

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
March 3, 2024 – Third Sunday of Lent
Pastor John Knoester
10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

**“Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,”**

Prelude

Welcome

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #572 v. 1-3, 5
“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

1. Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
My soul with comfort rich he fills,
and every grief he gently stills:
to God all praise and glory!
2. What God’s almighty power has made,
in mercy he is keeping;
by morning glow or evening shade
his eye is never sleeping.
And where he rules in kingly might,
there all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!
3. The Lord is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay,
our peace, and joy, and blessing;
as with a mother’s tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!

5. Let all who name Christ's holy name
give God the praise and glory.
Let all who know his power proclaim
aloud the wondrous story.
Cast every idol from its throne;
the Lord is God, and he alone:
to God all praise and glory!

Words: Johann J. Schütz, 1675; tr. Frances Cox, 1864, alt., P.D.; Music: Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesänge, 1566 P.D.; CCLI #678905

* Call to Worship

Leader: Come to the Lord, who is rich in grace;
approach our God, who is full of mercy.

**People: We will praise God with all our heart
and glorify the name of the Most High forever.**

* Prayer of Invocation: Based on John 4:13-14, 7:37-38

* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #665 v. 1-3

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me; your morn shall rise
and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till traveling days are done.

Words: Horatius Bonar, 1846, P.D CCLI #678905

* God’s Greeting

* We Greet One Another

**“The God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.”**

Announcements

Invitation to Transformed Living

Call to Confession: Psalm 51:17 and Psalm 139:23-24

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

- Psalm 51:17

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
try me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

- Psalm 139:23-24

Prayer of Confession

Sung Response: LUYH #466 v. 1-4 *“Abide with Me”*

1. Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
4. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Words of Assurance: Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus said:

Come to me, all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

—from Matthew 11:28-30, NRSV

God's Law: Ephesians 4:32-5:2

Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children
and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us
and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering
and sacrifice to God. —Ephesians 4:32-5:2, NIV

* Sung Response: LUYH #466 "Abide with Me" v. 5

5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Words: Henry F. Lyte, 1847, alt., P.D.; Music: William H. Monk, 1861, P.D. CCLI #678905

*(Following this sung response the children are invited forward
for the Children's Message)*

Children's Message – Marjo Rouw

*(Following the message children ages 3-3rd grade
are invited to go to Children's Worship)*

Offering: General Fund

Offertory Song Video: "Compassion Hymn" – Gettys

**"My soul with comfort rich he fills,
and every grief he gently stills:"**

Scripture Reading: Romans 11:13-24

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***The Via Dolorosa: "Weep No More"***

Time of Prayer

"To God all praise and glory!"

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #451 v. 1-4

"When Peace Like a River"

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain

*It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

2. Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

Refrain

3. My sin— oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain

4. O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
even so, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul;

it is well, it is well with my soul.

Words: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873, P.D.; Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1876, P.D. CCLI #678905

* We Profess our Faith: II Corinthians 1:3-7

Leader: Praise be to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,

**People: Who comforts us in all our troubles,
so that we can comfort those in any trouble
with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.
For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings
of Christ, so also our comfort abounds
through Christ.**

Leader: If we are distressed,
it is for your comfort and salvation;
if we are comforted, it is for your comfort,
which produces in you patient endurance
of the same sufferings we suffer.

**People: And our hope for you is firm,
because we know that just as you share
in our sufferings,
so also you share in our comfort.**

* 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 the House of God. The Lord is always near to those who gather in his name. Let us eagerly call upon God and make a joyful noise with songs and prayers of praise. Glory be to God! 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.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

There will be no **Sunday School** on Sunday, March 3. They will resume on Sunday, March 10 at 9:30 a.m.

Public Profession of Faith/New Members: Next week **Sunday (March 10)** we will have the opportunity to celebrate *Isaac Dykstra's* public profession of faith! In addition, we will also be publicly welcoming at least one new member to our church family and maybe more. Following the service we will also celebrate a significant birthday of one of our long-time members. Looking forward to celebrating all of these testimonies of God's faithfulness and grace together!

