

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Guest Preacher – Mr. Darrel Lagerwey
July 14, 2024 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

“There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s Own Son;”

Prelude

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn: LUYH #43 v. 1-3**

“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

1. Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell’s destruction,
land me safe on Canaan’s side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

Words: William Williams, 1745; st. 1 tr. Peter Williams, 1771, alt; st. 2-3 tr.

William Williams, 1772, alt., P.D.; Music: John Hughes, 1907, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

* Call to Worship: (Based on Colossians 1:15-20)

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 rulers
or authorities; all things were created by him
and for him.**

Leader: He is before all things, and in him all things
hold together.
And he is the head of the body, the church;
He is the beginning and the firstborn
from among the dead, so that in everything
he might have the supremacy.

**People: For God was pleased to have all his fullness
dwell in him, and through him
to reconcile to himself all things,
whether things on earth or things in heaven,
by making peace through his blood,
shed on the cross.**

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #775 v. 1-3 *"Across the Lands"*

1. You're the Word of God the Father
from before the world began;
every star and every planet
has been fashioned by your hand.
All creation holds together
by the power of your voice.
Let the skies declare your glory;
let the land and seas rejoice.

Refrain

*You're the author of creation,
you're the Lord of everyone,
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

2. Yet you left the gaze of angels,
came to seek and save the lost
and exchanged the joy of heaven
for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer you fed the hungry,
with a word you calmed the sea;
yet how silently you suffered,
that the guilty may go free.

Refrain

*You're the author of creation,
you're the Lord of everyone,
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

3. With a shout you rose victorious,
wresting victory from the grave,
and ascended into heaven,
leading captives in your way.
Now you stand before the Father,
interceding for your own;
from each tribe and tongue and nation
you are leading sinners home.

Refrain

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2002 Thankyou Music (PRS),
admin. worldwide at EMICMGPublishing.com except Europe which is admin. by
Kingswaysongs. CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting

Leader: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you!**

* We Greet Each Other

"Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One."

Announcements

Call to Confession (Matthew 22:37-40)

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: Psalm 103 – Various Verses

Song of Response: LUYH #348 v. 1-3 *“Great is Thy Faithfulness”*

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23: Words: Thomas O Chisholm, 1923, © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company; Music: William M. Runyan, 1923, © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company, CCLI #678905

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

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

*Song of Preparation: LUYH #762 v. 1-2 "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.

Refrain

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

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

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

"Thank you O My Father, for giving us your Son,"

Scripture Reading: Luke 14:15-24

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "A Sad Excuse"

Time of Prayer

"And leaving your Spirit till
the work on earth is done."

* Song of Application: *"Into My Heart"*
*Into my heart, into my heart,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus;
Come in today. Come into stay,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.*

* Proclamation of our Faith: Our Hope in the Age to Come

Leader: God saves the world through Jesus.
Those who call on that name will have life.
Christ's hand reaches out beyond those
who say "Lord" to the infants
who live in the atmosphere of faith,
even to the farthest stars and planets
of all creation.

**People: The boundaries of God's love are not known;
the Spirit works at the ends of the world
before the church has there spoken a word.**

Leader: God will renew the world through Jesus,
who will put all unrighteousness out,
purify the works of human hands,
and perfect their fellowship in divine love.

**People: Christ will wipe away every tear;
death shall be no more.
There will be a new heaven and a new earth,
and all creation will be filled with God's glory.**

* God's Blessing

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father,
who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement
and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you
in every good deed and word. —2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, NIV

* Parting Praise: LUYH #489 v. 1-3 *"By The Sea of Crystal"*

1. By the sea of crystal saints in glory stand,
myriads in number, drawn from every land.
Robed in white apparel, washed in Jesus' blood,
they now reign in heaven with the Lamb of God.

2. Out of tribulation, death, and Satan's hand,
they have been translated at the Lord's command.
In their hands they're holding palms of victory.
Hark! the jubilant chorus shouts triumphantly:

3. "Unto God Almighty, sitting on the throne,
and the Lamb, victorious, be the praise alone."
God has wrought salvation; he did wondrous things.
Who shall not extol thee, holy King of kings!

