

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

January 14, 2024

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

*“Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,”*

Prelude

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn of Praise: 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.

Sing acapella

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: The earth is the Lord's, for he made it:

People: Come let us adore him.

Leader: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

People: Come let us adore him.

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

People: Come let us adore him.

Leader: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

* Song of Praise: *"Be Unto Your Name" v. 1-2*

1. We are a moment, You are forever,
Lord of the ages, God before time;
We are a vapor, You are eternal,
Love everlasting, reigning on high.

Chorus

*Holy, holy Lord God Almighty,
worthy is the Lamb Who was slain;
Highest praises honor and glory
be unto Your name, be unto Your name.*

2. We are the broken, You are the healer,
Jesus Redeemer, mighty to save;
You are the love song, we'll sing forever,
Bowing before You, blessing Your name.

Chorus (2x)

*Holy, holy Lord God Almighty,
worthy is the Lamb Who was slain;
Highest praises honor and glory
be unto Your name, be unto Your name.*

Be unto Your name.

*Words & Music: Gary Sadler / Lynn DeShazo; ©1998 Integrity's Hosanna!;
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* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

*"A great High Priest whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me."*

Announcements

Call to Confession:

Leader: All who thirst, come to the water.
Come, all who are weary;
Come, all who yearn for forgiveness.

**People: The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ
has washed over us, and our gracious and holy God
beckons and blesses us.**

Leader: Drink deeply of these living waters.

People: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance:

Leader: Hear the good news:
This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all
that is good.
I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ,
you are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

—based on 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24

God's Will for our Lives: Colossians 3:12-15

As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom he loves,
you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion,
in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience.
Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you
has a complaint against another.
The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.
Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond.
And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts,
because it is for this that you were called together in one body.
Always be thankful. —Colossians 3:12-15, NJB

* Song of Response: "Living Water" v. 1-4

1. Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Tired and broken, peace unspoken,
Come and drink these living waters.
2. Christ is calling, find refreshing
at the cross of living waters.
Lay your life down, all the old gone,
rise up in these living waters.

Chorus

*There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore,
praise the Lord of living waters.*

3. Spirit moving, mercy washing;
healing in these living waters
Lead your children to the shoreline,
life is in these living waters.

Chorus

4. Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Love, forgiveness, vast and boundless,
Christ, He is our living waters.

Chorus

*There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore,
praise the Lord of living waters.*

Ending

*There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore,
praise the Lord of living waters.*

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Offering

Offertory: Summary of I John Video – The Bible Project

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

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #755 “*Speak, O Lord*” v. 1-3

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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*“My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;”*

Scripture Reading: I John 3:11-24

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Knowing that we Belong”***

Time of Prayer

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #682 v. 1-3
“Before the Throne of God Above”

1. Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.
2. When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.
3. Behold him there! The risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless righteousness;
the great unchangeable “I AM,”
the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Savior and my God,
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

Words: Charitie Lees DeCheney Bancroft (1841-1923), P.D.; Music: Vikki Cook,
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#678905

*“I know that while in heaven he stands,
no tongue can bid me thence depart,”*

* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A #1

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

A. My only comfort in life and in death is that I am not my own, but belong— body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #965

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, P.D.; Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551, P.D.
CCLI #678905*

Postlude

Welcome to our services of worship and praise! We pray that all will find strength, security, and fellowship with God and with one another. After the morning service, all are invited to the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Tech Team	Today: January 14	Next Week: January 21
Sound:	Henry VZ	Tim H.
Projection:	Joel L.	Caleb L.
Video:	Brandon S.	France B.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

January 14, 2024

The deadline for announcements is Thursday, 9:00 A.M.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Membership Transfer: At its November 27 meeting the council approved the membership transfer request of Alyssa Ackermann to Indian Trail Church in Spokane, WA. We are grateful for Alyssa's many years of servant leadership in our church family. We wish her God's richest blessings as she continues to serve Him in her new church home.

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. November 19 (I John 2:15-17) – "Loving the World"
6. November 26 (I John 2:18-27) – "Who do We Listen To?"

7. January 7: (1 John 2:28- 3:10)— “Remain in Christ”
8. January 14: (1 John 3:11-24) - “Knowing that We Belong”
9. January 21: (1 John 4:1-6) - "Test the Spirits"

Fireside Chats - Jan. 7 and 14: There is currently no Sunday School scheduled for January 7 and 14. However, we will be having a couple of "Fireside Chats" with Pastor Don Lagerwey in the church fellowship hall before the service. During this time we will hear a little bit about his story of faith, calling to ministry, and some of the joys and challenges he has experienced through the years. We'll also open it up for a time of question and answer near the end of each session. So please join us from 9:30 - 10:15 AM on both January 7 and 14!

Worship Service YouTube Links:

January 7, 2023: <https://youtu.be/Aa1Bn6aneHM>

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

Pastoral Care – Heather Village: Pastor Don Lagerwey, a well-known, beloved, and retired CRC pastor is currently living near our church. Recently he graciously offered to carry out any pastoral visiting and/or pastor care calls specifically to those living in Heather Village, or nearby the church. The council is deeply grateful for his willingness to serve and minister. If interested in receiving a visit from Pastor Don – please don’t hesitate to call him or his wife Joanne at either of the following numbers: 360-202-1369 or 360-333-5582.

