

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor Brad Diekema

April 7, 2024 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

Prelude

*“Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God,
Breathe New Life into My Willing Soul”*

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH # 525 v 1, 3, 5**

“For Your Gift of God the Spirit”

1. For your gift of God the Spirit,
power to make our lives anew,
pledge of life and hope of glory,
Savior, we would worship you.
Crowning gift of resurrection
sent from your ascended throne,
fullness of the very Godhead,
come to make your life our own.
3. He, himself the living Author,
wakes to life the sacred Word,
reads with us its holy pages
and reveals our risen Lord.
He it is who works within us
teaching rebel hearts to pray,
he whose holy intercessions
rise for us both night and day.

5. Father, grant your Holy Spirit
in our hearts may rule today,
grieved not, quenched not, but unhindered,
work in us his sovereign way.
Fill us with your holy fullness,
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
in us, through us, then forever,
shall your perfect will be done.

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Music: Darwin Jordan © Darwin Jordan Music; arr. Marcus Hong, © Darwin
Jordan Music 2011, Permission granted by Darwin Jordan

* Call to Worship

* Hymn of Praise: LUYH # 747 v. 1-3 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with yours,
to do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
for all eternity.

Words: Edwin Hatch, 1878; Music: Robert Jackson (1840-1914) Public Domain

*“Bring the Presence of the Risen Lord,
to Renew My Heart and Make Me Whole”*

* God’s Greeting/We Greet Each Other

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Leader: Sovereign Lord,
you have anointed us with your Spirit,
yet we have not shared your great gift.

**People: Create in us a clean heart, O God.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation.**

Leader: We have not proclaimed your good news to the poor.
We have not bound up the brokenhearted.

**People: Create in us a clean heart, O God.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation.**

Leader: We have not proclaimed your freedom to the captives.
We have not comforted those who mourn.

**People: Create in us a clean heart, O God.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation.**

Leader: Forgive us for closing our eyes to the needs of others.
Forgive us for limiting your abundance.

**People: Create in us a clean heart, O God.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation.**

Leader: Open our minds, Lord. Open our hearts, Lord.
Open our hands, Lord. Open our lips, Lord.

**People: Give us a willing spirit to show your love
to your world. Amen.**

—based on Psalm 51; Isaiah 61

Assurance

* Song of Response: LUYH #749 "Spirit of the Living God"

1. Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.

2. Spirit of the living God,
move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind,
make us one in love;
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God,
fill our lives with love.

Words: st. 1 Daniel Iverson, 1926, © 1994 Birdwing Music, admin. EMICMGPublishing.com; st. 2 MichaelBaughen, 1982, © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Company; Music: Daniel Iverson 1926, © 1994 Birdwing Music, admin. EMICMGPublishing.com. CCLI# 678905

Offering: General Fund

Offertory Video

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #762 "Ancient Words"

1. Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
they resound with God's own heart,
O let the ancient words impart.
Words of life, words of hope,
give us strength, help us cope.
In this world where'er we roam
ancient words will guide us home.
2. Holy words of our faith
handed down to this age
came to us through sacrifice.
O heed the faithful words of Christ.
Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
they resound with God's own heart.
O let the ancient words impart.

Refrain

*Ancient words, ever true,
changing me and changing you.
We have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words impart.*

Words: Lynn DeShazo © 2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, (ASCAP), admin. EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI #678905

"Cause Your Word to Come Alive in Me"

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "The Resurrecting Spirit"

Time of Prayer

* Song of Application: LUYH #746 "Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"

1. Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause your Word to come alive in me;
give me faith for what I cannot see;
give me passion for your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.
2. Holy Spirit, come abide within,
may your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin,
in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace;
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.
3. Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
giving life to all that God has made,
show your power once again on earth,
cause your church to hunger for your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;
lead us on the road of sacrifice,
that in unity the face of Christ
may be clear for all the world to see.

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend; ©2006 Thankyou Music,
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"Holy Spirit, Breathe New Life in Me"

* Professing Our Faith: Our World Belongs to God sections 28, 29, 30

Pastor Brad: At Pentecost, promises old and new are fulfilled.
The ascended Jesus becomes the baptizer,
drenching his followers with his Spirit,
creating a new community
where Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
make their home.

**People: Revived and filled with the breath of God,
women and men, young and old,
dream dreams and see visions.**

Pastor Brad: The Spirit renews our hearts
and moves us to faith, leads us into truth,
and helps us to pray, stands by us in our need,
and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant.

**People: God the Spirit lavishes gifts on the church
in astonishing variety—
prophecy, encouragement, healing,
teaching, service, tongues, discernment—
equipping each member
to build up the body of Christ
and to serve our neighbors.**

Pastor Brad: The Spirit gathers people
from every tongue, tribe, and nation
into the unity of the body of Christ.
Anointed and sent by the Spirit,
the church is thrust into the world,
ambassadors of God's peace,
announcing forgiveness and reconciliation,
proclaiming the good news of grace.

