

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
January 28, 2024

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

"Were the whole realm of nature mine,"

Prelude

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn of Praise: "The Love of God" v. 1-3**

1. The love of God is greater far
than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
and reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
and pardoned from his sin.

Refrain

*O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
the saints' and angels' song!*

2. When years of time shall pass away,
and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
when men who hear refuse to pray,
on rocks and hills and mountains call,
God's love so sure shall still endure,
all measureless and strong;
redeeming grace to Adam's race—
the saints' and angels' song.

Refrain

3. Could we with ink the ocean fill,
and were the skies of parchment made,
were every stalk on earth a quill,
and every man a scribe by trade,
to write the love of God above
would drain the ocean dry;
nor could the scroll contain the whole,
tho' stretched from sky to sky.

Refrain

*Text: Frederick M. Lehman; Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai, stanza 3; Music:
Frederick M. Lehman; Public Domain; CCLI #678905*

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Almighty God,
your love for us and for all people
is powerful beyond measure.
Your love is so vast that nothing will prevail
against it.

**People: We know this love is trustworthy
because of Jesus Christ:
his life of compassion, death in the cross,
and resurrection from the dead.**

Leader: In life and death we belong to you, holy triune God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

* Song of Praise: LUYH #256 v. 1-4 "They'll Know We Are Christians"

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each one's dignity
and save each one's pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us all one.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Words: Peter Scholtes (b. 1938) © 1966, 1967 F.E.L. Church Publications, Ltd.,
assigned 1991 to Lorenz Corporation CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

"That were a present far too small."

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Sung Prayer of Confession: LUYH #624 v. 1

"Not What My Hands Have Done"

1. Not what my hands have done
can save my guilty soul;
not what my toiling flesh has borne
can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do
can give me peace with God;
not all my prayers and sighs and tears
can bear my awful load.

Words of Assurance:

You are a chosen race,
a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him
who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

People of God,
all of us together have received God's mercy in Christ.
In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed,
and made to be a community united in faith.

—based on 1 Peter 2:9-10, NRSV

Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #624 v. 2

"Not What My Hands Have Done"

2. Your voice alone, O Lord,
can speak to me of grace;
your power alone, O Son of God,
can all my sin erase.
No other work but yours,
no other blood will do;
no strength but that which is divine
can bear me safely through.

God's Will for our Lives:

Our Lord Jesus said:

"You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.'

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it:

'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

On these two commandments

hang all the law and the prophets."

—from Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV

Prayer of Thanksgiving: LUYH #686

* Hymn of Response: LUYH #624 v. 3

"Not What My Hands Have Done"

3. I praise the Christ of God;
I rest on love divine;
and with unfaltering lip and heart
I call this Savior mine.
My Lord has saved my life
and freely pardon gives;
I love because he first loved me,
I live because he lives.

Words: Horatius Bonar; Music George William Martin; Public Domain; 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 #747 v. 1-3

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with yours,
to do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
for all eternity.

Words: Edwin Hatch, 1878; Music: Robert Jackson (1840-1914) Public Domain

“Love so amazing, so divine,”

Scripture Reading: I John 4:7-21

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Compelling Love”***

Time of Prayer

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #175 v. 1-4

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1707, P.D.; Music: Lowell Mason, 1824, P.D. CCLI #678905

"Demands my soul, my life, my all."

* We Profess our Faith: LUYH #306 Let Us Love One Another

Leader: Dear friends, let us love one another,
for love comes from God.

**People: Everyone who loves has been born of God
and knows God. Whoever does not love
does not know God, because God is love.**

Leader: This is how God showed his love among us:
He sent his one and only Son into the world
that we might live through him.

**People: This is love: not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son
as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

Leader: Dear friends, since God so loved us,
we also ought to love one another.

**People: No one has ever seen God;
but if we love one another,
God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.**

Leader: This is how we know that we live in him and he in us:
He has given us of his Spirit.
And we have seen and testify that the Father
has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

**People: If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God,
God lives in them and they in God.
And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.**

* 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.

Acapella

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! Sunday worship is the call of God to bring special honor to his name. Give him what he asks through faithful worship. Receive this day also as his gift to you to refresh you for the week ahead. 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 28	Next Week: February 4
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry H.
Projection:	Maddie D.	Beth B.
Video:	Tim H./Caleb L.	Tim H./Joel L.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

January 28, 2024

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Pastor Brad will be on vacation and attending the Calvin Symposium on Worship from January 30 to February 10. Please don't hesitate to contact Pastor John, your Elder, or Deacon with any pastoral concerns.

