

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
February 4, 2024

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

“What can wash away my sin?”

Prelude

Welcome

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #594 v. 1-4
“The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear”

1. The ends of all the earth shall hear
and turn unto the Lord in fear;
all kindreds of the earth shall own
and worship him as God alone.

Refrain

*All earth to him her homage brings,
the Lord of lords, the King of kings.*

2. His is the kingdom, his of right;
he rules the nations by his might.
All earth to him her homage brings,
the Lord of lords, the King of kings.

Refrain

3. Both rich and poor, both bond and free
shall worship him on bended knee,
and children’s children shall proclaim
the glorious honor of his name.

Refrain

4. The Lord’s unfailing righteousness
all generations shall confess;
from age to age they shall be taught
what wondrous works the Lord has wrought.

Refrain

Words: Psalter, 1912, P.D.; Psalm 22:27-31; Music: William H Doane (1832-1915), P.D.; CCLI #678905

* Call to Worship: Based on I John 3:1-3

Leader: How great is the love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God!

People: And that is what we are!

Leader: Dear friends, now we are children of God,
and what we will be has not yet been made known.

**People: But we know that when he appears,
we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.**

* Song of Praise: LUYH #363 v. 1-3

“Blessed Assurance: Jesus is Mine”

1. Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

3. Perfect submission: all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

Words: Fanny Crosby, 1873, P.D; Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873, P.D. CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

"Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance:

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

—Psalm 103:8-13, NRSV

God's Will for our Lives:

Surely you heard of him and were taught in him
in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.
You were taught, with regard to your former way of life,
to put off your old self, which is being corrupted
by its deceitful desires;
to be made new in the attitude of your minds;
and to put on the new self, created to be like God
in true righteousness and holiness.
Therefore each of you must put off falsehood
and speak truthfully to his neighbor,
for we are all members of one body.

—Ephesians 4:21-25, NIV

Prayer of Thanksgiving

* Hymn of Response: LUYH #690 v. 1-4

"I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace"

1. I know not why God's wondrous grace
to me he has made known,
nor why, unworthy, Christ in love
redeemed me for his own.

Refrain

*But "I know whom I have believed,
and am persuaded that he is able
to keep that which I've committed
unto him against that day."*

2. I know not how this saving faith
to me he did impart,
nor how believing in his Word
wrought peace within my heart.

Refrain

*But "I know whom I have believed,
and am persuaded that he is able
to keep that which I've committed
unto him against that day."*

3. I know not how the Spirit moves,
convincing us of sin,
revealing Jesus through the Word,
creating faith in him.

Refrain

4. I know not what of good or ill
may be reserved for me,
of weary ways or golden days,
before his face I see.

Refrain

*Words: based on 2 Timothy 1:12, Daniel W. Whittle, 1883; P.D.;
Music: James McGranahan, 1883, P.D.; CCLI # 678905*

Offering

Offertory

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

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #426 v. 1-4

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

1. My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away.
O let me from this day
be wholly thine!

2. May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire.
As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee,
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!

3. While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide.
Bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.

4. When life's swift race is run,
death's cold work almost done,
be near to me.
Blest Savior, then in love
fear and distrust remove.
O bear me safe above,
redeemed and free!

Words: Ray Palmer, 1830, alt., P.D.; Music: Lowell Mason, 1832, P.D.; Public Domain; CCLI #678905

"What can make me whole again?"

Scripture Reading: I John 5:1-12

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Faith in Jesus"***

Time of Prayer

Our eyes turn to you, O Sovereign Lord:
in you we take refuge.

By the illumining power of your Holy Spirit,
help us to see the light of the knowledge of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

* Hymn of Application: CH #337 v. 1-4

“Nothing but the Blood of Jesus”

1. What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus

*O precious is the flow
that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

2. For my pardon this I see,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing, this my plea,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus

3. Nothing can for sin atone,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus

4. This is all my hope and peace,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus

Text: Robert Lowry; Music: Robert Lowry; Public Domain

“Nothing but the blood of Jesus.”

* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 20-21

Leader: Q. Are all saved through Christ just as all were lost through Adam?

People: No.

**Only those are saved who by true faith
are grafted into Christ and accept all his blessings.**

Leader: Q. What is true faith?

**People: True faith is not only a knowledge and conviction
that everything God reveals in his Word is true;
it is also a deep-rooted assurance,
created in me by the Holy Spirit through the gospel,
that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ,
not only others, but I too,
have had my sins forgiven,
have been made forever right with God,
and have been granted salvation.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #302 v. 1-2 *"Hear our Praises"*

1. May our homes be filled with dancing,
may our streets be filled with joy.
May injustice bow to Jesus
as the people turn and pray.

Refrain

*From the mountain to the valley,
hear our praises rise to you.
From the heavens to the nations,
hear our singing fill the air.*

2. May your light shine in the darkness
as we walk before the cross.
May your glory fill the whole earth
as the water over the seas.

