

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Apr. 21, 2024– GEMS Sunday
Pastor John Knoester
Morning Service – 10:30 AM

* Please stand in body or in spirit

“My hope is built on nothing less”

Prelude

Welcome

* 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.faithaliveresources.org/Products/420021/the-worship-sourcebook.aspx>)

* Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #575 v. 1-4

“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): Erneuertem 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: "10,000 Reasons"

Chorus:

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
it's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.

Chorus

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Chorus

And on that day, when my strength is failing,
the end draws near, and my time has come;
still, my soul will sing Your praise unending
ten thousand years, and then forevermore!

Chorus

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.
Worship Your holy name.
Worship Your holy name.*

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“Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;”

Announcements

Call to Confession:

Our God is merciful and compassionate,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.
He is close to all who call on Him in truth,
listening to their cries for help,
and offering them salvation.

So let's bring our confession to God,
knowing that he will hear our prayers and forgive.

(based on Psalm 145: 8, 18-19)

Sung Prayer of Confession: LUYH #650 v. 1-3

“O When Will See Justice Done?”

O when will we see justice done?

When will the righteous win?

O speed the day when we can say,

“God judges human sin!”

The venom of the wicked's lies
destroys all in their path.

Their fangs are bared; no one is spared,
and to our cries they're deaf.

Refrain

God, hear my cry!

To you I call even when my heart is faint.

*To your strong tower lead me in power,
and keep me ever safe.*

Deliver me, O God my strength,

from those who lie in wait,

from enemies who prowl and plot,

whose only law is hate.

But you, O Lord, could come and save,

deflating their false pride,

and show the earth your righteous worth

as in your love we hide.

Refrain

O God, have you rejected us,

or do you only sleep?

Give victory with your mighty hand,

your promises to keep.

For you have caused our land to quake;

no step now seems secure.

We stagger in our suffering;

our faith seems less than sure.

Refrain

PSALM 58-61; Words: from Psalms 58-61, Carol Bechtel © 2011 Carol Bechtel, admin.

Faith Alive Christian Resources; CCLI #678905

Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of God's Pardon

Leader: Take comfort in the assurance that even those things

that are hidden from memory, or are too deep

for our words, are not beyond God's forgiving love.

God, who knows us completely,

bestows pardon and peace.

People: Thanks be to God.

* Song of Thanksgiving: “Cornerstone”

1. My hope is built on nothing less,
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

Repeat Verse 1

Chorus

*Christ alone. Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love.
Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.*

2. When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.
My anchor holds within the veil.

Chorus

3. When He shall come with trumpet sound,
oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone.
Faultless stand before the throne.

Chorus (2x)

Words by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero, and Edward Mote;
Music by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero, and William Batchelder
Bradbury; © 2011 Hillsong Music Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing);
CCLI #678905

GEMS Theme Video:

GEMS Report - Marjo Rouw

GEMS Litany:

Leader: There is nothing easy about being a girl
or living in our world today.
We face unique challenges and unsustainable
pressures in a culture of confusion about who God is
and what is Truth.
Sometimes it can feel overwhelming and hopeless.
But we gather on this GEMS Sunday in the hope
of Jesus Christ.

GEMS: Placing our hope in God changes everything!

ALL: Those who hope in the Lord will renew
their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint (Isaiah 40:31).

Leader: To put our hope in God, we need to know Him.
At GEMS the girls learned these five Truths
about who God is and what He has promised.

GEMS: God is King.

ALL: For the Lord Most High is awesome,
the great King over all the earth (Psalm 47:2).

GEMS: God is our Deliverer.

ALL: The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield and the horn of my salvation,
my stronghold (Psalm 18:2).

***GEMS: God is trustworthy. He is who He says He is
and He will do what He says He will do.***

ALL: The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does (Psalm 145:13B)

GEMS: God is always at work. He is near!

ALL: The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth (Psalm 145:18).

GEMS: God is with you wherever you go.

ALL: Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God will be with you
wherever you go (Joshua 1:9).

Leader: Thanks be to the God of Hope who renews
our strength so that we can rise up
in every circumstance, stand secure in our faith,
and have the confidence that when we put our hope
in Him, we will be okay, no matter what.

* GEM'S Theme Song: *"Isaiah 40:31"*

Offering: 1st: General Fund; 2nd: GEMS

Offertory - GEMS Slide Show

(Following the conclusion of the GEMS slide show children ages 3-1st grade are dismissed for Children and Worship)

"I dare not trust the sweetest frame,"

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:28-31 (Text: v. 31)

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Rise Up"***

Time of Prayer

"But wholly lean on Jesus' name."