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 (1 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: (I John 4:1-6) - "Test the Spirits"
10. January 28: (I John 4:7-21) – “Compelling Love”

Worship Service YouTube Links:

January 21, 2023: <https://youtu.be/rHiCHZOBNCA>

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:

Derek & Heidi B., Juliana & Joe LC

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week:

Next Week, Feb. 4: Bob P., Cody & Angela S.

Worship Team:

Today: Eliot B., Heidi B., France B., Emmalyn S.

Next Week, Feb. 4: Kevin & Glenda K., Kayla & Ella VH

Nursery:

Today: Pam VZ, Nellie VDH

Next Week, Feb. 4: February 4: Catherine and Noah VDK

Children in Worship:

Today: Angela S., Emmalyn S.

Next Week, Feb. 4: Heidi B., France B.

This Week:

Jan. 28 at 6:30 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Feb. 6, 7:00am – Men’s Bible Study at Shari’s Restaurant

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Kids Corner: How Can I Use the Internet Wisely?- Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. When we learn internet wisdom, we can protect ourselves online. But what we do online has to be more than that because God has called us here, too. We can do God’s work, be a positive Christian presence online, and share his message by safely using the internet. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC’s Valentine Cards.

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.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Retelling Bible stories together helps those stories “stick,” especially for kids. Check out the one-page resource [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids \(tinyurl.com/5WaysRetell\)](http://5WaysRetell.com) for ideas. Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

Food and Faith (webinar) Series: 6 Weeks - Join the 2024 Food and Faith 6-week series of discussions with leaders working in food justice and faith. Topics will include Food and Our Faith; Food, Faith and Farming; Food, Faith and Creating Just Food Systems; Food, Faith and Church Growing Projects; Food, Faith and Sharing with Community; and Food, Faith and Advocacy. Discussions will include congregations in the US who are responding in creative and caring ways because of their faith. Dates: February 8-March 14, Thursday PM (7:30 Eastern, 6:30 Central, 5:30 Mountain, 4:30 Pacific). Register at worldrenew.net/events. There will be a giveaway at each session, but you must be present online to win! Contact Jodi Koeman at jkoeman@worldrenew.net.

Calvin Symposium on Worship (Feb. 7-9, 2024) - Join us as leaders from churches and worshipping communities of all sizes and settings gather February 7–9, 2024, on the campus of Calvin University & Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to learn and worship together. The book of Ezekiel will be the preaching focus at the five primary Symposium worship services. In a fractured time for the worldwide church, Ezekiel's messages of judgment and profound hope provide just the word the people of God need. Learn more at worship.calvin.edu/event-programs/2024-calvin-symposium-on-worship



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.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Trudy Van Klaveren had her knee replacement surgery on Monday the 22nd, and she is home and recovering. She thanks you for all the thoughts and prayers.

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 22 - *World Renew: Justice*

Doing justice means equipping local churches to minister to people whom society has overlooked. For example, in Malawi, one church group, using our curriculum, identified seniors and other vulnerable members of their congregation who would benefit from their support. Praise God for the ways in which his people rise to the challenge of caring for everyone made in his image.

Tuesday January 23 - *Resonate: New York City*

Pray for Manhattan Vertical Church, a Resonate partner church plant in New York City. Ask God to continue working through this church to share the gospel with people and to raise up disciples for Christ.

Wednesday January 24 - *ReFrame: Chinese ministry*

Pray for ReFrame's Chinese ministry partners across North America and Asia. Pray for endurance as many of them work multiple jobs. Pray that we may be effective in our work and that each person may be encouraged in their day-to-day tasks.

Thursday January 25 - *Thrive: Young people*

Pray for the continued faith formation of youth and emerging adults as Thrive partners with the TENx10 initiative: helping faith matter more to 10 million young people over the next 10 years, offering resources to prioritize youth discipleship and sparking an ecumenical movement that supports under-resourced youth leaders.

Friday January 26 - *World Renew: Health*

Join us in praying that all who are hungry may be fed, that all who are ill may find healing, and that all may have access to clean water for drinking, washing, and cooking. God wants his people to flourish. Pray that our teams working in WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) may find hope and solutions.

Saturday January 27 - Resonate: Ontario

Pray for Living Hope Community Church, a Resonate partner church plant in Whitby, Ont. Ask God to continue to draw individuals and families into this faith community where they can learn more about Jesus and how to live out the gospel.

Sunday January 28 - Cadets: Cadet Sunday

On this Cadet Sunday, our "Rooted and Grounded" theme, based on Ephesians 3:17-18, reminds boys and men involved in Cadets how wide and long and high and deep the love of Christ is. Please join us in praying that cadets and counselors will reflect that love as they continue living for Jesus.