Christ. We pray that cadets and counselors will reflect that love as they continue living for Jesus.

Tuesday November 7 - *ReFrame: Japan*

Pray for Kanako, who reads our Japanese ministry devotions and recently shared them with her friend's granddaughter. Pray that she may continue to find Christian resources that answer her questions about faith in Christ.

Wednesday November 8 - *Resonate: Massachusetts*

Pray for Spring Rain Church, a Resonate partner church plant in Massachusetts that reaches Chinese immigrants and their families. Ask God to continue drawing people into this faith community and that they may come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Thursday November 9 - *Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee: Faithfulness*

Creator God, you have been so faithful to us, and we are grateful and filled with praise for you. We pray that in your faithfulness you will pour out your blessings on your church, uniting us in our love and praise for you. May we be known as Christ-followers by our love.

Friday November 10 - *World Renew: Disaster Response Services (DRS)*

When our DRS volunteers first dispatch to new locations, they are often met with suspicion. But as they proceed to serve, doing what they say they are going to do, a sense of trust and respect for the church and for Christians grows. Ask the Spirit to continue to move in our volunteers to display Christ's love in very tangible ways in vulnerable communities.

Saturday November 11 - *Communications: Remembrance Day/Veterans Day*

Today we acknowledge the service and sacrifices of men and women who have served our nations in various ways. Pray for the families and loved ones of people who have died in military service, for all who are serving now, and for all whose lives are affected by conflict and war.

Sunday November 12 - *ReFrame: International Day of Prayer for the*

Persecuted Church: Pray for Wani, a radio program producer who is part of our Hindi ministry team and has faced a lot of social pressure because of his outspoken Christian faith. "Pray that God will protect the family and give them his peace and strength," shared our Hindi ministry leader. Pray also for the many Christians affected by mob violence in India lately.