Refrain x2

Words and Music: Reuben Morgan © 1998 Hillsong Publishing (APRA), admin. US
& Canada at EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI# 678905

Welcome! The prophet Isaiah proclaimed: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation” (Isaiah 12:3). We welcome all who are present today and invite everyone to drink of Christ’s “living water,” which can quench our spiritual thirstiness forever. 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: February 4	Next Week: February 11
Sound:	Henry H.	Mardick S.
Projection:	Beth B.	Isaac D.
Video:	Tim H./Joel L.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

February 4, 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.

Pastor John will be on vacation from Feb. 14-Feb. 19. Please contact Pastor Brad, your Elder or Deacon with any pastoral concerns.

Beth will also be on vacation this month from Feb. 22-Feb. 29. Please get your announcements or Prayer Guide items to her for the week of Feb. 18 by Weds., Feb. 21 at 9 AM. Thank you!

Don't miss this month's potluck! We will be meeting to enjoy delicious food (brought by you) on Feb. 25 after the service. Please bring a main dish *and* a side dish or dessert to share!

"Thank you for the prayers, visits and cards that our mom received over the last 7 months. She really appreciated them as they helped keep her connected to her friends and church family."

– Grace Feddema's Family

Attention Choir members: Choir will begin rehearsing on Sunday February 18. Join us as we prepare beautiful music for Lent and Easter! To God be the glory! Contact Joni Beezhold with any questions.

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

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: (I 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"
11. February 4: (I John 5:1-12) "Faith in Jesus"

Worship Service YouTube Links:

January 28, 2024: <https://youtu.be/M0dUnkhMJc4>

Calendar:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts:

Bob P., Cody & Angela S.

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, Feb. 11:

Greg & Beth, Kera B., Sheri L.

Worship Team:

Today: Kevin & Glenda K., Kayla & Ella VH

Next Week, Feb. 11: Greg & Beth B., France B., Nellie VDH

Nursery:

Today: Catherine and Noah VDK

Next Week, Feb. 11: Elly VDB, Emmalyn S.

Children in Worship:

Today: Heidi B., France B.

Next Week, Feb. 11: Heather VH, Rhyson O.

This Week:

Feb. 6, 7:00am – Men’s Bible Study

Feb. 9, 6:30pm - GEMS Sleepover

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study

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

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Kids Corner: Names of God: The Father of Compassion - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Check out the story of Joseph. He was sold into slavery by his brothers, wrongly accused, thrown in jail, and forgotten for a long time. He comes face to face with his brothers and forgives them! When you receive God’s mercy, you extend that mercy to others, even those who have hurt you. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC’s Valentine Cards.

Groundwork: Truthfulness - As humans, we tend to value honesty over lying, but have you ever considered truthfulness a virtue? Join Groundwork as we explore Numbers 23:19; John 17:13-18; John 1:1-2, 14; and Ephesians 4:17-25 to discuss the Christlike virtue of truthfulness, why it’s important, and the practical ways we can embody it in our daily lives. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork’s weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Proverbs 14:31 says, “He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.” Who in your community is needy? What might

you do to show kindness to that person or group of people? 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.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please continue to pray for **Trudy Van Klaveren** as she recovers from her recent knee replacement surgery.

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 **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 29 - *ReFrame: Hindi ministry*

Our Hindi ministry partners in India ask for prayer for Ahlad, a young man from a remote village who embraced Christianity after attending a local church program. As the only Christ-follower in his family, he is actively seeking strength and conviction in his newfound faith.

Tuesday January 30 - *Thrive: Volunteers*

Praise God for the faithful ministry of volunteers who are committed to equipping their local congregations to be safe and accessible worshiping communities.

Wednesday January 31 - *Resonate: Central Asia*

A missionary serving in Central Asia is thankful to have met a young grocery store clerk, who has shared that he feels lonely and is searching for the truth. Ask God to work through this relationship, that this young man may come to know the love, hope, and grace of Jesus.

Thursday February 1 - *Thrive: Chaplains*

Several of our chaplains serve as certified supervisor-educators in clinical pastoral education/spiritual care and psychospiritual therapy. Please pray for wisdom and energy as they provide spiritual care, teach, and supervise the training of many other chaplains and therapists to prepare them to serve in a variety of institutions.

Friday February 2 - *World Renew: Equity*

We are committed to pursuing equity, inclusion, and justice for all. Ask God to raise up leaders who are champions for people often overlooked or mistreated in their societies. Ask God also that we may have words of wisdom as we lead and ears to hear as we learn from the international community.

Saturday February 3 - *Resonate Global Mission: Ontario*

Give thanks for Ashleesha, who served as a Resonate emerging leader with Momentum Campus Ministries in Ontario. God is working through Ashleesha to reach the growing Indian population on the campuses of St. Lawrence College and Loyalist College-Belleville.

Sunday February 4 - *ReFrame Ministries: Burkina Faso*

Our partners in Burkina Faso ask you to pray for peace and stability in the country. Many schools are closed because of terrorist attacks in areas where our listeners and their children live. Meanwhile, our church planting team faces challenges with the continuous movement of people who are fleeing attacks.