Calendar:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts:

Eliot & Sue B., Kevin & Glenda K.

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week:

January 21 – Terry & Joni B., Darrel & Sunee L.

Worship Team:

Today: Stan B., Julie, Adriana & Tessa S.

January 14: Men’s Group

Nursery:

Today:– Brooke K., Maddie D

Next Week: January 21 – Mandi D., Emma S.

Children in Worship:

Today: Tim VH, Lauren VB

Next Week: Angela S., Maddie D.

This Week:

This morning 9:15-10:30 – Fireside Chats with Pastor Don Lagerwey

Tonight at 6:30 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study

Jan. 17, 6:30 pm - GEMS

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Jan. 26, 7:00am – Men’s Bible Study at Shari’s Restaurant

Jan. 28, 6:30 p.m. – Ladies Bible Study

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - N.T. Wright wrote, “Reading and studying Scripture [is] central to how we grow in the love of God.” This coming week, start each day by reading 1 Corinthians 13 and praying that God’s love will flow through you to others. Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

Kids Corner: God's Love Brings People Together - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. This week, we remember the work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a preacher who followed the example of Christ and brought all kinds of people together. This week’s devotion and parent blog gives instructions for a science experiment with an emulsifier, some oil, and water. How can this experiment be compared to the power of God’s love? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC’s The Bible in One Year Plan.

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.

ReFrame Ministries Provides Devotions, Podcasts, and Blogs- Start a new Biblical habit with resources from ReFrame Ministries. DEVOTIONS including the Today devotional offer short daily meditations and scripture. Kids Corner includes devotions, especially for children and guardians. PODCASTS help you dig into scripture with Groundwork,

explore pop culture and Christianity with Think Christian, or energize your church communications with Church Juice. BLOGS offering spiritual advice for parenting, dating, and more are available in new posts from Family Fire. Learn more about the spiritual habit of praying with ReFrame's prayer ministry.

Groundwork: Humility - If we look closely, the Christlike virtue of humility is a root virtue from which many of the other virtues flow. Join Groundwork as we explore Romans 12:3, Philippians 2:3-4, John 13:3-17, and Colossians 3:1-17 to discuss what it means to be humble, to witness Christ's own humility, and to learn how humility influences our thoughts and our actions. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



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:

Please pray for **Trudy Van Klaveren** who will likely be having knee replacement surgery at the end of this month (January). Pray that the surgery itself goes well and that she will experience a swift recovery in the weeks and months to come.

Please pray for **Grace Feddema's** family as she has been unresponsive and surrounded by loved ones at this time.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Continue to remember the Meischke and Gudmunson families and others who have recently lost loved ones. May God be close to each one of them as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

Please continue to pray for **Maxine Greidanus**, as she resumes her chemotherapy, that it will take care of any remaining cancer.

Please continue to pray for **Juli Oostra's** platelet levels!

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

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 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 January 8 - Calvin Theological Seminary: January term

Please pray for our January term classes, for students who are traveling, and especially for new students preparing to begin their studies in the spring semester. Pray for health and safety for all.

Tuesday January 9 - Resonate: Uganda

Give thanks for God's work in and through Emma in Uganda. Emma entered prison as a Muslim but decided to follow Christ through a Bible study led by Resonate missionary Josh Shaarda and his team at Freedom in Christ. Emma's life has changed so much "that his Muslim family invited the team to visit after Emma returned home," said Josh.

Wednesday January 10 - ReFrame: Burkina Faso

Oumou, a respondent to our French-language ministry, visited a church to learn more about the Christian faith and to ask for prayers. She has been experiencing a painful situation in her marriage. Please lift up Oumou today in prayer—as well as other seekers in Burkina Faso, West Africa.

Thursday January 11 - Thrive: New beginnings

Pray for a smoothly executed start of January programming across congregational ministries in the CRCNA. Pray for joy in new beginnings and for excitement and anticipation for what God has in store for each ministry in the coming year.

Friday January 12 - *Resonate: Japan*

After moving to serve in Japan, missionaries Jodi and Perrin Werner are learning Japanese. "I not only had an opportunity to share my faith with a classmate curious about Christianity, but I was also able to see how my everyday faith made an impact on my Japanese teacher," shared Perrin. Give thanks for God's ongoing work through seeds planted!

Saturday January 13 - *Trinity Christian College: Transformation*

Many students on our campus long to hear the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray that each of our students may experience the fullness of a life transformed in Christ by the Spirit. Pray too that the staff and faculty may have the energy and wisdom to contribute to the spiritual development of our student community.

Sunday January 14 - *ReFrame: Prayer ministry*

Praise God for Monty and more than 7,000 other prayer team participants who lift up others requesting prayer each week. Monty shared, "God is working in our community, and I have seen a lot of people changing their lives and living for God."