Dear Friends,

The Memorial Service for **Maxine Greidanus** will be held on Monday, March 11 at 1 PM at the First Christian Reformed Church. Please continue to keep Larry and the entire Greidanus family in your prayers in the days and weeks to come.

In His Grace,

- Pastor John

USHERS NEEDED: I'm looking for a few people to act as ushers for the Dordt Choir concert coming up on March 5. If you are interested in helping out with this, please let the office know ASAP. Thank you!

The **GEMS** and their Gents are invited to an evening of fun as we go on an Amazing Race around the world on March 6, Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Christian School Elementary gym. See you there!!

Pacific Northwest Classis will meet in Tacoma on Thursday, March 7. Please remember them in prayer.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: The new Gideon study will start Sunday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Choir will be rehearsing TODAY, March 3, after the service. Join us as we prepare beautiful music for Lent and Easter! 🙏🙏 To God be the glory! 🙏🙏

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*

Worship Service YouTube Links:

February 25, 2024: <https://youtu.be/-TFhHD1b-fk>

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

The "Via Dolorosa" ("Sorrowful Way") refers to the path that Jesus took on the way to his crucifixion in the old City of Jerusalem. During this Lenten season, we will use the image of the Via Dolorosa as we journey with Jesus to the cross. We will travel back to Isaiah 53 where the coming Messiah is given the title Man of Sorrows. We will look at various stories where the theme of sorrow and tears play an important role. May God bless us during this Lenten season as we journey with our Savior to the cross.

In His Grace, Pastor John and Pastor Brad

Tentative Sermon Schedule

1. February 18: Isaiah 52:13- 53:12— "The Via Dolorosa: The Man of Sorrows"
2. February 25: Matthew 2:13-18--"The Via Dolorosa: The Slaughter of the Innocents"
3. March 3: Luke 7:11-17 – "The Via Dolorosa: "Weep No More"
4. March 10: TBD

5. March 17: TBD
6. March 24: Palm Sunday
7. March 31: Easter Sunday

Links: Listed below are links that you can use to read the following newsletters online:

<https://firstcrcmv.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024.2-MBos-Calvin-Sem-Letter-MtVernon.pdf>

<https://firstcrcmv.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Nicholson-Newsletter-February-2024.docx>

<https://firstcrcmv.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/C.A.R.E.-Medical-Center-February-Newsletter.pdf>

CALENDAR

Greeters/Coffee Hosts: March 3

Rich & Elly C., Janelle & Spencer D.

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, March 10: Brad & Crystal DK, Mardick & Jill S.

Worship Team:

March 3: Stan B., Julie S., Adriana & Tessa S.

Next Week, March 10: Kevin & Glenda K., France B., Emmalyn S.

Nursery:

March 3: Marissa VDK & France B.

Next Week, March 10: Kiera L, Lauren VDB

Children in Worship:

March 3: Heidi B., Isaac D.

Next Week, March 10: Heather VH, Macy VDP

March 3:

Choir practice after the morning service.

This Week:

Tuesday: March 5, 7:30 pm: Dordt University Choir will be here at First CRC!

Wednesday: March 6, 6:30 pm: GEMS Father/Daughter Night

Thursday: March 7 – Classis Pacific Northwest

Upcoming Date to Note:

March 13, 6:30pm: Cadets Pinewood Derby at MVC Elementary Gym

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Bible Camp – July 4-8 – Warm Beach Camp, near Stanwood, WA. Singles, couples, families and seniors - fellowship and worship together in a beautiful setting; enjoy dynamic speakers to challenge and refresh your daily walk; camp with your tent or RV, or choose from a variety of lodging accommodations with meals included. Swimming, mini golf, tennis & basketball courts, volleyball, bocce, ropes course, rockets and so much more! Childcare and fun programs for your kids <https://cascadefamilybiblecamp.org/registration-info> or contact rona718@hotmail.com, dean@lithocraft.com if you have questions. ‘First Timer’ discounts are available for those who haven’t attended in the past!

