

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

February 25, 2024

Pastor John Knoester

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

- * Please stand in body or in spirit.

*“That Word above all earthly powers
-no thanks to them-abideth”*

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

- * Call to Worship: Psalm 95: 1-2

*“Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before him with thanksgiving
And extol him with music and song.”*

- * Opening Song of Praise: LUYH#598 “You Are Holy”

*You Are Holy You are holy, (echo)
You are mighty. (echo)
You are worthy, (echo)
worthy of praise. (echo)
I will follow. (echo) I will listen. (echo)
I will love you (echo) all of my days. (echo)*

Men

*I will sing to and worship the King who is worthy.
I will love and adore him; I will bow down before him.
I will sing to and worship the King who is worthy.
I will love and adore him; I will bow down before him.*

Women

You are Lord of lords, you are King of kings,
You are mighty God, Lord of everything.
You're Emmanuel, you're the great I AM,
You're the Prince of Peace who is the Lamb.
You're the living God; you're my saving grace.
You will reign forever, you are Ancient of Days.
You are Alpha, Omega, beginning and end.
You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer, and Friend.

All together

You're my Prince of Peace, and I will live my life for you.
Words: Marc Imboden and Tammi Rhoton © 1994 Imboden Music/Martha Jo
Music, both admin. by Music Services, Inc.

* God's Greeting

* We Greet Each Other

* Song of Praise: "*Is He Worthy*"

Verse 1 Soloist, (Congregation Response)

1. Do you feel the world is broken (We do)
Do you feel the shadows deepen (We do)
But do you know that all the dark
Won't stop the light from getting through, (We do)
Do you wish that you could see it all made new (We do)

Verse 2 Soloist, Congregation Response

2. Is all creation groaning (It is)
Is a new creation coming (It is)
Is the glory of the Lord
To be the light within our midst (It is)
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this (It is)

Chorus 1 All

*Is anyone worthy, Is anyone whole
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's Root
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
Is He worthy, Is He worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy of this
He is*

Verse 3 Soloist, Congregation Response

3. Does the Father truly love us (He does)
Does the Spirit move among us (He does)
And does Jesus our Messiah
Hold forever those He loves (He does)
Does our God intend to dwell again with us (He does)

Chorus 2 All

4. Is anyone worthy, Is anyone whole
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's Root
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave

From ev'ry people and tribe every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom and priests
To God to reign with the Son
Is He worthy, Is He worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy, Is He worthy
Is He worthy of this
He is! He is!
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
He is! He is!
He is worthy! He is worthy!
He is!

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*“The Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth”*

Call to Confession: Psalm 24:3-5

“Who may ascend the hill of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
Who does not lift up his soul to an idol,
or swear by what is false.
He will receive a blessing from the Lord
and vindication from God his Savior.”

Sung Prayer of Confession: "Lord, I Need You"

1. Lord, I come, I confess.
Bowling here, I find my rest.
And without You, I fall apart.
You're the one that guides my heart.

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You.
Ev'ry hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh, God, how I need You.*

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are.
And where You are, Lord, I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me.
Where You are, Lord I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me.

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You.
Ev'ry hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh, God, how I need You.*

So teach my song to rise to You
when temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You.
Jesus, You're my hope and stay.
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay.

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You. (2x)
Ev'ry hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh, God, how I need You.*

God's Will for our Lives: Ephesians 3:16-19

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

* Song of Assurance: "*Wonderful, Merciful, Savior*" v. 1-3

1. Wonderful merciful, Savior,
precious Redeemer and Friend;
Who would have thought that a Lamb
could rescue the souls of men?
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

Chorus

*You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore,
You give the healing and grace
our hearts always hunger for,
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.*

2. Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts
have hopelessly lost the way,
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.

Chorus

3. Almighty, infinite Father,
faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us
falling before Your throne,
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.

Chorus

Words and Music by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse; ©1989 Word Music, LLC (a div. of Word Music Group, Inc.); CCLI# 678905

Offering: General Fund

Offertory: *"Via Dolorosa"*

* Song of Preparation: *"Open Our Eyes"*

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.

Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,
open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

"Open Our Eyes" Bob Cull, ©1976 Maranatha! Music CCLI# 678905

*(Following the conclusion of this song children ages 3-1st grade
are dismissed for Children's Worship)*

*"Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill"*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:13-18

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"The Via Dolorosa: The Slaughter of the Innocents"***

Prayer of Application

* Hymn of Application: 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

The Apostles Creed (In Unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

“God’s truth abideth still: his kingdom is forever!”

* God’s Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #938

“My Friends, May You Grow in Grace”

My friends, may you grow in grace
and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.
My friends, may you grow in grace
and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory, now and forever,
now and forever, amen.
To God be the glory, now and forever,
now and forever, amen.

