

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
January 21, 2024

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

*"In Christ alone my hope is found;
he is my light, my strength, my song"*

Prelude

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #776 v. 1-4**

"A Mighty Fortress is our God"

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.

3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

4. That Word above all earthly powers—
no thanks to them—abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!

Words: based on Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852,
P.D. CCLI #678905

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Let us worship the eternal God,
the source of love and life, who creates us.

**People: Let us worship Jesus Christ,
the risen one, who lives among us.**

Leader: Let us worship the Spirit, the holy fire, who renews us.

**People: To the one true God be praise in all times and places,
through the grace of Jesus Christ.**

* Song of Praise: *"The Battle Belongs to the Lord" v. 1-3*

1. In heavenly armor we'll enter the land,
the battle belong to the Lord.
No weapon that's fashioned against us will stand,
The battle belongs to the Lord.

Chorus:

*And we sing glory, honor, power and strength to the Lord.
We sing glory, honor, power and strength to the Lord.*

2. When the power of darkness comes in like a flood.
The battle belongs to the Lord.
He'll raise up a standard, the pow'r of His blood,
The battle belongs to the Lord.

Chorus

3. When your enemy presses in hard, do not fear,
The battle belongs to the Lord.
Take courage, my friend, your redemption is near,
The battle belongs to the Lord.

Chorus

"The Battle Belongs to the Lord" I Sam. 17:47; Isa. 54:17; Eph. 6:11-18; Rev. 7:12, Jamie Owens-Collins, ©1985 Fairhill Music, CCLI# 678905

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

*"This cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm."*

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

God's Will for our Lives

* Hymn of Response: *"Victory in Jesus" v. 1-3*

1. I heard an old, old story, how the Savior came from glory,
how He gave His life on Calvary to save a wretch like me.
I heard about His groaning, of His precious blood's atoning,
then I repented of my sins and won the victory.

Chorus:

*O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever!
He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood.
He loved me ere I knew Him, and all my love is due Him.
He plunged me to victory, beneath the cleansing flood.*

2. I heard about His healing, of His cleansing power revealing,
how He made the lame to walk again
and caused the blind to see;
and then I cried "dear Jesus,
come and heal my broken spirit,"
and somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory.

Chorus

3. I heard about a mansion He has built for me in glory,
and I heard about the streets of gold
beyond the crystal sea;
about the angels singing, and the old redemption story,
and some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory.

Chorus

"Victory in Jesus"; Text & Music: Eugene M. Bartlett; © Copyright 1939 by E. M. Bartlett. © Copyright 1967 by Mrs. E. M. Bartlett; Renewal. Assigned to Albert E. Brumley & Sons. Used by permission. CCLI# 678905

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

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

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #746 v. 1-3

"Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"

1. Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause your Word to come alive in me;
give me faith for what I cannot see;
give me passion for your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

2. Holy Spirit, come abide within,
may your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin,
in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace;
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

3. Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
giving life to all that God has made,
show your power once again on earth,
cause your church to hunger for your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;
lead us on the road of sacrifice,
that in unity the face of Christ
may be clear for all the world to see.

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend; ©2006 Thankyou Music,
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*"What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease."*

Scripture Reading: I John 4:1-6

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Test the Spirits"***

Time of Prayer

* Hymn of Application: *“O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer”*

1. O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Greatest treasure of my longing soul
My God, like You there is no other
True delight is found in You alone
Your grace, a well too deep to fathom
Your love exceeds the heavens’ reach
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom
My highest good and my unending need

2. O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Strong defender of my weary heart
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver
And my shield against his hateful darts
My song when enemies surround me
My hope when tides of sorrow rise
My joy when trials are abounding
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night

3. O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Gracious Savior of my ruined life
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders
In my place You suffered bled and died
You rose, the grave and death are conquered
You broke my bonds of sin and shame
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
May all my days bring glory to Your Name

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*“My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.”*

* We Profess our Faith: Athanasian Creed (2nd half)

Leader: Now this is the true faith:

**People: That we believe and confess
that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son,
is both God and human, equally.**

Leader: He is God from the essence of the Father,
begotten before time;
and he is human from the essence of his mother,
born in time;
completely God, completely human,
with a rational soul and human flesh;
equal to the Father as regards divinity,
less than the Father as regards humanity.

**People: Although he is God and human,
yet Christ is not two, but one.
He is one, however,
not by his divinity being turned into flesh,
but by God's taking humanity to himself.**

Leader: He is one,
certainly not by the blending of his essence,
but by the unity of his person.
For just as one human is both rational soul and flesh,
so too the one Christ is both God and human.

