

# ***Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!***

***Pastor John Knoester***

***November 19, 2023***

**10:30 A.M. Worship Service**

\* Please stand if you are able.

*“Every inch of this universe belongs to  
you, O Christ.”*

Prelude

Sung Call to Worship: *“Carry the Light”* – Choir

Welcome

\* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #21 v. 1-3

*“This is My Father’s World”*

1. This is my Father’s world,  
and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father’s world;  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
his hand the wonders wrought.
2. This is my Father’s world;  
the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their Maker’s praise.  
This is my Father’s world;  
he shines in all that’s fair.  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;  
he speaks to me everywhere.

3. This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget  
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the Ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world;  
why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King, let the heavens ring!  
God reigns; let the earth be glad.

Words: Maltbie D. Babcock (1858-1901) P.D.; Music: English;  
adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard (1852-1930), P.D.; CCLI #678905  
Music (TERRA BEATA 6.6.8.6 D): English; adapt. Franklin L.  
Sheppard (1852-1930), P.D.

\* Call to Worship

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Father,  
who has enabled us to share in  
the inheritance of the saints in the light.

**People: He has rescued us from the power  
of darkness and transferred us  
into the kingdom of his beloved Son,  
in whom we have redemption,  
the forgiveness of sins.**

Leader: He is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation;  
for in him all things in heaven  
and on earth were created,  
though visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions or rulers  
or powers.

**People: All things have been created  
through him and for him.**

Leader: He himself is before all things,  
and in him all things hold together.  
He is the head of the body, the church;

**People: He is the beginning, the firstborn  
from the dead, so that he might come  
to have first place in everything.**

- Colossians 1:12-18

\* Song of Praise: LUYH #15 v. 1-2 *"The First Place"*

1. Jesus, the perfect picture of the unseen God.  
Maker of things we cannot comprehend.  
Wisdom, the earth displays  
your strength and beauty.  
Sovereign, yes, every throne knows  
you are God.

*Refrain*

*Every inch of this universe belongs to you,  
O Christ.*

*For through you and for you it was made.*

*Your creation endures*

*by the order of your hand.*

*So you must have in all things the first place.*

2. Victor, over sin and death you triumphed.  
Firstborn, you've shown us life  
beyond the grave.  
Bridegroom, we long for you in expectation.  
Jesus, your church rejoices to proclaim.

*Refrain (2X)*

Words and Music: Matthew Westerholm © 1999 Matthew  
Westerholm; arr. Greg Scheer © 1999 Matthew Westerholm;  
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\* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

*"For through you  
and for you it was made."*

Announcements

Call to Confession:

The proof of God's amazing love is this:  
While we were sinners, Christ died for us.  
Let us therefore approach the throne of grace  
with boldness, so that we may receive mercy  
and find grace to help in time of need.  
Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion,  
let us confess our sin before God  
and one another.

—based on Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance:

Here are words you may trust,  
words that merit full acceptance:  
Christ Jesus came into the world  
to save sinners.  
To all who confess their sins and resolve  
to lead a new life,  
he says, "Your sins are forgiven."  
He also says, "Follow me."  
Now to the one who rules all worlds,  
immortal, invisible, the only God,  
be honor and glory forever and ever.

—based on 1 Timothy 1:15, 17

Song of Assurance: *“My Worth is Not in What I Own”*

v. 1-5

1. My worth is not in what I own;  
not in the strength of flesh and bone.  
But in the costly wounds of love at the cross.
2. My worth is not in skill or name;  
in win or lose in pride or shame.  
But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the  
cross.

*Chorus*

*I rejoice in my Redeemer.  
Greatest treasure, wellspring of my soul.  
I will trust in Him, no other;  
my soul is satisfied in Him alone.*

3. As summer flowers we fade and die;  
Fame, youth and beauty hurry by.  
But life eternal calls to us at the cross.
4. I will not boast in wealth or might,  
or human wisdom's fleeting light.  
But I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross.

*Chorus*

Two wonders here that I confess:  
my worth and my unworthiness.  
My value fixed, my ransom paid at the cross.

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Reaffirmation of Faith

Introduction

Reaffirmation & Welcome

Personal Vows

\* Congregational Vows

\* 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.**

**—Apostles' Creed**

\* Song of Thanksgiving:

*“My Worth is Not in What I Own”*

*I rejoice in my Redeemer.*

*Greatest treasure, wellspring of my soul.*

*I will trust in Him, no other;*

*my soul is satisfied in Him alone.*

Personal Words of Welcome

Offering

Offertory

\* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #755 v. 1-3

*“Speak, O Lord”*

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You  
to receive the food of Your holy word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
that the light of Christ might be seen today  
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us  
all Your purposes, for Your glory.
2. Teach us Lord full obedience,  
holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
in the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of power that can never fail;  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,  
that will echo down through eternity,  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built  
and the earth is filled with Your glory.

