

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor Brad Diekema
April 28, 2024 ◆ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service

* Please stand in body or in spirit

Prelude

"Happy is the One"

Welcome

* Opening Hymn of Praise: Gray Psalter #240

"Come, All Who Fear the Lord God"

1. Come, all who fear the Lord God,
O saints, your voices raise.
Come stand in awe before him and sing his glorious praise.
You lowly and afflicted who on his word rely,
Your heart shall live forever; the Lord will satisfy.
2. All kindreds of the nations
to Christ the Lord shall turn.
Through earth's remotest regions
his altar fires shall burn.
All kingdoms, power, and glory belong to him alone.
He rules o'er all the nations; kings bow before his throne.
3. Both high and low shall worship,
both strong and weak shall bend.
A faithful church shall serve him till generations end.
His praise shall be recounted to nations yet to be.
The triumphs of his justice a newborn world shall see.

Text: Psalm 22:23-31.; vers. Psalter, 1912; Tune: Berthold Tours, 1872.
CCLI #678905

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Let us worship the eternal God,
the source of love and life, who creates us.

**People: Let us worship Jesus Christ, the risen one,
who lives among us.**

Leader: Let us worship the Spirit, the holy fire,
who renews us.

**People: To the one true God be praise in all times and places,
through the grace of Jesus Christ.**

* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #513 "It is Good to Sing Your Praises"

1. It is good to sing your praises
and to thank you, O Most High,
showing forth your loving-kindness
when the morning lights the sky.
It is good when night is falling
of your faithfulness to tell,
while with sweet, melodious praises
songs of adoration swell.
2. You have filled my heart with gladness
through the works your hands have wrought;
you have made my life victorious;
great your works and deep your thought.
You, O Lord, on high exalted,
reign forevermore in might;
all your enemies shall perish,
sin be banished from your sight.
3. But the good shall live before you,
planted in your dwelling place,
fruitful trees and ever verdant,
nourished by your boundless grace.
In his goodness to the righteous
God his righteousness displays;
God, my rock, my strength and refuge,
just and true are all your ways.

PSALM 92; Words: Psalter, 1912, P.D.; Music: J. Leavitt's Christian Lyre, 1831,
P.D.; CCLI #678905

*"Happy is the One Who Does Not
Take Bad Advice for a Guide"*

* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Assurance

* Song of Response: LUYH # 695 “And Can It Be”

1. And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Savior’s blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain—
for me, who caused his bitter death?
Amazing love! How can it be
that you, my Lord, should die for me?

Refrain

*Amazing love! How can it be
that you, my Lord, should die for me?*

2. He left his Father’s throne above—
so free, so infinite his grace—
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam’s helpless race!
What mercy this, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me!

Refrain

3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature’s night.
Your sunrise turned that night to day;
I woke—the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, your voice I knew;
I rose, went out, and followed you.

Refrain

4. No condemnation now I dread,
for Christ, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Refrain

Words: Charles Wesley, 1738, alt, Public Domain
Music: Thomas Campbell, 1825, Public Domain

* God's Will for Our Lives:

Pastor Brad: We respond to God's forgiveness
by living our thanks according to God's Word.
Hear now God's will for our lives:
I am the Lord your God,
who brought you out of Egypt,
out of the land of slavery.
You shall have no other gods before me.

**People: I sincerely acknowledge the only true God,
trust him alone,
look to him for every good thing,
humbly and patiently, and love him, fear him,
and honor him with all my heart.
In short, I will give up anything rather
than go against God's will in any way.**

Pastor Brad: You shall not make for yourself an idol
in the form of anything in heaven above
or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

**People: I will in no way make any image of God
nor worship him in any other way
than he has commanded in his Word.**

Pastor Brad: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord
your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone
guiltless who misuses his name.

**People: I will use the holy name of God
only with reverence and awe,
so that I may properly confess him,
pray to him, and praise him
in everything I do and say.**

Pastor Brad: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

People: I will regularly attend the assembly
of God's people to learn
what God's Word teaches,
to participate in the sacraments,
to pray to God publicly,
and to bring Christian offerings for the poor.
Every day of my life I will rest
from my evil ways,
let the Lord work in me through his Spirit,
and so begin already in this life
the eternal Sabbath.