Words: 2 Peter 3:18; Timothy James Meaney (b. 1965) and Sean Diamond
(b. 1968); rev. Gregg DeMey (b. 1972) and Gregory Kett (b. 1970) © 1991,
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Postlude

Welcome to a time of praise and worship of the Lord our God. Let us fill His house with songs of praise and feast upon His word. We especially welcome every visitor today. We are very glad you came. May the peace and joy of the Lord be yours. 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: February 25	Next Week: March 3
Sound:	Henry VZ	Henry H.
Projection:	Joel L.	Caleb L.
Video:	Caleb L.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

February 25, 2024

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please join us after the service this morning for a potluck!

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!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Our final study is this Sunday (the 25th) studying Acts. The new Gideon study will start Sunday, March 10th. Ladies may sign up for the Gideon study through this Sunday.

Choir will be rehearsing TODAY 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 11, 2024: <https://youtu.be/-TFhHD1b-fk>

February 18, 2024: <https://youtu.be/py-RVGvIJQk>

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

Calendar:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts:

Bob DG, Keith & Jean R., Simon LC

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, Mar. 3: Rich & Elly C., Janelle & Spencer D.

Worship Team:

Today: Sheri L., Mandi D., Kiera L, France B.

Next Week, Mar. 3: Stan B., Julie S., Adriana & Tessa S.

Nursery:

Today: Angela S., Nellie VDH

Next Week, Mar. 3: Marissa VDK & France B.

Children in Worship:

Today: Tim H., Myra VDB

Next Week, Mar. 3: Heidi B., Isaac D.

Today:

Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study

Feb. 25: Potluck! Please bring a main dish and a side dish or dessert to share!

This Week:

Feb. 27, 7:00am – Men’s Bible Study at IHOP

Upcoming Dates to Note:

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

Mar. 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. This 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:

Build Communities of Hope on World Renew DRS Sunday- Today's offering for World Renew Disaster Response Services builds hope in communities across the U.S. and Canada. World Renew DRS helps homeowners like Mrs. Brown who may not be able to recover from a flood, tornado, or hurricane on their own. Please give generously in today's offering for World Renew DRS. You can also give online at worldrenew.net/drs or call 800-848-5818 to donate.

Kids Corner: Names of God: The Righteous God- Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Psalm 145:17 says, "The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does." So, what is it like to be righteous? Is it like being right? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Lent and Easter Collection.

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.

Groundwork: The Curse Of The Cross - We were rightly cursed by God for our failure to keep his covenant. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Deuteronomy 28:1-19, Deuteronomy 21:22-23, Galatians 3:10-14, 2 Corinthians 5:21, and Isaiah 53:4-11 to better understand the cursed nature of the cross and discuss the implications of this curse and Jesus' death under it for our lives of faith today. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Cornel West said, "Justice is what love looks like in public." How might you share the love of Jesus by practicing justice in public this week in your workplace, your neighborhood, or your city? Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject



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:

Please keep **Maxine and Larry** Greidanus in your prayers as she has entered hospice care. She and Larry are so thankful for all your prayers and words of encouragement and covet your continuing prayers and loving support throughout the coming weeks and months ahead.

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 19 - Indigenous Family Centre: Community members

Please pray for the community members here at IFC. They need prayers for their health and for the strength to carry on as they support other family members. Pray also for the people in Winnipeg who are without homes—especially for those struggling with drug addictions and for their families. We also give thanks for the CRCNA's support.

Tuesday February 20 - *World Renew: Partnerships*

Our participation with organizations like Canadian Foodgrains Bank and Growing Hope Globally extends our impact. Church-to-church partnerships between the Global South and North America enrich our understanding of our neighbors and our Lord. And most of our work involves local partners such as church denominations and grassroots charities. Give thanks and pray with us that our partnerships remain effective.

Wednesday February 21 - *Resonate: Nicaragua*

Nicaragua Christian Academy often has a difficult time finding teachers to meet their needs each school year. Ask God to help meet the needs of this Resonate partner school and to bring the right people to serve as teachers.

Thursday February 22 - *ReFrame: Japan*

Pray for Yamato and others in Japan who cannot physically go to church. Pray that they'll discover and continue to use online resources or radio messages to strengthen their faith. "The messages are a valuable source of sustenance," Yamato wrote to our Japanese ministry team. "I listen to them every day. Thank you for your continued support of spiritual guidance."

Friday February 23 - *Thrive: Unity in Christ*

Please pray for a spirit of love, understanding, and collaboration among members within your own congregation. May hearts lean toward faithfulness, patience, kindness, and other fruits of the Spirit.

Saturday February 24 - *Diaconal Ministries Canada: Support*

Deacons serve by leading and equipping their churches in a rich diversity of ministries, awakening compassion, demonstrating mercy, seeking justice, promoting stewardship, and collaborating with God's Spirit for the transformation and flourishing of all people and places. Please pray for our staff and for diaconal coaches as they equip and support deacons and churches across the country.

Sunday February 25 - *World Renew: Disaster recovery*

Disaster recovery takes a long time, and the people affected are often left vulnerable long after the media stop talking about them. Pray for people in Malawi still recovering from Cyclone Freddy; for partners in Syria as they provide food and hygiene supplies and more after the 2023 earthquake; and for Disaster Response Services volunteers and staff serving in communities across the U.S.