Words: William Kuipers, 1933, based on Revelation 4-5, © 1976 Faith Alive
Christian Resources; Music: John Vanderhoven, 1933, © 1976 Faith Alive
Resources; CCLI #678905

Postlude

Welcome! "Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go," the psalmist prayed (Psalm 71:3). May we all find that God is a "rock of refuge" where we find help for every hour of need. A hearty welcome to all who have come to worship our Creator. After the morning service all are invited to the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

| Tech Team | Today: July 14 | Next Week: July 21 |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Sound: | Mardy S. | Henry H. |
| Projection: | Isaac D. | France B. |
| Video: | Tim H. | Brandon S. |
| Offering: | General Fund | General Fund |

First CRC Bulletin

Announcements

July 14, 2024

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Dear First Family, From August 10th through the 17th, **Julie, Adriana, Tessa Speck, Kiera Link, and Ellie Vanden Bosch** will travel to Abbotsford, British Columbia, to participate in a SERVE Mission Trip. In the weeks leading up, one specific way we can begin to pray for the group is for an uneventful border crossing on the 10th and the 17th.

Good news! The large print Today mags are on their way after being lost in the mail. I will put them into mailboxes when I receive them.

Christian Education Fund:

THANK YOU to all those that pledged for the coming school year. The total tuition cost of \$118,018.00 for school year 2024-2025 has been pledged. Thank you so much for your support!

Don't forget to take a glance at your Worship Schedule if you are a volunteer! We know summer can get busy. If you need a replacement, please call the person on for the following Sunday and then let Beth know of your switcheroo. Thank you!

Loved the movie "Driving Miss Daisy"? There is a sign-up sheet by the coffee for those who would be willing to pick up and take Shirley Boonstra home each Sunday morning with us. Please take a moment to take a look at it and volunteer today. Thank you!

Danielle Van Zanten and Ryan Burkholder are thrilled to announce their wedding on August 3, in Houston, B.C. They will have an open house reception here at First CRC on Saturday, August 17 from 2-4p.m. Please join us in celebrating their love and commitment. Please RSVP by August 12 to Henry and Pam Van Zanten by text at 360-757-0540 or email at hpvanz@gmail.com.

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!

Dear Friends,

In our recent study of the Beatitudes we observed how these teachings provide an excellent blueprint for how a person initially becomes a Christian and then through the power of the Holy Spirit begins to mature in the faith. One of the important pieces in our spiritual maturity is how we carry out Christ's mission in the world around us. The latter part of Matthew 9 and all of Matthew 10 provide us with some important instructions on how to engage in this important mission together. In the weeks to come we're going to take a closer look at some of these instructions and then apply them to our own lives here today. May God lead and guide us in our study together.

In His Grace,

Pastor John

July 21 – “Christ’s Mission – Recognizing the Need” (Matthew 9:35-10:10)

July 28 – “Christ’s Mission – Ministry Expectations” (Matthew 10:11-23)

Aug. 25 – “Christ’s Mission – No Fear” (Matthew 10:24-33)

Sept. ?? – “Christ’s Mission – Costly Discipleship” (Matthew 34-42)

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:

July 7, 2024: <https://youtu.be/lytybQsqZck>

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts:

July 14: Jeremy & Shanna V., Greg & Beth B.

Next week, July 21: Eric & Teresa VK, Keith & Jean R.

Worship Team: July 14: Eliot B., Mandi D., Kayla & Ella VH

Next Week, July 21: Stan B., Julie, Adriana & Tessa S.

Nursery:

July 14: Catherine & Noah VK

Next Week, July 21: Kiera L. & Rhyson O.

Children in Worship:

July 14: Heidi B., Maddie D.

Next Week, July 21: Angela S., Millie F.