Pastor Brad: Honor your father and your mother.

People: I will honor, love, and be loyal
To my father and mother and all those
in authority over me.
I will obey and submit to them, as is proper,
when they correct and punish me;
and I will be patient with their failings—
for through them God chooses to rule us.

Pastor Brad: You shall not murder.

People: I will not belittle, insult, hate,
or kill my neighbor— not by my thoughts,
my words, my look or gesture,
and certainly not by actual deeds—
and I will not be party to this in others;
rather, I will put away all desire for revenge.
I will not harm or recklessly endanger
myself either.

Pastor Brad: You shall not commit adultery.

People: God condemns all unchastity.
I therefore thoroughly detest it
and will live a decent and chaste life.

Pastor Brad: You shall not steal.

People: I will do whatever I can for my neighbor's good,
treating others as I would like them
to treat me, and I will work faithfully
so that I may share with those in need.

Pastor Brad: You shall not give false testimony
against your neighbor.

People: I will love the truth, speak it candidly,
and openly acknowledge it.
And I will do what I can to guard
and advance my neighbor's good name.

Pastor Brad: You shall not covet anything
that belongs to your neighbor.

People: With all my heart I will always hate sin
and take pleasure in whatever is right.
—based on Heidelberg Catechism,
Q&A's 92, 94, 96, 99, 103-105, 108, 111-113

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #334 v. 1-2

“May the Mind of Christ, My Savior”

1. May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling
all I do and say.
2. May the word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through his power.

Words: Kate B. Wilkinson, 1925, P.D.; Music: A. Cyril Barham-Gould, 1925 ©
Estate of A.C. Barham-Gould; desc. Emily R. Brink, 1986, © Faith Alive Christian
Resources; CCLI #678905

*“Happy is the One Who Takes Delight in the Law of
the Lord and Meditates On It Both Day and Night”*

Scripture Reading: Psalms 1:1-6

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "Blessed is the One"

Time of Prayer

* Song of Application: LUYH #712 "Happy Is the One"

1. Happy is the one
who does not take bad advice for a guide,
nor walks the path on which sinners have trod,
nor sits where the cynics mock.
2. Happy is the one
who takes delight in the law of the LORD,
and meditates on it both day and night,
and prospers in every way.
3. Such a one as this
is like a tree by the nourishing streams,
which yields its fruit when the season is right
and bears leaves that never fade.
4. Not so the wicked's fate;
for they, like chaff which the wind blows away,
will never stand and be confident
on God's great judgment day.
5. Nor will sinners walk
among the assembly of God's own folk;
for wicked ways are all doomed by the Lord
who blesses the honest path.

Words: The Iona Community © 1993 Wild Goose Resource CCLI#678905

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #227 "He Is Lord"

1. He is Lord, he is Lord,
he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

2. He is King, he is King,
he will draw all nations to him; he is King!
And the time shall be when the world shall sing
that Jesus Christ is King.
3. He is Love, he is Love,
he has shown us by his life that he is Love!
All his people sing with one voice of joy
that Jesus Christ is Love.
4. He is Life, he is Life,
he has died to set us free, and he is Life!
And he calls us all to live evermore,
for Jesus Christ is Life.

Words: st. 1 Marvin Frey © 1977 Marvin Frey; sts. 2, 3, 4 anonymous;
Music: Marvin Frey © 1977 Marvin Frey; harm. Dale Grotenhuis (1931-2012); ©
1987 Marvin Frey CCLI #678905

* Postlude

Welcome! Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy." Those are the words of the psalmist in Psalm 5:11. Whoever you are, wherever you are from, we welcome you and we invite you to "be glad" with us about God's goodness and mercy. Let us "ever sing for joy" and praise God with profoundly grateful hearts. 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 28	Next Week: May 5
Sound:	Henry VZ	Tim H.
Projection:	Isaac D.	Beth B.
Video:	Joel L.	Caleb L.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

April 28, 2024

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

There is choir practice today after the service!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Our next study is May 5th, 6:30pm!