**People: He suffered for our salvation;
he descended to hell;
he arose from the dead;
he ascended to heaven;
he is seated at the Father's right hand;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

* God's Blessing

Parting Praise: LUYH #770 *"In Christ Alone"* v. 1-4

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.
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,
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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: January 21	Next Week: January 28
Sound:	Mardy S.	Tim H.
Projection:	Caleb L.	Maddie D.
Video:	France B.	Tim H./Caleb L.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

January 21, 2024

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

There are new copies of Today's Christian Living on the shelf in the hallway underneath the missionary bulletin board.

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: (I 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"

Worship Service YouTube Links:

January 14, 2023: https://youtu.be/ICW86_LbfGw

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*

Calendar:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts:

Terry & Joni B., Darrel & Sunee L.

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week:

January 28 – Derek & Heidi B., Juliana & Joe LC

Worship Team:

Today: Men's Group

January 21: Eliot B., Heidi B., France B., Emmalyn S.

Nursery:

Today: Mandi D., Emma S.

Next Week: January 28: Pam VZ, Nellie VDH

Children in Worship:

Today: Angela S., Maddie D.

Next Week: Angela S., Emmalyn S.

This Week:

Sunday School Resumes this morning!!

Jan. 24, 7:00 pm - Cadets

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Jan. 30, 7:00am – Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant

Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Kids Corner: Feeling Like Enough - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. It's easy to compare ourselves to others and

end up feeling disappointed. Especially today, when people post so many photos of their lives online, it can be hard to feel good enough. Here's the good news: as a child of God, you are always enough! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's The Bible in One Year Plan.

Groundwork: Thankfulness and Gratitude - Why are thanksgiving and gratitude important virtues for Jesus' followers to cultivate? Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Luke 17:11-19, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, Philippians 4:4-9, and Colossians 2:6-7 to discover why grateful hearts and expressing thankfulness are essential virtues and to discuss the difference these virtues can make in our thoughts and our lives. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Phil Reinders writes, "Through the Holy Spirit, the Word shakes off ink, paper, and pixels, stepping out of the page or screen and into our daily lives. That comes through patient attentiveness, a listening that is slow and savours." Invite the Spirit to bring God's Word alive to you in ever deeper ways. 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:

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.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Continue to remember the Meischke, Gudmunson and Feddema/Cuperus 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*; *Sally Reehoorn* at Creekside in Burlington; *Bev Van Slageren* with family in Grandview, WA.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

Monday January 15 - Thrive: Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

Today we remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the example he set in fighting for equality and justice. We lament the ways the church has complied in failing to honor the inherent dignity of all people, and we pray that we may instead rise up with a prophetic voice that speaks truth and compassion.

Tuesday January 16 - Resonate: University of Iowa

“Pray for our upcoming Field and Faith events to encourage believers and unbelievers as we seek to be a resource and blessing for both the campus and the local church. We want to showcase the excellencies of Christ in all that we do,” said Brett and Leigh Ann Erickson, campus ministers at Geneva Campus Ministry.

Wednesday January 17 - World Renew: Peace

Join us and churches around the world in praying for an end to conflict, unrest, and oppression everywhere. We praise God for amazing stories of reconciliation and hope that our staff have been able to witness in places like Kenya, Laos, and Guatemala. Pray for peacebuilding work to continue in even the most difficult situations.

Thursday January 18 - *GEMS Girls' Clubs: Courage and welcome*

Pray that girls in GEMS clubs will share what they have been learning about Jesus with their friends and family members. Pray for courage as girls invite new friends to come to GEMS clubs. Please also pray that all new girls will be welcomed and will come to know Jesus as their Savior.

Friday January 19 - *Resonate: Nicaragua*

Resonate missionaries Jari and Jesse Rodriguez work with local farmers and entrepreneurs in Nicaragua. They give thanks that their first planting season in the community of Jinotega has been a success despite low rainfall. Give thanks to God for providing for these communities.

Saturday January 20 - *Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee: One in Christ*

Creator God, around the world we see your church body present in churches and denominations—Christ-followers worshiping you. Bless our connections with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Give us opportunities to bless and encourage and learn from each other. Make us one, Lord, as you are one.

Sunday January 21 - *Centre for Public Dialogue: Sanctity of Human Life Sunday*

People in Canada with mental illness alone will become eligible for assisted dying beginning in March 2024. Please pray for advocates working with Members of Parliament to change legislation on this matter. Pray for eyes to see other solutions for persons struggling with mental illness.