

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

June 23, 2024 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service

*`Please stand in body or in spirit.

“Blest are they who seek peace;”

* Prelude

* Welcome

* Opening Hymn: LUYH #2 v. 1-4 *“O Worship the King”*

1. O worship the King all glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
2. O tell of his might and sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
3. Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
4. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail.
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

PSALM 104; Words: Robert Grant, 1833, alt, P.D.; Music: W. Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815; attr. Johann Michael Haydn, P.D.; CCL# 678905

* Call to Worship: Colossians 1:15-16,19-20

Leader: He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation.

People: For by him all things were created;

**Things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,
whether thrones or powers or ruler or authorities,
all things were created by him and for him.**

Leader: For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things.

**People: whether things on earth or things in heaven,
by making peace through his blood,
shed on the cross.**

* Opening Hymn of Praise: *LUYH #519 (to the tune of #521)
“God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises”

1. God, we sing your glorious praises
as we tell your awesome deeds;
you have fashioned all creation,
and you meet each creature’s needs.
We rejoice in how your people
tasted your great faithfulness;
graced through every generation,
we your mighty acts profess.
2. We remember, God, your covenant,
which extends from heaven to earth;
how Christ’s death and resurrection
conquers sin, renews our birth.
Thank you for this gospel message,
which inspires your church to preach
grace to every generation
in our deeds and in our speech.
3. Fueled by power from your Spirit,
we commit ourselves anew
to be faithful to your gospel
in the daily work we do.
We will shout your glorious praises,
telling all who have not heard;
grace for every generation
is embodied in your Word.

4. Lord, we offer you our worship
as we celebrate your grace
which you shower on your people
gathered here and every place.
Blessed by water, Word, and table,
we, your church, now pledge to share
grace through every generation
in our witness, work, and prayer.

"God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises"; Words: Bert Polman;

Music: William P. Rowlands; ©2006 Faith Alive Christian Resources; CCLI# 678905

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

"They are the children of God."

Announcements

Call to Confession (Based on I John 1:5-7)

This is the message we have heard from him
and declare to you:

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him

yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,

we have fellowship with one another,

and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Prayer of Confession

Sung Prayer of Confession: LUYH #283 v. 1-2

"O God of Love, Forever Blest"

1. O God of love, forever blest,
pity my suffering state.

When will you set my soul at rest
from lips that love deceit?

Refrain

Too long my soul has made its home
with those who lift the sword.

I am for peace; but when I speak,
they make for war.

2. I cried in trouble to the Lord,
and he has answered me.
From lying lips and crafty tongue,
O Lord, my soul set free.

Refrain

Words: Isaac Watts, alt. Bruce Benedict, © 2009 Cardiphonia Music

Words of Assurance: (Based on Ephesians 2:14)

- * Song of Response: LUYH #699 v. 1-2 *"Like a River Glorious"*

1. Like a river glorious
is God's perfect peace,
over all victorious
in its bright increase:
perfect, yet still flowing
fuller every day;
perfect, yet still growing
deeper all the way.

Refrain

*Trusting in the Father,
hearts are fully blest,
finding, as he promised,
perfect peace and rest.*

2. Hidden in the hollow
of his mighty hand,
where no harm can follow,
in his strength we stand.
We may trust him fully
all for us to do;
those who trust him wholly
find him wholly true.

Refrain

Words: Frances R. Havergal, 1878, alt., P.D.; Music: James Mountain, 1876, P.D.

Offering: General Fund

Offertory Video: *"Beatitudes"* - The 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.

Words and Music: Keith Getty / Stuart Townend; © 2005 Thankyou Music
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"Blest are they who suffer in faith;"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Blessed are the Peacemakers"***

Time of Prayer

"The glory of God is theirs."

* Song of Application: LUYH #117 v. 1,3,4,5 "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.*

3. Blest are they who show mercy;
mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart;
they shall see God.

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, Descant: Michael Joncas (b. 1951); © 1985 GIA
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* Proclamation of our Faith:

Leader: We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who establishes the holy catholic church.

**People: We are the church: the people who believe
the good news about Jesus, who are baptized,
and who share in the Lord's Supper.**

Leader: Through these means of grace, the Spirit renews us
so that we may serve God in love.

All those who live in union with Christ,
whether on earth or with God in heaven, are saints.

**People: Our communion with Christ makes us members
one of another.**

Leader: As by his death Christ removed our separation
from God, so by his Spirit Christ removes all that
divides us from each other.

**People: Breaking down every wall of hostility,
the Spirit makes us, who are many,
one body in Christ.**

Leader: God does not will to be God without us,
but instead grants to us creatures eternal life.

**People: Communion with Jesus is eternal life itself.
By the Holy Spirit we are joined to Christ through
faith and adopted as children, the sons and daughters
of God.**

Leader: Through Christ we are raised from death to new life.

People: For Christ we shall live to all eternity.

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #451 v. 1-4 *"When Peace Like a River"*

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain

*It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

2. Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

Refrain

3. My sin— oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain

4. O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
even so, it is well with my soul.

Words: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873, P.D.; Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1876, P.D. 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: June 23	Next Week: June 30
Mardy S.	Mardy S.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Beth B.	Tim H.
Video:	Tim H.	France B.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin

Announcements

June 23, 2024

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

There is a new nursery schedule in your mailboxes, so be sure to grab it and take a look!

Christian Education Fund:

In order for the Christian Education Fund to continue for next school year we still need \$6,350.00 in pledges by June 30, 2024. The total cost of the ministry for the 2024-2025 school year is \$118,008.00. Please return your pledge forms in mailbox #85.

If you have any questions regarding your pledges, please contact Katie Jungquist, 428-3818.

