

***Welcome to First Christian
Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
June 2, 2024 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service***

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

“Blest are they who hunger and thirst;”

Prelude

Welcome

* Call to Worship: Ephesians 6:10-18

Leader: ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord
and in his mighty power.

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God,
so that you can take your stand
against the devil’s schemes.

**People: ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,
but against the rulers, against the authorities,
against the powers of this dark world and against
the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

Leader: ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God,
so that when the day of evil comes,
you may be able to stand your ground,
and after you have done everything, to stand.

**People: ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth
buckled around your waist,
with the breastplate of righteousness in place,
¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness
that comes from the gospel of peace.**

Leader: ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith,
with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows
of the evil one.

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword
of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

People: ¹⁸ **And pray in the Spirit on all occasions
with all kinds of prayers and requests.
With this in mind, be alert and always keep on
praying for all the Lord's people.**

* Opening Song of Praise: *"O Church Arise" v. 1-4*

1. O Church arise and put your armour on;
hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong,
in the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
we'll stand against the devil's lies;
an army bold whose battle cry is Love,
reaching out to those in darkness.
2. Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
but to rage against the captor;
and with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
we will fight with faith and valour.
When faced with trials on every side,
we know the outcome is secure.
And Christ will have the prize for which He died,
an inheritance of nations.
3. Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
as the Son of God is stricken;
then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
for the Conqueror has risen.
And as the stone is rolled away
and Christ emerges from the grave,
this victory march continues till the day
every eye and heart shall see Him.
4. So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride,
give grace for every hurdle;
that we may run with faith, to win the prize
of a servant, good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day
when, with Christ we stand in glory.

* Reading of Revelation 21:1-6

¹Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

* Opening Hymn: *“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”* v. 1-4

1. Come, Thou Fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the name! I’m fixed upon it
Name of Thy redeeming love.
2. Hitherto Thy love has blessed me
Thou hast brought me to this place
And I know Thy hand will bring me
Safely home by Thy good grace
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood

3. Oh to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Acapella

4. Oh that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face
Full arrayed in blood-washed linen
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry
Bring Thy promises to pass
For I know Thy pow'r will keep me
Till I'm home with Thee at last.

Come, my Lord, no longer tarry
Bring Thy promises to pass
For I know Thy pow'r will keep me
Till I'm home with Thee at last.

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* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

"They shall have their fill."

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Song of Response: *"As the Deer"* v. 1-3

1. As the deer panteth for the water,
so my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship Thee.

Chorus:

*You alone are my Strength, my Shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship Thee.*

2. You're my friend and You are my brother
even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other,
so much more than anything.

Chorus

3. I want You more than gold or silver,
only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver,
and the apple of my eye.

Chorus

*"As the Deer" Psalm 42:1 Martin Nystrom, ©1984 Maranatha! Music
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Words of Assurance

* Song of Response: *"Living Waters" v. 1-4*

1. *Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Tired and broken, peace unspoken,
Come and drink these living waters.*
2. *Christ is calling, find refreshing
at the cross of living waters.
Lay your life down, all the old gone,
rise up in these living waters.*

Chorus

*There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore,
praise the Lord of living waters.*

3. Spirit moving, mercy washing;
healing in these living waters
Lead your children to the shoreline,
life is in these living waters.

Chorus

4. *Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Love, forgiveness, vast and boundless,
Christ, He is our living waters.*

Chorus

Ending

There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore,
praise the Lord of living waters.

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Offering: General Fund

Offertory Video: *“What is Righteousness? (And How You Do It)*
– Bible Project

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

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #755 v. 1-3 *“Speak, O Lord”*

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
to receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all Your purposes, for Your glory.
2. Teach us Lord full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity,
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
and the earth is filled with Your glory.

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“Rejoice and be glad!”

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-6

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Blessed are Those who Hunger and Thirst
for Righteousness”***

Time of Prayer

Ministry of Music: *“The Night Song” – Jennaya and Pastor John*

Verse 1 (Soloist)

In the darkness God will keep me
He will stay and neve sleep
In the darkness God is brighter
Though the night is long and deep.

*All this day Your hand has held me
God of Heaven, by my side
Thank you, Father, for Your goodness
You will hold me through the night.*

Verse 2 (Duet)

In the shadows You are with me
And you know my every fear
In the shadows none can harm me
For the mighty King is here.

