

***Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!***  
***March 31, 2024 – Easter Morning***  
***Pastor Brad Diekema***

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

*“Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!”*

Prelude

Easter Story: Matthew 28:1-10

**\* Easter Hymn: LUYH #182 v. 1-5 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”**

1. Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!  
All creation, join to say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!  
Sing, O heavens, and earth, reply: Alleluia!
2. Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won; Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise; Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!
3. Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died, our souls to save; Alleluia!  
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head; Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise; Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!
5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!  
Praise to you by both be given; Alleluia!  
Risen Christ, triumphant now; Alleluia!  
Every knee to you shall bow. Alleluia!

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt., P.D.; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708, P.D.; CCLI #678905

\* Call to Worship and Easter Greetings:

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: The Lord is risen indeed!**

Leader: Glory and honor, dominion and power,  
be to our God forever and ever!

**People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Leader: God has made us alive with Christ!

**People: Death has been swallowed up in victory!**

Leader: Grace and peace to you from him who is,  
and who was, and who is to come,  
and from the seven spirits before his throne,  
and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness,  
the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings  
of the earth.

**People: Amen!**

—Revelation 1:4–5

\* Mutual Greetings with the Historic Christian Testimony:

(Congregation members are encouraged to greet one another  
with the following words: *“The Lord is risen! ....  
The Lord is risen indeed!”*)

\* Easter Hymn of Praise: LUYH #186 v. 1-3

*“Low in the Grave He Lay”*

1. Low in the grave he lay—  
Jesus, my Savior;  
waiting the coming day—  
Jesus, my Lord.

*Refrain*

*Up from the grave he arose,  
with a mighty triumph o’er his foes.  
He arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever with his saints to reign!  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

2. Vainly they watch his bed—  
Jesus, my Savior;  
vainly they seal the dead—  
Jesus, my Lord.

*Refrain*

*Up from the grave he arose,  
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes.  
He arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever with his saints to reign!  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

3. Death cannot keep its prey—  
Jesus, my Savior;  
he tore the bars away—  
Jesus, my Lord.

*Refrain*

*Words and Music: Robert Lowry, 1874, alt, P.D.; CCLI #678905*

*(During the singing of the last verse the Choir is invited forward)*

Ministry of Music: "A Never-Ending Alleluia" - Choir

*"All Creation Join to Say; Alleluia!"*

Announcements

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

*(Following the offertory the children are invited forward  
for the children's message)*

Children's Message – Marjo Rouw

*(Following the children's message children ages 3-3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
are invited to attend Children and Worship)*

\* Song of Preparation: LUYH #181 v. 1-3

*"See, What a Morning"*

1. See, what a morning, gloriously bright,  
with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;  
folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light,  
as the angels announce, "Christ is risen!"  
See God's salvation plan,  
wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,  
fulfilled in Christ the Man,  
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead.
2. See Mary weeping, "Where is he laid?"—  
as in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb.  
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name;  
it's the Master, the Lord, raised to life again!  
The voice that spans the years,  
speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,  
will sound 'til he appears  
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead.
3. One with the Father, Ancient of Days,  
through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty.  
Honor and blessing, glory and praise  
to the King crowned with power and authority.  
And we are raised with him;  
death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered.  
And we shall reign with him,  
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead.

*Words and Music: Keith Getty, Stuart Townend © 2003 Thankyou Music (PRS),  
admin. worldwide atEMICMGPublishing.com excluding Europe admin. by  
Kingswaysongs; CCLI #678905*

*"Raise your Joys and Triumphs High; Alleluia!"*

Scripture Reading: John 20:10-18

Prayer of Illumination

Easter Message:

***"The End of the Via Dolorosa: Why Are You Crying?"***

Easter Morning prayer concluded with the Lord's Prayer

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,***

***Your kingdom come, your will be done,***

***on earth as it is in heaven.***

***Give us today our daily bread.***

***Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.***

***And lead us not into temptation,***

***but deliver us from the evil one.***

***For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever. Amen.***

*(Following the prayer the Choir is invited forward)*

***"Sing, O Heavens, and Earth Reply: Alleluia!"***

Ministry of Music: *"To Calvary" - Choir*

\* Hymn of Response: LUYH #365 v. 1-3 *"I Serve a Risen Savior"*

1. I serve a risen Savior,  
he's in the world today;  
I know that he is living,  
whatever people say;  
I see his hand of mercy,  
I hear his voice of cheer,  
and every time I need him  
he's always near.