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:

June 16, 2024: <https://youtu.be/WszCEtk9UfU>

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)

Attention all First CRC Members! Church Committee

Update: On **Monday, July 15** the Executive Committee will be meeting to update/approve our current church committee lists. When it comes to various committees for our church family we do our best to 'recruit,' but just like our personal families sometimes it's simply more expedient to assign. Here's how you can help us in advance: If there is a specific church committee that you would like to serve on - please let Beth know no later than **Sunday, July 14**. In addition, if you would like to be 'removed' from a current committee that you are serving on please let her know that as well. If we don't hear from you - please don't be surprised if you find your name assigned to a committee this fall. We promise to do our best to match one's gifts accordingly. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve!

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts:

June 23: John & Dena K., Henry & Pam VZ

Next week, June 30: Henry & Sharon K., Hank & Sylvia VZ

Worship Team: June 23: Henry & Pam VZ, France B. & Emmalyn S.

Next Week, June 30: Greg & Beth B., Adriana & Tessa S.

Nursery:

Jun 23: Juliana LC., Lauren VB

Next Week, June 30: Jeannette F., Maddie D.

Children in Worship:

June 23: Sheri L., Julissa O.

Next Week, June 30 Tim VH, Lauren DDB

Upcoming Events:

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:

Make an Impact by Volunteering with World Renew - This fall, World Renew has volunteer openings for individual adults, couples, or church groups to help in areas impacted by disasters. These one-week trips include home repair and cleanup projects that give vulnerable homeowners a chance to rebuild their lives. No matter your skillset, lending your time and talents as a volunteer with World Renew will have lasting reach. Learn more and sign up at worldrenew.net/volunteer.

Thriving Essentials 1-Hour Overview (June 27th) - Thriving Essentials is a training course for elders, deacons, church staff, and any volunteer ministry leader. This one-hour webinar will give you an overview of what the full course involves including discussions on four key concepts of Mission, Discipleship, Discernment, and Leadership. Attend this online preview June 27 (1pm EDT) to see if the full course is right for your church. Register now at crcna.org/essentials

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Take a strong magnifying glass with you on a walk, and look at how the tiniest details of nature point to the Creator of the universe. You'll be amazed by what you see! Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

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.

Kids Corner: Persistent Prayers - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Just like Jesus, you can pray persistently about the big, scary things in the world and how they make you feel. Big feelings do not scare God. He welcomes you to talk to him about them and to keep talking about them. He wants you to trust him. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Faith Practices for Families Ebook Collection.

Groundwork: Christian Engagement in Societal Issues - Together, let's delve into the complexities of Christian engagement in societal issues. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-17, Romans 3:10-12, and James 2:1-9 to discover practical insights and biblical wisdom to help us discern what it means to faithfully engage and embrace our role in shaping a more just and God-honoring society. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Position Opening - Resonate Global Mission is hiring! We seek a full time Leadership Developer - E Asia Region. The successful candidate will work in collaboration with local partners to plant a diverse, locally-rooted, and globally connected congregation among the diaspora and Japanese people to faithfully proclaim and live out the good news of Jesus. The focus from the beginning will also be to walk with and develop local leaders who collaborate in creating the faith community. Learn more and apply at <https://crcna.pinpointhq.com/>



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:

Please continue to pray for **Arnola Roos**.

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; *Sally Reehoorn* at Creekside in Burlington; *Bev Van Slageren* with family in Grandview, WA.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

Monday June 17 - *Resonate: Ecumenical relationships*

Today during synod, guests from churches around the world will be gathering together for lunch, and Korean delegates will be gathering for dinner. Give thanks for God's global church and for opportunities to gather as believers. May these times of fellowship and Spirit-filled conversation lead to stronger partnerships and better understandings of one another and the Lord.

Tuesday June 18 - *Candidacy Committee: Candidates*

We give thanks for God's provision of leadership for the CRCNA as we celebrate our 2024 candidates for the ministry of the Word! Please join us in asking the Lord to uphold them and guide them in their next steps. Pray also for the Lord of the harvest to send many more laborers into the harvest field.

Wednesday June 19 - *ReFrame: Grace*

As delegates continue to meet at Synod 2024, offer this prayer with us from tomorrow's Today devotions, written by Portuguese-ministry leader Hernandes Dias Lopes: "Loving God, only your grace can restore peace and bring forgiveness. Help us to work against breakdowns in our relationships. Help us to be agents of peace. For Jesus' sake, Amen."

Thursday June 20 - *Communications: Synod 2024*

As synod concludes today, the future remains as it always does: unknown. Yet God's promise holds, that he will be Immanuel ("God with us"). Pray that as the CRCNA moves ahead into the future, we may experience God's presence and leading amid the uncertainty ahead.

Friday June 21 - Edmonton Native Healing Centre: National Indigenous People Day (Canada)

Creator, thank you for calling us to be in reconciled relationships. In Edmonton we grieve the loss of one of those relationships in the passing of Sharon Turner, a board member who suddenly passed away. Please bless her family with peace. Creator, life is fragile, and we look forward to your coming again, when there will be no more death or mourning. Hiy, Hiy, Amen.

Saturday June 22 - Resonate: Africa

Resonate missionary Anthony Sytsma has been planning and leading a lot of Helping without Hurting trainings in Uganda and other countries in Africa. Please pray for guidance as he leads these trainings, and for the participants as they put into practice what they have learned.

Sunday June 23 - Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee: Indigenous Ministry Sunday

This year we think about the beauty of sharing food across cultures and the joy it gives as we continue a needed reconciliation journey. Please pray for continued depth, richness, and joy as the CRC leans into reconciled relationships with Indigenous peoples in Canada.