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*(Following this hymn children ages 3-3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
are invited to attend Children and Worship)*

*“Your creation endures  
by the order of your hand.”*

Scripture Reading: I John 2:15-17

Introduction to today’s message

Prayer of Illumination

Message: **“Loving the World”**

Time of Prayer

*“So you must have in all things the first place.”*

\* Song of Application:

*“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” v. 1-3*

1. O soul, are you weary and troubled?  
No light in the darkness you see?  
There’s light for a look at the Savior,  
and life more abundant and free!



*Chorus*

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace.*

2. Through death into life everlasting  
He passed, and we follow Him there;  
over us sin no more hath dominion—  
for more than conquerors we are!

*Chorus*

3. His word shall not fail you - He promised;  
believe him, and all will be well:  
then go to a world that is dying,  
His perfect salvation to tell!

*Chorus*

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” WORDS and MUSIC: “Lemmel”;  
Helen H. Lemmel, 1922. Public Domain. CCLI #678905

- \* We Confess our Faith: Our World Belongs to God  
– Art. 1-2, 4-6

Leader: As followers of Jesus Christ,  
living in this world—  
which some seek to control,  
and others view with despair—  
we declare with joy and trust:

**People: Our world belongs to God!**

Leader: From the beginning, through all the  
crises of our times,  
until the kingdom fully comes,  
God keeps covenant forever:

**People: Our world belongs to God!**

Leader: God is King: Let the earth be glad!  
Christ is victor: his rule has begun!  
The Spirit is at work: creation is renewed!

**People: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!**

Leader: Our world, fallen into sin, has lost its first goodness, but God has not abandoned the work of his hands: our Maker preserves this world, sending seasons, sun, and rain, upholding all creatures, renewing the earth, promising a Savior, guiding all things to their purpose.

**People: God holds this world with fierce love.**

Leader: Keeping his promise, he sends Jesus into the world, pours out the Holy Spirit, and announces the good news: sinners who repent and believe in Jesus live anew as members of the family of God— the firstfruits of a new creation.

**People: We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living.**

Leader: As covenant partners, set free for joyful obedience, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in the world. With tempered impatience, eager to see Injustice ended, we expect the Day of the Lord.

We are confident that the light  
which shines in the present darkness  
will fill the earth when Christ appears.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.  
Our world belongs to you.**

\* Benediction

\* Doxology: LUYH #302 v. 1-2 *“Hear our Praises”*

1. May our homes be filled with dancing,  
may our streets be filled with joy.  
May injustice bow to Jesus  
as the people turn and pray.

*Refrain*

*From the mountain to the valley,  
hear our praises rise to you.  
From the heavens to the nations,  
hear our singing fill the air.*

2. May your light shine in the darkness  
as we walk before the cross.  
May your glory fill the whole earth  
as the water over the seas.

*Refrain x2*

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Postlude

**Welcome!** The prophet Isaiah proclaimed: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation” (Isaiah 12:3). 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.

# First CRC

## Bulletin Announcements

**November 19, 2023**

*The deadline for announcements is Thursday, 9AM.*

### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

**Choir:** Practice today after the service.

**Thank you to First CRC** from the Vander Veen family for all the sympathy cards and all acts of kindness with Anjean's recent passing. "P.S.: Dad loves visitors!" - Hank and the Vander Veen Family

### ***Worship Service YouTube Links:***

Sunday, 11-12 Service: <https://youtu.be/eXpuHtOX2WM>

**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 **flour and 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](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

**Calendar:**

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts today:** Randy O., Adam & Katie F.

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, Nov. 23:** (Thanksgiving) Jeff & Monica D., Fred F.

Nov. 26: Karen S., Wiebe & Johnna VDH

**Worship Team:**

Today: Eliot B., Heidi B., Kayla & Ella VH

Next Week, Nov. 23: (Thanksgiving) Greg & Beth B., Nellie VDH, France B.

Nov. 26: Sheri L., Mandi D., Kiera L.

**Nursery:**

Today: Glenda K & Lauren VDB

Next Week, Nov. 26: Jeannette F., & Ella VH

**Children in Worship:**

Today: Tim H., Kenzie S.

Next Week, Nov. 26: Heidi B., Kiera L.

