

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

***Pastor Brad Diekema***

***November 26, 2023***

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

**\*Please stand if you are able.**

Prelude

*“There is a Redeemer, Jesus God’s Own Son”*

Welcome

\* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #538

“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: 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 #223 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

1. Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own;  
awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee  
and hail him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.
2. Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave,  
who rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save;  
his glories now we sing  
who died and reigns on high,  
who died eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.
3. Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified;  
no angels in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bend their burning eyes  
at mysteries so bright.

4. Crown him the Lord of years,  
the potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity.

Words: sts. 1, 3, 4 Matthew Bridges, 1851; st. 2 Godfrey Thring, 1874, alt., P.D.;  
Music: George J. Elvey, 1868, P.D.; CCLI #678905

## *"Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One*

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

#### Announcements

#### Call to Confession:

We know that nothing is able to separate us  
from the love of God in Jesus Christ.  
Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done.  
—based on Romans 8:39

#### Prayer of Confession

#### Assurance

Pastor Brad: The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**People: As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the Lord has compassion for those  
who fear him.**

Pastor Brad: For he knows how we were made;  
he remembers that we are dust.

**People: But the steadfast love of the Lord  
is from everlasting to everlasting  
on those who fear him, and his righteousness  
to children's children,  
to those who keep his covenant  
and remember to do his commandments.**

—Psalm 103:8, 13-14, 17-18, NRSV

\* Song of Response: LUYH #675 vv 1-4

“By Grace We Have Been Saved”

1. By grace we have been saved through faith  
and not by keeping law.  
God’s saints believed by what they heard  
and not by what they saw. (*Ephesians 2:8*)

*Refrain*

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

2. For all have sinned and fallen short.  
God’s plan not one obeyed.  
Christ has for all fulfilled the law.  
Believe, confess, be saved. (*Romans 3:23*)

*Refrain*

3. God gave to earth a perfect love  
through Jesus on the cross.  
While we were foes, Christ died for us.  
We gained by God’s own loss. (*Romans 5:8*)

*Refrain*

4. We know the wage of sin is death;  
thank God, we shall revive.  
For just as Jesus rose again,  
we too are made alive. (*Romans 6:23*)

*Refrain*

*Words: sts. Rusty Edwards; © 1996 Selah Publishing Company; Music: North  
American traditional; arr. Sean Ivory © 2008 Faith Alive Christian Resources;  
CCLI# 678905*

Offering: General Fund

Children’s Message –Marjo Rouw

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

\* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #763 “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

1. Blessed Jesus, at your word  
we are gathered all to hear you.  
Let our hearts and souls be stirred  
now to seek and love and fear you.  
By your gospel pure and holy,  
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.
2. All our knowledge, sense, and sight  
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,  
till your Spirit breaks our night  
with your beams of truth unclouded.  
You alone to God can win us;  
you must work all good within us.
3. Glorious Lord, yourself impart;  
Light of Light, from God proceeding,  
open lips and ears and heart;  
help us by your Spirit’s leading.  
Hear the cry your church now raises;  
Lord, accept our prayers and praises.

*Words: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1663; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt., P.D.; Music: Johann R. Ahle, 1664, P.D.; CCLI # 678905*

“Thank you O my Father, for giving us Your Son”

Scripture Reading: 1 John 2:18-27

Prayer of Illumination

Message: “Who Do We Listen To?”

Time of Prayer

\* Song of Application: LUYH #833 “There is a Redeemer”

1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son;  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

*Chorus:*

*Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;  
and leaving Your Spirit ‘til the work on earth is done.*

2. Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.

*Chorus*

3. When I stand in glory, I will see His face;  
there I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.

*Chorus*

Words and Music: Melody Green (b. 1946) ©1982 Birdwing Music(ASCAP)/BMG Songs (ASCAP)/ Ears to Hear Music (ASCAP), admin. EMICMGPublishing.com  
CCLI# 678905

*"And leaving Your Spirit 'til  
the work on earth is done.*

\* Professing Our Faith: Belgic Confession Article 19

Pastor Brad: We believe that by being thus conceived the person of the Son has been inseparably united and joined together with human nature, in such a way that there are not two Sons of God, nor two persons, but two natures united in a single person, with each nature retaining its own distinct properties.