*All this day Your hand has held me
God of Heaven, by my side
Thank you, Father, for Your goodness
You will hold me through the night.*

Cello Interlude

Verse 3 (All)

So I find my rest in Jesus
He who came to rescue me
Jesus saved me from the darkness
I will rise to life with him.

*All this day Your hand has held me
God of Heaven, by my side
Thank you, Father, for Your goodness
You will hold me through the night.*

Chorus (Duet)

*All this day Your hand has held me
God of Heaven, by my side
Thank you, Father, for Your goodness
You will hold me through the night.*

Tag (Soloist)

You will hold me through the night.

* Reading of Psalm 62:1-2,5-8

* Song of Application: LUYH #117 v. 1,2,4,5 “*Blest Are They*”

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
they shall be consoled.

Refrain

*Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you;
holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God.*

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones;
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst;
they shall have their fill.

Refrain

4. Blest are they who seek peace;
they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith;
the glory of God is theirs.

Refrain

5. Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see.

Refrain

MATTHEW 5:3-12; Words and Music: David Haas (b. 1957), based on Matthew 5:3-12,
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"Yours is the kingdom of God."

- * We Profess our Faith: HC Q&A 21 and the Apostles Creed
Leader: 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.**

Leader: Let us together confess what we believe by way of
the Apostles Creed:

**People: 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.
—Apostles' Creed**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: "By Faith" v. 1-5

1. By faith we see the hand of God
in the light of creation's grand design,
in the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,
who walk by faith and not by sight.
2. By faith our fathers roamed the earth
with the pow'r of His promise in their hearts
of a holy city built by God's own hand,
a place where peace and justice reign.

Chorus

*We will stand as children of the promise;
we will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

3. By faith the prophets saw a day
when the longed-for Messiah would appear
with the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death,
and rise triumphant from the grave.
4. By faith the church was called to go
in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost,
to deliver captives and to preach good news
in ev'ry corner of the earth.

Chorus

*We will stand as children of the promise;
we will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

5. By faith the mountain shall be moved
And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name.

Chorus

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Postlude

Welcome! As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. May we together experience the presence of God. 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: June 2	Next Week: June 9
Sound:	Tim H.	Mardy S.
Projection:	Joel L.	Isaac D.
Video:	France B.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	1 st : General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

June 2, 2024

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Congratulations to our graduates! 8th Graders: Millie Faber, Emmalyn Stevens, Noah VanderKooy, Leah & Any Vander Kooy; High School: Jase Hillsinger (sedro-Woolley), Kiera Link(MVC), Ellie Vanden Bosch (MVC); College: Josie Droog(Dordt). May the Lord lead and guide you as you go forward!

Memorial Service Updates:

The Memorial Service for **Hans Meischke** will be June 4 at 1:00pm here at First CRC.

The service for **Adrianna Swanson** will be June 14 at 2 pm here at First CRC.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Our final study is tonight at 6:30pm!

Worship Service YouTube Links:

May 26, 2024: <https://youtu.be/AkJES5tP-Eg>

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

Don't forget to bring your baby bottles for C.A.R.E back to church by June 16.

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)

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts:

June 2: Katie J., Tim & Heather VH

Next week, June 9: Clarence & Eleanor K., Bryan & Deanna VB

Worship Team: June 2: Men’s Group

Next Week, June 9: Kevin & Glenda K., Emmalyn S., France B.

Nursery:

June 2: Elly VDB & Nellie VDH

Next Week, June 9: Glenda K & Emmalyn S.

Children in Worship:

June 2: Tim VH, Kayla VH

Next Week, June 9: Tim VH, Ellie VDB

This Week:

June 4, 1pm: Hans Meischke Memorial Service

June 9: Installation of Elders and Deacons; Communion

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, June 16: C.A.R.E. Baby Bottles need to be back at church!

June 30: Christian Education Pledges due.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

Cascade Family Bible Camp –July 4-8 Join us at Warm Beach Camp in Stanwood, WA, for a rejuvenating experience! Embrace fellowship,

worship, and camping or lodging in a stunning environment, perfect for revitalizing your daily walk. Engage with thought-provoking speakers, relish in programs tailored for kids of all ages, and indulge in a variety of activities including swimming, mini golf, tennis & basketball courts, volleyball, bocce, climbing wall, rockets, family games, a carnival and more! Secure your spot by registering online today at <https://cascadefamilybiblecamp.org/registration-info>