*Refrain*

*He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!*

*He walks with me and talks with me*

*along life's narrow way.*

*He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!*

*You ask me how I know he lives?*

*He lives within my heart.*

2. In all the world around me  
I see his loving care,  
and though my heart grows weary,  
I never will despair;  
I know that he is leading  
through all the stormy blast;  
the day of his appearing  
will come at last.

*Refrain*

3. Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,  
lift up your voice and sing  
eternal hallelujahs  
to Jesus Christ the King!  
The hope of all who seek him,  
the help of all who find;  
no other is so loving,  
so good and kind.

*Refrain*

*Words and Music: Alfred H. Ackley, 1933, © 1933 Homer A. Rodeheaver, ren.  
1961 The Rodeheaver Company, a div. of WORD, LLC; CCLI # 678905*

\* We Profess our Faith: Apostles Creed

Leader: Let us join together in love,  
and with one heart and one voice  
profess the faith of the church  
at all times and in all place.  
Saying together,

**All: 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 Parting Blessing

\* Closing Song: LUYH #192 "Oh, How Good is Christ the Lord" (2X)

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord!

On the cross he died for me.

He has pardoned all my sin.

Glory be to Jesus.

Glory be to Jesus!

Glory be to Jesus!

In three days he rose again.

Glory be to Jesus.

Words: Puerto Rican folk hymn, P.D.; Music Puerto Rican folk hymn; harm. Dale Grotenhuis (1931-2012), 1985, ©1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources; CCLI #678905

### Postlude

**Easter Welcome!** He is risen! In the mighty name of our living Lord, we welcome you to this Easter service celebration. May you feel Christ's presence. Hear His Word proclaimed and be blessed and renewed. After the worship service, we invite you to join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.



The Loop System is provided for those using hearing devices by using the telephone mode on your device. This is available beginning in row 5

Tech Team	Today: March 31	Next Week: April 7
Sound:	Henry H.	Mardick S.
Projection:	Maddie D.	Beth B.
Video:	Isaac D.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

# First CRC Bulletin Announcements

**March 31, 2024**

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

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

**Easter Lilies & Bibles in the sanctuary were donated in memory of:**

Ben & Geri Ackermann, Sienne Ackermann, Pete & Anna Bol, Jim Bollema, Garrett & Shanda Byle, Harold DeGroot, Owen DeVries, Ray DeVries, Bill & Marge Eskes, Les Faber, Pete & Pauline Faber, Maxine Greidanus, John & Helena Haarsma, Vonda Hall, Ellsworth & June Jungquist, Grace & John Kuipers, Sr., John Kuipers, Jr., Jack & Gertrude McKee, Vickie McKee, Aileen Meischke, Terry Nelson, Greg Postma, John & Betty Postma, Dick Reitsma, Marinus Rouw, Mark & Katie Rouw, Otto Rouw, Karen Rutgers, Betty Stevens, Max & Willy Stevens, Lyle & Evelyn VanderPol, Wayne VanderPol, Klaas & Patricia Van Zanten, Lori Visser, Fern & Eldon Wichers

**Don't forget you may take your Easter lilies that were purchased in memorium home today after the service.**

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** Our next study is this Sunday, April 7th, 6:30pm!

## **Pasta Night! April 6, 5:30-8:00pm**

My name is **Trevor Blom** and I am a student at Mount Vernon Christian. I am a Junior and for my American Lit class, we are doing a project called the "Shalom Project". What this means is that my classmates get into groups, choose an organization that helps a cause through donations. I am partnered with Alex Hirning and we have permission to do a Pasta Night from 5:30-8:00 p.m on April 6. Our funds will be completely through donations, and they will go to New Earth Recovery.

Thank you, **Trevor Blom**



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)*

**Worship Service YouTube Links:**

March 24, 2024: <https://youtu.be/w-pwaaDyqus>

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: The Via Dolorosa: “Extravagant Grace”
5. March 17: The Via Dolorosa: “The Raising of Lazarus from the Dead”
6. March 24: “Deliverance on the Colt of a Donkey”
7. March 31: “The End of the Via Dolorosa: Why Are You Crying?”

**CALENDAR**

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts:** March 31

Terri & Mandi D., Dave & Nancy V.

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, April 7: Jeff & Monica D., Jeanette F.

**Worship Team:**

March 31: Henry & pam VZ, Sylvia VZ, Emmalyn S., Nellie VDH

Next Week, April 7: Kevin & Glenda K., France B., Nellie VHD

**Nursery:**

March 31: Brooke K, Myra VDB

Next Week, April 7: Juliana LC, Maddie D.

**Children in Worship:**

March 31: Angela See, Ella VDB

Next Week, April 7: Angela S., Nolan B.