**Today:**

Choir Practice after the service

**This Week:**

**Weds., Nov. 22, 7:00pm:** Thanksgiving Eve Svc

**Upcoming Dates to Note:**

**Tues, Nov. 28, 7:00am** – Men's Bible Study at Shari's

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

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

**Sun., Dec. 3, 6:30pm:** Women's Bible Study, resuming after the holidays on Jan. 14.

**Sun., Dec. 17, 6:30pm:** Candlelight Service

**Weds., Dec. 20, 6:30-8:30pm:** GEMS

### **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. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Mount Vernon. Freewill offerings will be held.

### **CRC COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - We often associate generosity with financial giving, but we can also cultivate a generous spirit in our relationships. Ponder how you might practice this in daily life, perhaps by focusing on refraining from mental criticism, attributing the best motives to people's actions, being "present" and attentive when spending time with others (especially children), or doing acts of random kindness. Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)

**Groundwork: Transformed Living** - The apostle Paul continued to unpack the new realities of their life in Jesus Christ for the Roman Christians; he challenged them to live transformed lives. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Romans 12-13 to learn how to we too should live in light of the Gospel and what it means to renew our minds and be living sacrifices for God. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Kids Corner: Daily Gratitude** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Take a moment to try this exercise: In five seconds, name five things that you are thankful for. Ready? Three... two... one... go! This week's devotion is about being thankful. Why be thankful? Because it helps us to see God at work in our lives every day. Gratitude gives joy to both God and us! Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) like the KC's Liz and Friends Podcast "Attitude of Gratitude."

**Bringing Hope for Families**- When families around the globe participate in World Renew's Free A Family® program, parents, children, and future generations are impacted for good. As God brings change, blessings abound, and families can move on from hunger, malnutrition, and poor health. Your gift in next week's offering brings hope to families worldwide -- or consider becoming a monthly donor at [worldrenew.net /FreeAFamily](http://worldrenew.net /FreeAFamily).



People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Email the office at [secretary@firstcrmv.com](mailto:secretary@firstcrmv.com) or call the church office at (336-2405) by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

**CONTINUING 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.

**Yvonne Boon** was able to go home from Seattle after 115 days since her stem cell transplant. She also received the good news that she will not require any more chemo treatments, just regular monitoring.

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

Pray for continued healing for **Margaret VanderPol** as she 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 13 - *Resonate: Ontario*

Last month Classis Huron celebrated the 50th anniversary of Resonate partner campus ministries at the University of Guelph, the University of Waterloo, and Wilfrid Laurier University. Give thanks for the many students and faculty whom these ministries have served over the years. Please pray also for their ongoing effective ministry in the future.

Tuesday November 14 - *Timothy Leadership Training: India*

Timothy Leadership Training has been planning a retreat for facilitators in India that will include participants from multiple bordering countries and North America. Recently the team decided to postpone the event because of visa delays. Pray for the planning team and participants, asking for discernment and for an opportunity to reschedule in early 2024.

Wednesday November 15 - *World Renew: Senegal*

Senegal has elections planned for Feb. 25, 2024, and several periods of violent protest have occurred there this year already. Please pray for a peaceful election period, fair elections, and a smooth transfer of power to a new president. Pray also for peace and stability for many other areas experiencing violence and insecurity across Africa.



Thursday November 16 - *Thrive: Safer Churches: Domestic violence awareness*

Dear God, as the seasons change, may we remember your steadfast love and faithfulness. You are with us at all times, in all seasons, caring for us. As we observe domestic violence awareness month in Canada, after doing so last month in the U.S., we continue to pray for people living in spaces of harm. Guide us to find ways to actively work together as the church to end domestic violence. Amen.

Friday November 17 - *Resonate: Japan*

Resonate missionaries Ken and Jeannie Lee share that some people in Japan have negative views of Christianity. "Pray that the negative image of Christianity will be changed through positive interactions with Christians," ask the Lees.

Saturday November 18 - *Thrive: Disability and Accessibility: Togetherness*

We thank God for the model that Disability Concerns has shown in demonstrating that the CRC and the RCA can work together and bless each other. We pray for wisdom and discernment as we navigate what our work together can become amid significant changes in both the RCA and the CRC.

Sunday November 19 - *Thrive: Chaplains: Chaplain Sunday*

Please pray today for chaplains, who dedicate their lives to being with others, often in times of crisis—in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice settings, workplaces, and military installations. May they have the "peace that transcends all understanding" in order to be the presence of Christ for others. Pray also for persons who are discerning becoming chaplains.