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

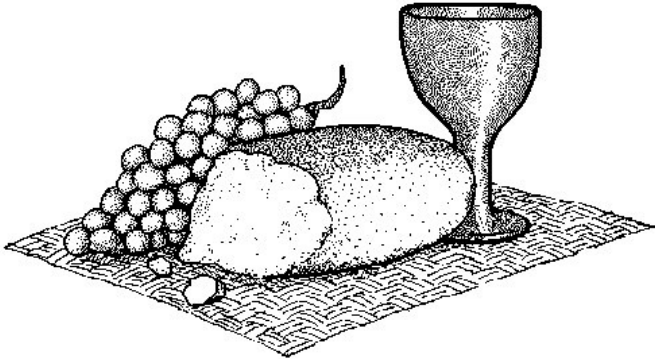
Kids Corner: Hearing God's Voice - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Have you ever wondered how you can hear God? After all, the Bible tells us to listen to him (Matthew 17:5), and he spoke to so many people, like Jonah (Jonah 1:1-2), Moses (Exodus 3:1-15), and Abraham (Genesis 18:13-14). Nowadays, he doesn't usually speak to us the same way, even though he can. Instead, God usually connects with us through the Bible, his creation, and other Christians. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Summertime Collection.

Groundwork: Understanding the Purpose of God's Law - After emphatically teaching that salvation comes by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, Paul explores the contrasting paths of legalism and freedom in faith. Join Groundwork as we study Galatians 3-4 to hear Paul's encouragement to stay focused on Christ, to embrace our identity as God's children, and to find our unity as believers in Christ. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - The faith practice of wonder helps us glimpse with surprise just how creative, faithful, good, big, and present God is. Each day this week, look for at least one of these God-glimpses and share them with someone. Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

*Next Week
is Communion Sunday!*

*God meets us in the sacraments,
holy acts that call for our response...*



*In the supper our Lord offers
the bread and cup to believers to
guarantee our share in his
death and resurrection,
and unite us to him and to each other.*

*We take this food gladly,
announcing as we eat
that Jesus is our life
and that He shall come again
to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.*

From: *Our World Belongs to God*
(PH – pg. 1031)



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:

Hans Meischke's memorial service is set for June 4 at 1pm here at First. Please pray for comfort and peace for his family as they lay him to rest with Aileen.

Adrianna Swanson passed away this past Sunday. Her service will be on June 14 at 2pm here at First. Please pray for Adrianna and Bob's family as they mourn the passing of their mother/grandmother/great grandmother.

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; **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 May 27 - *Thrive: Memorial Day (U.S.)*

On this Memorial Day, we remember all who had a bright future and gave up their lives while serving their country—lives that ended too soon. We pray too for all who were left behind—friends and family who felt abandoned and unknown in their grief. We live in the hope that one day all wars will cease at the coming of Jesus Christ.

Tuesday May 28 - *ReFrame: Brazil*

Pray for Lorena, who follows our Portuguese ministry programs in Brazil. She writes, “I’m grateful for your biblical teachings that uplift me. In 2020, amidst battling breast cancer, I found God. . . . Now healed, I am blessed by your sermons on overcoming struggles. . . . Pray for continued health and Christ’s glory through my life.”

Wednesday May 29 - *World Renew: East Africa*

As Kenya continues to grapple with unrest due to rising food prices, please pray for peace and stability. Praise God for rains that have allowed for crops to start growing again in this region. Pray also that we may expand community programs and share Christ’s love with more families struggling with hunger, poverty, and injustice.

Thursday May 30 - *Resonate: Campus ministries*

Pray for Resonate partner campus ministries as they work to engage students throughout the summer and prepare for the fall semester. Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and guidance in all of their planning, connections, and relationship building.

Friday May 31 - *Thrive: Love*

Lord, thank you for loving us unconditionally even when we don’t show love toward each other. Help us to live fruitfully in relationship with each other and to love our neighbors as we love you. Move us to look beyond skin color and see your image in everyone we meet. Help us not just to talk about love but to embody it. Amen.

Saturday June 1 - *ReFrame Ministries: Japan*

Pray for a man in Tokyo who says he has been accessing our Japanese ministry resources and attending church services and wants to learn how to pray. “Help me find the words to pray at various times and places each day,” he shared. Pray that he will be open to the Spirit’s guidance as he shares his thoughts with God.

Sunday June 2 - *Thrive: Worship*

Pray that every worshiping community in the CRCNA will experience Spirit-filled gospel proclamation and worship that is directed to God, is biblically based and theologically Reformed, and is characterized by creativity, discernment, spiritual vitality, the faith formation of all worshipers, and a call to serve others.