Song of Application: LUYH #430 *"You Are Mine"* v. 1-4

(Solo)

1. "I will come to you in the silence.
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice.
I claim you as my choice.
Be still and know I am here.

(Solo)

2. "I am hope for all who are hopeless,
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night
I will be your light.
Come and rest in me.

Refrain (All)

*"Do not be afraid; I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you, and you are mine."*

(Solo)

3. "I am strength for all the despairing,
healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see,
the lame will all run free,
and all will know my name.

Refrain (All) Please Stand

4. "I am the Word that leads all to freedom.
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name,
embracing all your pain.
Stand up, now walk, and live!

Refrain (All)

Words & Music: David Haas (b. 1957) © 2005 GIA Publications, Inc.; All Rights Reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-711218

* God's Blessing

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

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.*

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

Postlude

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever” (Psalm 118:1). We **welcome** everyone to this hour of worship! Let us offer our gratitude and praise to our Creator. May this be a time of inspiration and joy for us all. 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: April 21	Next Week: April 28
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Maddie D.	Isaac D.
Video:	Caleb L.	Joel L.
Offering:	General Fund/ GEMS	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

April 21, 2024

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Choir practice resumes today after the service!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Our next study is tonight, April 21st, 6:30pm!

THIS MORNING IS GEMS SUNDAY. We are looking forward to sharing with you what we have been doing this past season and how God has blessed us. There will be a special offering to support the GEMS program. We thank you in advance for your support, prayers and interest in this vital ministry.

Dear Friends,

Along with the Ten Commandments, the Twenty-third Psalm, the Lord's Prayer, and a few other passages of Scripture – the Beatitudes of Jesus are some of the more familiar words of Scripture. Together we can affirm them, meditate upon them, and maybe even engrave them on plaques to hang on our walls. Yet, the main question is this: How are we to *live* in response to them?

This is the question that we hope to keep in front of us as we study them together throughout the months ahead. May God bless us as we do so!

In His Grace, Pastor John and Pastor Brad

May 5 – “Intro to the Beatitudes” (Matt. 5:1-12)

May 12 – “Blessed are Those Who Mourn” (Matt. 5:4)

May 19 – “Blessed are the Poor in Spirit” (Matt. 5:3)

May 26 – “Blessed are the Meek” (Matt. 5:5)

June 2 – “Blessed are those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness” (Matt. 5:6)

June 9 – “Blessed are the Merciful” (Matt. 5:7)

June 16 - "Blessed are the Pure in Heart" (Matt. 5:8)

June 23 – "Blessed are the Peacemakers" (Matt. 5:9)

June 30 – "Blessed are Those who are Persecuted" (Matt. 5:10-12)

Worship Service YouTube Links:

April 14, 2024: <https://youtu.be/kwg-sw-cNl8>

Please pick up your copy of the Luke Society Newsletter on the table with the baby bottle fundraiser. They don't give us enough to stuff everyone's mailbox with, so they are free to grab from that table.

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*

Today!! Join C.A.R.E. Medical Center (formerly Pregnancy Choices) for our Baby Bottle Campaign, running from now to Father's Day!

C.A.R.E. Medical is a ministry that serves women and their partners in their medical and personal needs here in the Skagit Valley. Their medical clinic provides free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, and STI testing. Through the Thriving Hearts Program, they personally and directly partner with underprivileged women through one-on-one mentoring relationships with mature women of God. Thriving Heart also provides resources to these women, such as baby clothes, maternity clothes, formula, and home goods. By participating in this Baby Bottle fundraiser, you can support the work of Thriving Heart in directly providing for the needs of these women and their children. We invite you to be a part of this invaluable ministry! Simply pick up a bottle in the foyer, fill it with change, bills, or checks, and return it to the church by Father's Day. Thank you for supporting our community's moms, dads, babies, and children! **Grab your baby bottle today and next Sunday after the service and fill 'er up!**

CALENDAR

Greeters/Coffee Hosts:

April 21: Fred F., Wiebe & Johnna VDH

Next week, April 28: Dick & Linda G., Mardy & Kristi S.

Worship Team:

April 21: GEMS & Henry VZ

Next Week, April 28: Stan B. & Julie S., Adriana & Tessa S.

Nursery:

April 21: Glenda K., Emily VH

Next Week, April 28: Marissa VK & France B.

