

***Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!***  
***Pastor Brad Diekema***  
***January 7, 2024 • 10:30 A.M. Worship Service***

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

*"Grace alone, which God supplies"*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

**\* Call to Worship:**

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens,

and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for he commanded and they were created.

He established them for ever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed."

Psalm 148:1-6, NRSV

*The Worship Sourcebook*, A.1.2.1— The Worship Sourcebook, 2nd Edition

(<http://www.faihtaliveresources.org/Products/420021/the-worship-sourcebook.aspx>)

**\* Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #575 "Praise to the Lord the Almighty"**

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul praise him, for he is your help and salvation!

Come, all who hear; brothers and sisters, draw near.

Join me in glad adoration!

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things

is wondrously reigning,

sheltering you under his wings, oh, so gently sustaining.

Have you not seen all that is needful has been

sent by his gracious ordaining?

3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper  
your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
as with his love he befriends you.
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath,  
come now with praises before Him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!

Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt., P.D.; Music:  
(LOBE DEN HERREN): Erneuertes Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665; desc. Craig S.  
Lang (1891-1971) © Novello and Co., Ltd. Admin. G. Schirmer, Inc.; CCLI #678905

\* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

\* Song of Praise: Raise a Hallelujah

I raise a hallelujah, in the presence of my enemies  
I raise a hallelujah, louder than the unbelief  
I raise a hallelujah, my weapon is a melody  
I raise a hallelujah, heaven comes to fight for me

I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm  
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar  
Up from the ashes, hope will arise  
Death is defeated, the King is alive!

I raise a hallelujah, with everything inside of me  
I raise a hallelujah, I will watch the darkness flee  
I raise a hallelujah, in the middle of the mystery  
I raise a hallelujah, fear you lost your hold on me!

I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm  
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar  
Up from the ashes, hope will arise  
Death is defeated, the King is alive!

Sing a little louder (In the presence of my enemies)  
Sing a little louder (Louder than the unbelief)  
Sing a little louder (My weapon is a melody)

Sing a little louder (Heaven comes to fight for me)  
Sing a little louder (In the presence of my enemies)  
Sing a little louder (Louder than the unbelief)  
Sing a little louder (My weapon is a melody)  
Sing a little louder (Heaven comes to fight for me)  
Sing a little louder!

I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm  
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar  
Up from the ashes, hope will arise  
Death is defeated, the King is alive!

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#678905

*"Strength unknown, He will provide"*

\* Call to Confession:

Glorious God, your creation sings of your might.  
Yet, we ignore the song, deny the melody,  
and cry out our dissonance.  
Forgive us, Great God, for our attempts  
to limit or distract from the beauty of your power.  
Transpose our lives so that every thought and deed  
becomes an endless song to you  
through our Lord Jesus, Amen. -Carrie Steenwyk

\* Sung Prayer of Confession: "God, You're So Good"

1. Amazing love that welcomes me  
The kindness of mercy  
That bought with blood wholeheartedly  
My soul undeserving

*Chorus*

*God You're so good, God You're so good  
God You're so good, You're so good to me*

2. Behold the cross age to age  
And hour by hour  
The dead are raised the sinner saved  
The work of Your power

## Bridge

I am blessed I am called  
I am healed I am whole  
I am saved in Jesus' name  
Highly favored anointed  
Filled with Your pow'r  
For the glory of Jesus' name

3. And should this life bring suffering  
Lord I will remember  
What Calvary has bought for me  
Both now and forever

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## \* The Assurance of God's Pardon

Therefore we rightly say with Paul that  
we know nothing "except Jesus Christ and him crucified";<sup>51</sup>  
we "regard everything as loss  
because of the surpassing value  
of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord."<sup>52</sup>  
We find all comforts in his wounds  
and have no need to seek or invent any other means  
to reconcile ourselves with God  
than this one and only sacrifice, once made,  
which renders believers perfect forever.  
Section of Belgic Confession Article 21

## \* Song of Response: "Grace Alone" v. 1-2

1. Ev'ry promise we can make,  
ev'ry prayer and step of faith;  
ev'ry difference we can make  
is only by His grace.  
Ev'ry mountain we will climb,  
ev'ry ray of hope we shine;  
Ev'ry blessing left behind  
Is only by His grace

*Chorus*

*Grace alone Which God supplies,  
strength unknown He will provide,  
Christ in us, our Cornerstone;  
We will go forth in grace alone.*

2. Ev'ry soul we long to reach,  
ev'ry heart we hope to teach;  
ev'rywhere we share His peace  
is only by His grace.  
Ev'ry loving word we say,  
ev'ry tear we wipe away;  
Ev'ry sorrow turned to praise  
is only by His grace.

*Chorus*

*Words and Music by Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson CCLI Song #2335524  
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*(Children ages 3- 3rd grade are dismissed for Children's Worship)*

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

*"Christ in us, our Cornerstone"*

Scripture Readings: **1 John 2:28- 3:10**

Prayer of Illumination

Message: Remain in Christ

Time of Prayer

*"We will go forth, in grace alone"*

\* Song of Application: 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.
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

\* God's Blessing

\* Parting Praise: LUYH #489 vs. 3 "By the Sea of Crystal"

3. "Unto God Almighty, sitting on the throne,  
and the Lamb, victorious, be the praise alone."  
God has wrought salvation; he did wondrous things.  
Who shall not extol thee, holy King of kings!