**People: Thus his divine nature has always remained uncreated, without beginning of days or end of life, filling heaven and earth. Christ's human nature has not lost its properties but continues to have those of a creature— it has a beginning of days; it is of a finite nature and retains all that belongs to a real body.**

Pastor Brad: And even though he, by his resurrection, gave it immortality, that nonetheless did not change the reality of his human nature; for our salvation and resurrection depend also on the reality of his body. But these two natures are so united together in one person that they are not even separated by his death.

**People: So then, what he committed to his Father when he died was a real human spirit which left his body. But meanwhile his divine nature remained united with his human nature even when he was lying in the grave; and his deity never ceased to be in him, just as it was in him when he was a little child, though for a while it did not so reveal itself. These are the reasons why we confess him to be true God and truly human— true God in order to conquer death by his power, and truly human that he might die for us in the weakness of his flesh.**

\* God's Blessing

\* Parting Praise: We Receive Your Blessing (LUYH # 947)

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.

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 © 2003 Unity Music Ministries;  
CCLI License #678905

\* Postlude

**Welcome!** This is the day that the Lord has made. Worship is our opportunity to be glad and rejoice in the Lord's house on the Lord's Day. We come as the children of God, knowing that we are welcomed here where all are meant to be one in the Lord. Let us lay down our burdens and rejoice in the Lord for the Lord is good, the Source of love. 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: 11/26	Next Week: 12/3
Sound:	Tim H.	Mardy S.
Projection:	Isaac D.	Beth B.
Video:	Caleb/Joel L.	Tim H./Caleb L.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

# First CRC Bulletin Announcements

**November 26, 2023**

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

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**No Sunday School this Sunday, the 26th!!**

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

**Women's Bible Study will not meet Sunday November 26th.** The next study and the last study for the year will be Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30.

**Angel Tree:** Today after the service you will have the opportunity to pick up an Angel Tree Tag in the Fellowship Hall with a gift suggestion for the 26 children so far that we are purchasing gifts for. Please sign your name on the sheet on the table by the name of the child on the Angel Tree Tag that you chose. Each child receives a gift valued at around \$25.00. After purchasing your gift, please wrap and put the Angel Tree sticker on the outside of the gift. This identifies the child with the gift. Please bring your gift back to the Fellowship Hall and place it on the table by December 10 or before. The families will pick up the gifts on Monday morning December 18. Thank you for your generosity and may you have a wonderful Christmas season. Contact Catherine Vander Kooy at (360) 982-8429 if you have any questions.

## **Worship Service YouTube Links:**

Sunday, 11-19 Service: <https://youtu.be/o7LPw2tOK4A>

**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)*

**Calendar:**

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts today:** Karen S., Wiebe & Johnna VDH

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week,**

Dec. 3: Tim H., Mardy & Kristi S., Katie J.

**Worship Team:**

Today: Henry VZ, Mandi D.

Dec. 3: Henry, Pam & Sylvia VZ, France B., EmmaLyn S.

**YOU HAVE ONE MORE WEEK TO VOTE! (Mostly because Beth is too busy to find the winner this week) Have your votes in by Nov. 29.**

**Nursery:**

Today: Jeannette F., & Ella VH

Next Week, Dec. 3: Angela See & Rhyson O.

**Children in Worship:**

Today: Heidi B., Kiera L.