Upcoming Events:

Sat, August 17, 2-4pm: Reception for Danielle (VZ) and Ryan Burkholder here at church. Please RSVP by August 12.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - In the sacrament of The Lord's Supper we remember both the great sacrifice and the wonderful gift of Jesus' death and resurrection. Think and talk about how you might more fully enter into both the sorrow and the joy as you celebrate communion. Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

Family Fire - 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: Light for Your Path - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Make devotions a habit. Pick a time and try to be consistent. Before bed is an excellent time for this, but it can be anytime during the day. Spending time with God's Word and in prayer is the lamp for your path you need! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Faith Practices for Families Ebook Collection.

Groundwork: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - Scripture helps us to better understand the nature of each person of the Trinity and the awesome phenomena of their unity as One. Join Groundwork as we study Deuteronomy 1:31, Psalm 103, Matthew 6:9-14, 25-34, John 1:1-3, Hebrews 4:15-16, Philippians 2:5-8, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Genesis 1:2, and John 14:16-17 to discuss the unique attributes and work of each person of our triune God. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Iowa Floods Update - After heavy rain and river flooding in northwestern Iowa in June 2024, the first team of World Renew DRS volunteers arrived in Hawarden on July 8. The team is working for 10 days, helping flood survivors shovel out mud and remove waterlogged wallboard and flooring from some of the most damaged homes. Next, World Renew DRS will be onsite in Hawarden to meet potential partners and offer our services to help homeowners recover. Please continue to pray for flood survivors in Iowa. Volunteer with World Renew DRS at worldrenew.net/volunteer. Donate at worldrenew.net/springstorms2024 or call 800-552-7972. Thank you!

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.



How can
we
PRAY
for you?

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

NEW REQUESTS:

Please keep **Eleanor Klunder** in your prayers as she was hospitalized this past week due to dehydration, low blood pressure and kidney concerns. She is now home and recuperating. Pray too for Clarence and the rest of the family as they walk beside her during this anxious time.

Please pray for our youth group leader and kids who will be travelling to Abbotsford, B.C. on August 10 and coming home on August 17.

Please pray for all of our members who are having health test, surgeries and other health issues right now.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Continue to pray for **Mary Koopmans** as she recovers from the swelling from her blood clot. Please feel free to visit her again in Burlington at Where the Heart Is. She doesn't remember visits, but she sure enjoys them in the moment. Please pray for her continued healing.

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.

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 July 8 - Resonate: Haiti

Give thanks for God's work through Haiti's IMPACT clubs for youth. Despite the many challenges Haiti faces today, 23 of 30 clubs are still able to meet. "These children do not have any other form of entertainment or places to have fun, and it has been a stressful situation for both them and their parents," said Sattoya Metelus, the IMPACT clubs leader.

Tuesday July 9 - *World Renew: Southern Africa*

After a dryer than normal rainy season this year, regions across southern Africa are experiencing drought. The risks of hunger and malnutrition are especially high in Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia. Pray for the Lord's provision, asking that emergency assistance efforts may be helpful and that conservation agriculture methods may be effective.

Wednesday July 10 - *Thrive: Safer churches*

Praise God for 30 years of abuse prevention and response in the CRCNA!

Thursday July 11 - *Resonate: East Asia*

A missionary serving in a country in East Asia asks for prayer for a woman who wants to learn more about Jesus. She's been attending worship at the missionary's church and recently attended a six-week course introducing the gospel. Please pray that God continues to draw this woman into relationship with him!

Friday July 12 - *Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee: Creation*

Our Creator Father, we praise you for who you are, all you have done for us, and all that you continue to do. Your beauty in creation is awesome. We praise you for your amazing creativity in nature, and we sing your praises in unity with our brothers and sisters around the world. All glory be to you. Amen.

Saturday July 13 - *ReFrame: Japan*

A woman named Nanaho responded to our Japanese audio program online after hearing about the challenges of living out one's faith despite having family members who are nonbelievers. Pray for Nanaho and many others who want to share their faith with their loved ones.

Sunday July 14 - *Resonate: North Carolina*

Pray for Higher Calling CRC, a Resonate partner church plant in North Carolina that is seeking to meet the needs of their community. Pray especially for their tutoring and mentorship programs for children living in the surrounding neighborhood.