Words: William Kuipers, 1933, based on Revelation 4-5, © 1976 Faith Alive Christian Resources; Music: John Vanderhoven, 1933, © 1976 Faith Alive Resources; CCLI #678905

Postlude

**Welcome** to the House of the Lord! We have come to bring our worship to our God. May we do so in our singing, praying, giving, preaching and listening. May God be glorified. 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 7	Next Week: January 14
Sound:	Mardick S.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Franchesca B.	Joel L.
Video:	Tim H.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

# First CRC Bulletin Announcements

## January 7, 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”

**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!

**Hospitality - Church Use:** The Skagit SonShine Youth Choir is a local Christian youth choir of about 45 participants. It began practicing over a decade ago at Bethany Covenant Church and in recent years has been meeting at Sunrise Christian Center in Sedro-Woolley. Beginning **Wednesday, January 10** they will be returning to Mount Vernon and start practicing in our church sanctuary on Wednesday afternoons between **4-6 PM**. In addition, they generally have two concerts a year - both a Christmas and Spring concert. More details on this year's spring concert will be forthcoming, but in the meantime if you are at church on Wednesday afternoons please take the time to warmly welcome them and make them feel at home. Thank you!

**Worship Service YouTube Links:**

December 31, 2023: <https://youtu.be/DsIRZuYRdbA>

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)

**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:**

Brooke K.; Henry & Sharon K.

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week:**

January 14 – Eliot & Sue B., Kevin & Glenda K.

**Worship Team:**

December 31: Sheri L., Mandi D., Kiera L., Nellie VDH

January 14: Stan B., Julie, Adriana & Tessa S.

**Nursery:**

Today: January 7 – Juliana LeClair, Emily Van Hofwegen

Next Week: January 14 - Brooke K., Maddie D.

**Children in Worship:**

Today: Heather V.H., Caleb L.

Next Week: TK

**This Week:**

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

Jan. 10, 7:00pm: Cadets

Jan. 12, 7:00am – Men’s Bible Study at Shari’s Restaurant

January 14 at 6:30 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study

**Upcoming Dates to Note:**

Jan. 17, 6:30pm - GEMS

**CRC COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - “Visio divina” is the practice of meditating on Scripture using art or other images. Try it by reading the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15 and then meditating on the art in Calvin University’s collection based on this story ([tinyurl.com/ProdigalArt](http://tinyurl.com/ProdigalArt)). Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)

**Kids Corner: Caring for You** - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Did you know that along with caring for others, God wants us to care for ourselves, too? It makes God happy when you treat your body with respect and care, just like you would treat a special, holy temple. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like KC’s The Bible in One Year Plan.

**Groundwork: Compassion** - The Christlike virtue of compassion is more than an emotion. Join Groundwork as we explore Matthew 9:36, Colossians 3:12-14, and 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 to discover why the apostle Paul identifies compassion as a defining characteristic in followers of Jesus and what it looks like in our everyday lives. 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](mailto: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:**

We express our Christian sympathy to **Dick & Linda Gudmunson** and family in the recent passing away of Dick's mother. Pray for peace and God's guidance in the days ahead.

Continue to remember the Meischke family and others who have recently lost loved ones. May God be close to each one of them as their loved one is missed at this time of year.

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!

**Yvonne Boon** had her last chemo for a bit on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December and will have a bone marrow biopsy in January. Please pray that the chemo takes care of the remaining percentage of bad cells.

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 1 - CRC Communications: New Year's Day**

We serve the one, triune God who is making everything new. As we celebrate a new year, we give thanks for the Lord's promises and daily care and provision. Pray that as individuals and as part of the family of God through Christ our Savior, we may keep in step with the Spirit through the coming year.

**Tuesday January 2 - World Renew: Education**

Pray for all the families we work with around the world to prioritize education for their children. In many countries girls are often seen as only having a future as wives and mothers and are taken out of school at a young age. Pray that we may continue to find ways to emphasize the importance of education that will bring change.

**Wednesday January 3 - Resonate Global Mission: Estonia**

Resonate recently held a Healing Hearts, Transforming Nations workshop in Estonia. Give thanks, said Resonate missionary George de Vuyst, for all that God has done there—"and especially for the faithful brothers and sisters who seek God and his reconciliation for the nations of Europe."

**Thursday January 4 - ReFrame Ministries: Japan**

Pray for Noriko, who listens to our Japanese audio program every morning and recently asked to enroll in a Bible study by correspondence with our partners. "I want to know more about Jesus," she shared, "and [in 2024], I [want to pursue] that desire, read the Bible, and grow closer to God."

**Friday January 5 - *World Renew: Mercy***

As we enter the season of Epiphany, we give thanks for the many places where Christ makes himself known through the kindness and generosity of his people. As we share assistance with people in dire situations due to conflict and natural disasters, pray for relief and for lasting solutions that will bring glory to God in the year ahead.

**Saturday January 6 - *Thrive: Epiphany***

On this Day of Epiphany, celebrating the light of Christ revealed to all nations, we pray: For peace on earth, that the peace of Christ may become a reality for all nations. For all who are sick or suffering, neglected or bereaved, that the light of Christ will lead them out of darkness. Lord of light, reveal to all people your Word made flesh.

**Sunday January 7 - *ThereforeGo Ministries: SERVE 2024***

Please join us in praying for all who are deciding where to participate in SERVE projects this year; we still have several sites available across the U.S. and Canada. We also covet your prayers surrounding our expanding opportunities for churches and emerging adults!