Next Week, Dec. 3: Heather VH, Elly VDB

**Today:**

Choir Practice after the service

**This Week:**

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

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

**Upcoming Dates to Note:**

**Sun., Dec. 3, 6:30pm:** Women's Bible Study,

**Tues, Dec.5, 7:00am –** Men's Bible Study at Shari's

**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** - Our God is a generous God. Read Psalm 36:5-9, and spend some time thinking about the abundant gifts God has lavished on us in creation and in other ways. Make a list of everything you can think of that testifies to God's generosity. If there are kids in your home, invite them to draw pictures of those things. Hang your list where you can see it often! Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)

**Groundwork: Love God By Loving One Another** - Differences and disagreements are inevitable, even among Christians, because the gospel calls people of many ages, backgrounds, and experiences. Join Groundwork as we study Paul's instructions for Christian living in Romans 14-16 to discover what it looks like to live in a community and to hear the heart of Paul's message—love for God and love for each other. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Kids Corner: When We All Work Together** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Did you know that Nehemiah convinced everyone to help build a wall around Jerusalem? Together they finished the work in 52 days! This week's devotion is all about how when we trust God and work together, he can accomplish some pretty amazing things through us. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) like the Bible story podcast "The Story of Nehemiah."

**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](http://familyfire.com). Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

**Light the World Renew Giving Tree** - Help people who live in poverty experience more of God's love for them by joining in our Christmas Giving Tree! Through the World Renew Gift Catalog, each ornament on the tree is a giving suggestion for people living in poverty worldwide. Just choose an ornament and bring it, along with your donation, to put in our World Renew offering on Christmas Day. If you're traveling this Christmas, you can also go to [worldrenew.net/gifts](http://worldrenew.net/gifts) or call 800-552-7972 to give instead!

**"Advent in the Neighborhood" Free Webinar** - How do you share the hope and peace of the gospel with your neighbors this season? Many of your neighbors might not know what Advent is, but most of them likely get into the festive spirit of Christmas. Advent is a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Christ, but how? Join us Monday, December 4 from 7-8:30 pm EST for a free webinar. Learn more and register at: [www.resonateglobalmission.org/adventwebinar](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/adventwebinar)



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

**NEW REQUEST:**

**Marcella DeVries** went to be with her Lord and Savior this week. Please keep the entire DeVries family in your prayers for comfort during this time. Information concerning the service will be forthcoming.

**CONTINUING REQUESTS:**

From **Jill Klunder**: "Thank you so much for the prayers, cards and thoughts as I went through surgery. I am feeling better each day! "To God be the Glory Great Things He Has Done!"

**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** is home, but she WILL need a few chemo treatments in the weeks to come. Please keep her in your prayers that she remains healthy and strong throughout this process.

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, *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 20 - *ReFrame: Wisdom, direction*

A prayer team member named Tammy recently shared that she has a strained relationship with her daughter and son-in-law. "My son-in-law has introduced my daughter to drug use, and I don't know how to fix this situation," she shared. "I ask for God's wisdom and direction in this matter."

Tuesday November 21 - *Resonate: Mexico*

Pray for Resonate missionary James Lee in his work with university students in Mexico. Ask that God will raise up student leaders to help share the love of Christ in their campus communities, where Christ-followers are few.

Wednesday November 22 - *Thrive: Pastor and Church Support: Searching*

Pray for churches who are searching for a pastor. Pastor searches require a significant commitment of time and perseverance. As these churches also prepare for a busy holiday season without a pastor, they face an increased need for volunteers. Ask the Lord to raise up people willing to serve, using the talents and skills he has entrusted to them.

Thursday November 23 - *World Renew: Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)*

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength" (Phil. 4:12-13). In all things may we be thankful to God for the gifts he has given us, and may we use our gifts to help our neighbors.

Friday November 24 - *Kuyper College: Academic year*

Give thanks with us for an excellent start to this new school year. We enrolled the largest incoming class of new students in several years, and we launched a new athletic program. Please pray also for our growing impact as a work college as we equip students with opportunities to learn, work, and serve.

Saturday November 25 - *Resonate: Dominican Republic*

Resonate partners with COCREP Christian schools in the Dominican Republic. Resonate missionaries Stephen and Sandra Brauning ask for prayer for a student who hasn't been able to attend school this year due to his family's situation and finances. Ask God to provide a way for this student to return to school.

Sunday November 26 - *Thrive: Worship: Advent and Christmas*

Churches are beginning to prepare for the busy Christmas season. Pray for leaders, asking that they might find joy in their work, peace in their souls, and rest for their bodies and minds.