Children in Worship:

April 21: Heather VH, Landon LH

Next Week, April 28: Sheri L., Toby VDB

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

This Week:

Weds., April 24, 7-9pm: Last Cadets meeting of the year

Upcoming Events:

April 27: Sally Reehorn's 100th Birthday!!!

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Please join Mid-America Reformed Seminary either in-person or via live stream on our YouTube channel as it celebrates its **39th Commencement** exercises on **Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.**, at Redeemer United Reformed Church in St. John, IN. We will be graduating six candidates for the Master of Divinity degree. Refreshments will follow.

Mill Creek Community Church is hosting Poverty 101 on Saturday, April 27 from 9 AM-3 PM. This is an engaging seminar led by the CEO of Everett Gospel Mission that will help our community better understand the unique challenges of long-term poverty. It is designed to provide tools that will help each of us find the best way to engage with the people God puts in our path. The event is free. Lunch is provided. Space is limited to 60 participants.

You can register here <https://egmission.org/poverty-101/> .

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Kids Corner: Earth Day - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. When God created the earth, he made sure to make everything right. After every day of creation, he looked at what he had made and called it good. And then—at the end of creation—God gave it all to us and put us in charge. That is an incredible blessing and a huge task! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Earth Day Collection.

There's Still Time to Double Your Impact - You can help join God's mission and spread the gospel by supporting Resonate Global Mission. From now through April 30, a generous donor will match your gift dollar for dollar—visit www.resonateglobalmission.org/double to find out more! Give while your gift will go twice as far!

Pastor Darrell Delaney Answers Your Questions - Pastor Darrell Delaney, co-host of Groundwork and author of the Today devotions for April 2024, will be answering your questions about how God's word addresses life's practical challenges in a live webinar on May 2, 2024 at 12:30 EDT. Post your question and sign up for the webinar at connect.reframeministries.org/answers

Groundwork: God's Judgment and Hope in Micah - A contemporary of Isaiah, the prophet Micah is most well-known for the famous verse "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Join Groundwork as we study Micah 1-7 to discuss God's judgment and hope woven throughout Micah's prophecies. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



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 **Derick and Arnola Roos** and their four children as she is dealing with the diagnosis of ALS and what will come along with that in the time to come.

Please pray for **Hank Vander Veen**, who is still recovering from the hip surgery at Mira Vista 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 Mira Vista in Mount Vernon; ***Sally Reehoorn*** at Creekside in Burlington; ***Bev Van Slageren*** with family in Grandview, WA.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

Monday April 15 - Resonate: Michigan

A Resonate partner church planter in Michigan is giving thanks that two women have started attending church, reading the Bible, and praying faithfully. "It was so exciting to see the growth and joy in these women. We are anticipating baptizing them this summer," said the church planter.

Tuesday April 16 - World Renew: Creation care

Praise God with us for the ever-growing number of churches partnering with our Climate Witness Project, which provides a network and resources for education, worship, energy stewardship, and advocacy for making a real difference in creation care. On Earth Day next week (Apr. 22), pray that the program will continue to bless and equip churches across North America.

Wednesday April 17 - *ReFrame: Japan*

Pray for Sasuke, a Japanese listener who shared, "As I celebrate my 81st birthday, I thank you for the emotional support I've received through this broadcast over the years. May God grant me the gift of continued listening, and may his presence be felt in every moment."

Thursday April 18 - *Resonate: Cohorts*

Resonate's Cohort initiative is recruiting young adults to serve in Central America, Detroit, Europe, and the Middle East. Cohort is an opportunity for young adults to live in community, serve in a grassroots ministry, and engage in deep spiritual formation while learning about joining God on mission. Pray for the candidates the Lord is guiding into these opportunities.

Friday April 19 - *CRC Communications: Gather events*

The first of ten Gather events, designed to bring together five classes each for mutual story sharing and inspiration, begins today in Minneapolis, Minn. Classes Lake Superior, Huron, Hackensack, Lake Erie, and Columbia will gather today until Sunday.

Saturday April 20 - *Thrive: Middle East*

God of peace, who loves us and the people of Israel and Palestine, who loves the powerless and the powerful alike, we cry out to you. Bring your salvation near to us, O Lord. We pray for an end to hostage taking and killings. We pray for an end of vengeance, of terror, and of threats. Amen!

Sunday April 21 - *Resonate: Sierra Leone*

Pray for Resonate ministry partners serving the Christian Reformed Church in Sierra Leone as they work to spread the gospel in hard-to-reach communities. They are facilitating Timothy Leadership Training, discipling people, building relationships with people, and more.