**Womens Bible Study:** April 7, 21, May 5, 19 and June 2.

**This Week:****NO GEMS THIS WEEK**

**Saturday, April 6, 5:30-8:00pm:** Pasta Night, hosted by Trevor Blom and Alex Hirning

**Upcoming Events:**

**Paste Night Fundraiser:** April 6, 5:30-8:00pm

**GEMS Sunday:** April 21

**ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT**

**C.A.R.E. Medical Center Boutique** is in need of the following household items: Kleenex, size 6 diapers and baby wipes. Donations can be dropped off Mon.-Thurs. between 9-5.

**CRC COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Kids Corner: Creativity in Action** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). When God wanted his people to build a special place of worship, he helped Moses think outside the box to solve problems. Moses knew they needed to build the Tabernacle, and God provided the right craftspeople with the right gifts to help out. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like The Spring Scavenger Hunt, and go for a hike!

**Groundwork:** Crucified And Raised To Life With Christ - Good Friday and Easter mark the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Join Groundwork as we study Philippians 3:10-11, Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:1-14, and 1 Corinthians 15:12-23 to examine what the Apostle Paul teaches us about this gift of salvation by faith and our participation in both Christ's death and resurrection. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Double Your Impact this Easter!** - As we celebrate our Savior who is the Resurrection and the Life, let's go out with joy in our hearts to join God's mission! This Easter, you can help Christian Reformed church planters, missionaries, and campus ministers live out the good news by making a gift to Resonate while your gift will go twice as far! Find out how at [www.resonateglobalmission.org/double](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/double)

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - Today we celebrate an event that changed everything: the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! As you celebrate Easter with family and friends, read 1 Peter 1:3-9 together, and invite people of all ages around your table to share how you experience the "living hope" that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection offers. Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)



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.

#### **NEW REQUESTS:**

Many of you will remember **Derick and Arnola Roos** and their four children who were a big part of our church and MVC community when they lived in Mount Vernon. Arnola was recently diagnosed with ALS or better known as Lou Gehrig's disease. This disease has a very grim prognosis. They are leaning on the everlasting arms of Jesus, taking one day at a time. Please keep them in your prayers as they walk this difficult journey.

#### **CONTINUING REQUESTS:**

**Hans Meischke** is out of the hospital and back home. He is feeling much better. Thank you for all your prayers!

Please pray for **Hank Vander Veen**, who is recovering from the hip surgery that he underwent recently. Pray that he will gain strength and healing through physical therapy.

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 March 25 - World Renew: Gift catalog**

We give thanks for all who gave generously this year through the World Renew Gift Catalog. As the gifts reach the participants in our programs, pray with us that community members receiving goats, chickens, nutrition kits, water filters, soap, bicycles, and so much more may find renewed hope in the kindness of God's global family.

**Tuesday March 26- ReFrame: Japan**

Pray for a Japanese ministry listener in Japan who shared, "I have anxiety and feel extremely depressed before going to work and after work. Last year I made a notebook with Bible verses written in it, and that helps to calm me down before heading out."

**Wednesday March 27 - Justice Ministries: Indigenous ministry**

The CRCNA supports three urban Indigenous ministries in Canada working in areas of great need in Regina, Winnipeg, and Edmonton. In 2023, Indigenous Christian Fellowship, for example, provided over 3,800 soup and bannock meals, more than 700 of which went to mobility challenged people. Please pray for the staff who run these programs and for the people walking through their doors.

**Thursday March 28 *World Renew: Unity***

We praise God that World Renew's team, spanning over two dozen countries, works together as one as we seek to live justly and love mercy. Pray that as we work in partnership with churches and other organizations around the world that we will be unified in our goals and vision to serve Christ.

**Friday March 29 - *Communications: Good Friday***

Today we remember Jesus' suffering and death to atone for all our sin. Ask the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts of believers to share the good news of redemption, and in the hearts of all who hear so that they may believe and find life in Christ.

**Saturday March 30 - *Communications: Holy Saturday***

This day between Good Friday and Easter provides a time to reflect on the story of salvation. We live in "the already, but not yet" state of salvation as we celebrate Christ's finished work for us and await the fullness of life upon his coming again. Ask God to help us serve faithfully in this time.

**Sunday March 31 - *Resonate: Easter Sunday***

As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus today, let us give thanks for the good news of God's amazing plan to redeem all of creation. Please pray with us as we seek to support and equip Christian Reformed churches and members joining God on mission. Ask the Holy Spirit for courage, wisdom, and guidance as our denomination shares the love of Christ.