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!**

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.

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 21, 2024: https://youtu.be/YfRiAHzH_bo

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

CALENDAR

Greeters/Coffee Hosts:

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

Next week, May 5: John & Judy V., Cody & Amy S.

Worship Team:

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

Next Week, May 5: Henry & Pam VZ, Kayla & Ella VH

Nursery:

April 28: Marissa VK & France B.

Next Week, May 5: Jeannette F. & Adrianna S.

Children in Worship:

April 28: Sheri L., Toby VDB

Next Week, May 5: TBD

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

This Week:

Weds., May 1, 6:30-8:30pm: GEMS

Upcoming Events:**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.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

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

Kids Corner: Push Pause - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Rest can take many forms. As long as we slow down, pay attention, and enjoy God's blessings, we receive the benefits of rest. Try it! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like The Spring Scavenger Hunt, and go for a hike!

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: Our Hearts and God's Character in Nahum and Zephaniah - Nahum and Zephaniah urge God's people to examine their hearts and act in ways that honor God and reflect his character. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Nahum 1-3 and Zephaniah 1-3 to remember that God longs for our repentant hearts and for us to live as his ambassadors bringing justice, transformation, and reconciliation to this world. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Pastor Rich Villodas observed, "Prayer is not about throwing holy words at God to see what sticks; it is, rather, entrance to a new way of seeing reality, the opening of ourselves to God's presence, and an act that trains us in love." Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

Please pray for Synod 2024! - We need everyone to be involved. The theme for synod worship and prayer is God With Us. You can sign up to pray on your own, with your church or small group, or at Calvin University in June. Check out the many opportunities at crcna.org/synod/prayer and join us in humble prayer for God's will to be done in the CRC. Email SynodPrayer@crcna.org with your questions or comments.



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:

Hank Vander Veen is back at The Bridge and is now on hospice care. He's weak and sleeps quite a bit, but he still appreciates short visits.

Please continue to pray for **Derick and Arnola Roos** and family as Arnola has been diagnosed with ALS.

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 April 22 - *Climate Witness Project: Earth Day*

Creator God, all creation proclaims you, from the heavens above to the earth below. Thank you for the earth that continues to sustain us, in spite of our lack of care and stewardship. May our eyes see your creation in all its splendor. May we consider your creation in every action. May we see you in all we do. Amen!

Tuesday April 23 - *ReFrame: Russian ministry*

Every month 25-50 Christians gather online to discuss books from a Christian perspective. Pray for members of this Russian ministry book club. May thought-provoking discussions about the Christian faith help each member grow in their understanding of Scripture.

Wednesday April 24 - *Resonate: Japan*

Although less than one percent of Japan's population identifies as Christian, Resonate missionaries Ken and Jeannie Lee give thanks that churches in Japan are growing and working hard to share the gospel. Please pray for the Lees as they work with these churches and disciple young leaders.

Thursday April 25 - *World Renew: Disaster Response Services (DRS)*

Across North America, volunteerism is down from prepandemic participation. Pray that World Renew's Disaster Response Services (DRS) ministry team will have the capacity to continue rebuilding homes and hope through volunteer services. Give thank that new volunteers have committed to serve disaster survivors in Louisiana and Florida this year.

Friday April 26 - *Thrive: Youth and young adults*

Pray for the continued faith formation of youth and emerging adults as we partner with the TENx10 initiative: helping faith matter more to 10 million young people over the next 10 years, offering resources to prioritize youth discipleship and sparking an ecumenical movement that supports underresourced youth leaders.

Saturday April 27 - *Resonate: Ontario*

Anthony and Barbara Pennings, Resonate ministry partners who work with Indigenous communities in Ontario, ask you to pray for the M'Chigeeng community where they serve. Ask the Holy Spirit to help guide the Pennings as they seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Sunday April 28 - *GEMS Girls' Clubs: GEMS Sunday*

Thank God for using GEMS to raise up girls and leaders in faith for 66 years. Their identity is LOVED, and their call is to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Mic. 6:8). Ask God to continue to equip leaders on their mission to help bring girls into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.