**People: Going before them and with them,
the Spirit convinces the world of sin
and pleads the cause of Christ.
Men and women, impelled by the Spirit,
go next door and far away into science and art,
media and marketplace—every area of life,
pointing to the reign of God
with what they do and say.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH # 948 "The Lord Bless You"

The Lord bless you, the Lord keep you;
may his love ever, always surround you,
protect you, and guide you in all that you do:
our prayer for you. Amen.

Words: E. Fred Morris © E. Fred Morris; arr. Tim TenClay, © E. Fred Morris
CCLI #678905

Postlude

Welcome! This is the day that the Lord has made. Worship is our opportunity to be glad and rejoice in the Lord's house on the Lord's Day. We come as the children of God, knowing that we are welcomed here where all are meant to be one in the Lord. Let us lay down our burdens and rejoice in the Lord for the Lord is good, the Source of love. 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 7	Next Week: April 14
Sound:	Mardick S.	Mardy S.
Projection:	Isaac D.	Maddie D.
Video:	Tim H.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

April 7, 2024

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Choir is taking a 2 week break. Our next practice will be after the service on April 21.

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

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:

March 31, 2024: <https://youtu.be/EsUTW8b-cWE>

CALENDAR

Greeters/Coffee Hosts:

April 7: Jeff & Monica D., Jeannette F.

Next week, April 14: Adam & Katie F., Greg & Beth B.

Worship Team:

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

Next Week, April 14: Sheri L., Mandi D., Kiera L., Nellie VDH

Nursery:

April 7: Juliana LC, Maddie D.

Next Week, April 14: Mandi D., Tessa S.

Children in Worship:

April 7: Angela S., Nolan B.

Next Week, April 14: Heidi B., Tess VDH

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

This Week:

Weds., April 10, 6:30-8:30pm: Cadets

Upcoming Events:

GEMS Sunday: April 21

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Seize the opportunity for **early bird registration** by April 30th for Mid-America Reformed Seminary's 2024 **Center for Missions and Evangelism Conference!** Mark your calendars for October 11-12 and join us at Bethel Church in Lansing, IL, to be inspired by plenary speakers sharing insights on reaching our local communities and the nations with the gospel message. Discover more details at midamerica.edu/cme/conference.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - In *Following Jesus*, Henri Nouwen wrote, "Celebrating life is not a party but an ongoing awareness that every moment is special and asks to be lifted up and recognized as a blessing from on high." How might you become more aware of the moment-by-moment blessings you receive each day? Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

Kids Corner: I Wonder - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Jesus' friends were filled with wonder when they witnessed his miracles and teachings. When he told stories, he painted a picture in their imaginations of a better world where there would be no more pain or sadness, a world where people with their whole hearts would love God and love their neighbors. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like The Spring Scavenger Hunt, and go for a hike!

The Annual Banner Appeal is Underway! - The 2024 appeal for The Banner, the CRC's award-winning monthly magazine, has started. The Banner is delivered free in print and online, and this annual donation appeal makes it possible. To help keep this community conversation going please give online now at: TheBanner.org/Give



How can
we
PRAY
for you?

People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Email the office at secretary@firstcrmv.com or call the church office at (336-2405) by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

CONTINUING 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.

Please pray for **Hank Vander Veen**, who is 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 1 - *ReFrame Ministries: Chinese ministry*

A new video series from ReFrame's Chinese ministry team aims to equip Chinese speakers with new ideas for using media to share the Christian faith. Pray that Chinese-speaking believers will have access to the new video series and gain new skills to share their faith.

Tuesday April 2 - *Thrive: Germany*

Please pray for overseas military chaplain Raidel Leon Martinez (Air Force), who serves in Germany. Pray for protection, strength, and resiliency as he attends to the spiritual needs of many service members during this volatile time in Eastern Europe.

Wednesday April 3 - *Resonate Global Mission: North America*

Give thanks for Pastor Obelto Cherubin, who is working with Resonate and Classis Southeast U.S. to plant churches with Haitians living in North America. Please ask God to guide and provide for this work.

Thursday April 4 - *World Renew: Laos*

Praise God with us that Laos remains stable politically. The economy, however, has struggled since the global pandemic. Currency depreciation has brought many challenges to people's livelihoods. Despite these difficulties, World Renew is still at work in many vulnerable communities. Please pray for economic stability in the region and for prosperity for struggling families.

Friday April 5 - *Calvin Theological Seminary: Handlon prison*

The seminary teaches and works with men in the Handlon prison in Ionia, Mich., through partnerships with the Celebration Fellowship congregation and with Calvin University in the Calvin Prison Initiative. Pray for the students as they learn and minister in their context.

Saturday April 6 - *Resonate: Missionaries*

Pray for all of the Resonate missionaries who recently moved to their fields and are settling in, building relationships, and learning the local language.

Sunday April 7 - *ReFrame: English Ministry*

As the author of April's Today devotions, Darrell Delaney is offering practical biblical advice for the many challenges Christians face today. Pray that Darrell's words—both in the Today reflections and at a live online event for readers—will help more people look to Scripture for God's wisdom and advice.