The Dordt University Concert Choir from Sioux Center, Iowa, invites you to a concert on Tuesday, March 5 at 7:30 PM at Mt. Vernon First Christian Reformed Church. his free concert is part of a spring tour with performances scheduled in Montana, Washington, British Columbia, Idaho, and South Dakota. Directed by Dr. Ryan Smit, the Dordt University Concert Choir will perform a wide variety of music including hymn arrangements; spirituals; songs from other cultures; standards of the choral repertoire by Sweelinck and Hassler; and newer modern works by Shawn Kirchner, Jake Runestad, Dan Forrest, Elaine Hagenberg, Kim André Arnesen, Patrick Vu, and others. The concert is free, with a freewill offering received to help defray tour expenses.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS

Thank you for participating in World Renew DRS Sunday - Your generous gifts and prayers last Sunday for World Renew DRS support the physical and spiritual needs of disaster survivors. Through your involvement, World Renew DRS offers volunteer services, clean up, home repair, community organizing, cost estimating, and reconstruction to homeowners who are without resources to recover on their own. Thank you for participating! If you missed Sunday’s offering, go to worldrenew.net/drs or call 800-848-5818 to give today.

Kids Corner: Living a Holy Life - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Have you ever wanted to do something that you knew wasn't right? We all wrestle with sin, but we need to take personal responsibility. We can't blame Satan for our poor behavior (Ephesians 6:11-17). Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Lent and Easter Collection.

Groundwork: The Shame Of The Cross - As we seek to comprehend the fullness of Jesus' sacrifice, we need to revisit the shame of the cross. Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 53:1-3, Philippians 2:5-8, Genesis 2:25, Genesis 3:7-10, Hebrews 12:1-3, and 1 Peter 2:4-6 to examine the relationship between sin and shame and unpack why Jesus' experience of shame was necessary for our salvation. 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 REQUEST:

We express our deepest sympathy to Larry Greidanus and family and friends. Maxine passed away on Monday, February 26. Pray for the family in the days ahead and the decisions that are made. May they feel God close beside them.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

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

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

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; *Martha Haarsma* at home 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 February 26: Resonate: Berlin

Resonate missionaries David Kromminga and Mary Buteyn planted a church with and for refugees in Berlin, Germany. They also lead an Alpha course for people interested in learning more about Jesus. They ask for prayer that “the merely curious participants in the Alpha course and worship services may recognize the love of Jesus.”

Tuesday February 27: Thrive: People serving churches

Please pray for wisdom, discernment, and strength for pastors, leaders, and volunteers in congregations across the U.S. and Canada.

Wednesday February 28: ReFrame: India

Pray for believers like Rajesh, who lives in a remote part of India that has very few believers. “It’s very challenging for Rajesh to remain firm in Jesus when he is surrounded by so many different religions and false gods,” shared our Hindi ministry partner. “Please pray for the Lord’s help to overcome all these situations.”

Thursday February 29: Resonate: Sierra Leone

With support from a Resonate grant, the Christian Reformed Church in Sierra Leone was able to plant a church among the people of the Lungi community. The church baptized 12 new believers, who are now active members of the church. Praise God! Please pray for this church plant’s work in this community.

Friday March 1: Calvin Theological Seminary: Exams

Senior students will be taking their oral comprehensive exams this month as they prepare for graduation and ministry beyond seminary. Pray that the exams will not cause undue anxiety but will bless these students in recalling how much they have learned in their studies.

Saturday March 2: Thrive: Interclassis Safe Church Conference

Pray for attendees and presenters at the Interclassis Safe Church Conference taking place today in Ontario. As participants are equipped in abuse awareness, prevention, and response, they are encouraged to build communities where the value of each person is honored, where people are free to worship and grow in faith free from abuse, and where the response to abuse is compassion and justice, which foster healing.

Sunday March 3: Resonate Global Mission: Volunteers

“We praise God for volunteers serving in more than 15 countries around the world. Pray for them as they serve and as they return to their sending communities—that they may have opportunities to share what they have learned and in turn bless those who have sent them,” asks Gillian Bruce, Resonate’s volunteer programs leader.

Tech Team	Today: March 3	Next Week: March 10
Sound:	Henry H.	Mardy S.
Projection:	Caleb L.	Maddie D.
Video:	Brandon S.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund