

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

August 18, 2024 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

"Before the throne of God above"

Prelude

Welcome

* Call to Worship:

Leader: O Magnify the Lord with me.

People: Let us exalt God's name together!

Leader: We will give thanks to you, O Lord,
with our whole heart;
We will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

**People: We will be glad and exult in you;
We will sing praises to your name, O Most High.**

* Opening Hymn: LUYH #538 v. 1-4 "

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

1. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
who wert and art and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye made blind by sin Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Sing acapella

4. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name,
in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Words: Reginald Heber; Music: John B. Dykes;

Descant: David McK. Williams; Public Domain; CCLI# 678905

* Opening Prayer

Lord, open to us the sea of your mercy,
and water us with full streams from the riches
of your grace and the springs of your kindness.
Make us children of quietness and heirs of peace;
kindle in us the fire of your love,
and strengthen our weakness by your power
as we become close to you and to each other. Amen.

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #568 v. 1-4

"I Will Sing of My Redeemer"

1. I will sing of my Redeemer
and his wondrous love to me;
on the cruel cross he suffered,
from the curse to set me free.

Refrain

*Sing, oh, sing of my Redeemer,
with his blood he purchased me;
on the cross he sealed my pardon,
paid the debt, and made me free.*

2. I will tell the wondrous story,
how my lost estate to save,
in his boundless love and mercy
he the ransom freely gave.

Refrain

3. I will praise my dear Redeemer,
his triumphant power I'll tell,
how the victory he giveth
over sin and death and hell.

Refrain

*Sing, oh, sing of my Redeemer
with his blood he purchased me;
on the cross he sealed my pardon,
paid the debt, and made me free.*

4. I will sing of my Redeemer
and his heavenly love to me;
He from death to life has brought me,
Son of God, with him to be.

Refrain

Words: Philip P. Bliss, 1878; Music: James McGranahan; Public Domain,
CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

"I have a strong and perfect plea,"

Announcements

Call to Confession (Based on Hebrews 4:14, 16)

Seeing that we have a great High Priest
who has entered the inmost heaven,
Jesus the Son of God,
let us therefore approach the throne of grace
with fullest confidence,
that we may receive mercy for our failures
and grace to help in the hour of need.
In the strength of this assurance,
let us confess our sins to God.
—based on Hebrews 4:14, 16

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: (Based on Psalm 103)

* Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #682 v. 1-3
“Before the Throne of God Above”

1. Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

2. When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

3. Behold him there! The risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless righteousness;
the great unchangeable “I AM,”
the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Savior and my God,
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

Words: Charitie Lees DeCheney Bancroft (1841-1923), P.D.; Music: Vikki Cook,
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#678905

Ministry Report – Youth Group Service Trip

Offering: General Fund

Offertory: *Video*

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

"A great High Priest whose name is Love,"

Scripture Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "**Love That Overcomes Evil**"

Time of Prayer

"Whoever lives and pleads for me."

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #691 v. 1-5 "*Amazing Grace*"

1. Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
3. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Words: st. 1-4 John Newton, 1779, st. 5 A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, P.D.
Music: Virginia Harmony, 1831; adapt. and harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900, P.D.;
CCLI# 678905

* Proclamation of our Faith: Our World Belongs to God st.5-6

Leader: God holds this world in sovereign love.

He kept his promise, sending Jesus into the world.
He poured out his Spirit and broadcast his news
that sinners who repent and believe in Jesus
can live and breathe and move again
as members of the family of God.

**People: We rejoice in the goodness of God,
renounce the works of darkness,
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.**

Leader: As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience,
and set free for joyful praise,
we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work
in his world.

With tempered impatience,
eager to see injustice ended,
we expect the Day of the Lord.

**People: And we are confident that the light that shines
in the present darkness will fill the earth
when Christ appears.**

Come, Lord Jesus! Our world belongs to you.

—Our World Belongs to God, st. 5-6

Leader: God remembered his promise
to reconcile the world to himself;
he has come among us in Jesus Christ,
the eternal Word made flesh.

**People: He is the long-awaited Savior,
fully human and fully divine,
conceived by the Spirit of God
and born of the virgin Mary.**

Leader: Being both God and man, Jesus is the only Mediator
between God and his people.

**People: He alone paid the debt of our sin;
there is no other Savior!**

Leader: In him the Father chose those whom he would save.

People: His electing love sustains our hope:

**God's grace is free to save sinners who offer nothing
but their need for mercy.**

—Our World Belongs to God, st. 24, 28

- God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #776 v. 1-4

"A Mighty Fortress Is our God"

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.
3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

4. That Word above all earthly powers—
 no thanks to them—abideth;
 the Spirit and the gifts are ours
 through him who with us sideth.
 Let goods and kindred go,
 this mortal life also;
 the body they may kill:
 God’s truth abideth still;
 his kingdom is forever!

Words: based on Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852,
 P.D. CCLI #678905

Postlude

Welcome! The psalmist prayed: “Restore us, O Lord God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved” (Psalm 80:19). May all who have come to worship find restoration, inner peace and spiritual strength. 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: August 18	Next Week: August 25
Sound:	Mardy S.	Henry H.
Projection:	Isaac D.	France B.
Video:	Tim H.	Isaac D.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

August 18, 2024

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

This Week's Deep Q's with PB & J:

What are three words you would use to describe your neighborhood?

THE NEW COMMITTEE LISTS ARE HERE! They are on the shelves by the church mailboxes. Please pick one up today. There are a few changes, so be sure to look to see if you might have been added to a new committee.

Beth is gearing up to put out a NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY. This is your last chance to get any address/phone/email/picture changes to her. We will be using a new and exciting way of making the books – no more annoying bindings that kill Beth's shoulder every fall. We will be using a 3-ring binder system, where any changes that happen during the year will mean just printing out a new page and removing and adding that page to your personal binder during the year. Then you will have each change in your book, printed and looking great a week after any change. No messy scribbles added by your spouse or accidentally forgetting to change additions and corrections. **Please get any new info to Beth by September 1. Thank you!**

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. 4 – “What Are You Wearing” – Colossians 3:1-17

Aug. 11 – “Christlike Love” – Romans 12:9-13

Aug. 18 – “Love that Overcomes Evil” – Romans 12:9-21

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

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

Worship Service YouTube Links:

August 11, 2024: <https://youtu.be/md7kbKb4mQY>

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:

August 18: Greg & Beth B., Cody & Angela S.

Next week, August 25: Sarah Z., Bob DG, Sheri L.

Worship Team:

August 18: Greg & Beth B., Emmalyn S. France B.

Next Week, August 25: Men’s Group

Nursery:

August 18: Glenda K. & Tessa S.

Next Week, August 25: Mandi D. & Adriana S.

Children in Worship:

August 18: Angela S., Nellie VDH

Next Week, August 25: Angela S., Emmalyn S.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

Mid-America Reformed Seminary invites friends and supporters to the opening **Convocation for the 2024-2025 academic year on**

Wednesday, August 28th, at 7:00 PM at Lynwood United Reformed Church, 1990 Glenwood Dyer Rd., Lynwood, IL. The event will feature

Dr. Alan Strange delivering an Interim President installation address titled "Steady as She Goes" based on Psalm 27. Those unable to attend in person can join via livestream, with the link to be provided in the coming weeks.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Moving to campus this fall? - We'd love to help you get connected to a campus ministry community! There are 32 CRC ministries on 40 university and college campuses across North America, gathering students, faculty, and staff to grow together in faith as they engage God's world. To find out if there's a CRC ministry at your campus, please check <https://www.resonatglobal.com/mission.org/campus-ministry/partner-campus-ministries>. If there isn't a Christian Reformed ministry at your school, you can locate a nearby CRC here: crcna.org/church-finder. For more information about our ministries, or other info about how to grow in faith while you're on campus, please contact us at campusministry@crcna.org

Job Opening! Donor Relations Manager Resonate Global Mission -

The successful candidate will develop relationships and implement a strategy with existing and potential donors that will increase financial support and resources, engage current constituents and cultivate potential donors in support of the ministry. This is a full time, hybrid position based in Grand Rapids, Mich. Apply by August 22 at <https://crcna.pinpointhq.com/en/postings/f0f6792d-a239-4674-a82e-7d0d71a58e94>

Groundwork: God Makes All Things New - The fourth major theme of the Bible is that of consummation, the time when God will complete his redemptive plan and make all creation new. Join Groundwork as we study Revelation 21:1-5, Matthew 19:28, Romans 8:18-21, and Ephesians 2:19-22 to see a future where God's presence eradicates suffering and evil, and brings justice and eternal joy and to discuss what it means for us now. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Kids Corner: Speak God's Life-Giving Words - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Words of life build someone up and point them to the Life Giver - God. God calls us to "build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11) with our words. By using words of life, we can bless others by what we say. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Faith Practices for Families Ebook Collection.

Job Opening - Director of Ecclesiastical Governance - As a member of the Office of General Secretary, the Director of Ecclesiastical Governance shall serve, support, and equip the governance of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA). The Director shall serve as the synodical and Council of Delegates (COD) meeting officer and be the liaison between the Office of General Secretary and classes in Canada and the U.S. The Director shall serve as the Church Order and Synodical Rules of Procedure subject matter expert, strengthen the capacity of synodical delegates and COD members, equip its leadership, and promote best governance practices and continuous improvement. This position offers a flexible work schedule, an attractive benefits package (including retirement fund contribution), and four weeks of vacation. Learn more and apply at crcna.pinpointhq.com

Job Opening - Information Technology Director - The CRCNA is hiring an Information Technology Director. The IT Director is responsible for establishing and executing the IT strategy, ensuring its integration with the mission strategy of the Christian Reformed Church (CRC), enabling the CRC to extend the reach of its mission. The IT Director participates in and contributes to the overall organization's operating model by bringing current knowledge and future vision of leveraging information and technology in service of the organization's mission. Apply now at <https://crcna.pinpointhq.com/>

Thriving Essentials Overview - Online August 22 - 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. Sign

up to attend this preview on August 22 (3PM EDT) and discern if the full course is right for your church: crcna.org/Essentials

August is National Make-A-Will Month - You don't have to be wealthy to establish an estate plan. If you own a house, have any investments or special collections, you should have a plan. August is National "Make A Will" Month and a great annual reminder to set up a trust or gift a charity in your will. The CRC has resources to help. Learn more by visiting the CRC Heritage website at crcna.org/foundation



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 keep **Crystal DeKok's** son Eric in your prayers as he heals from his dirt bike accident and subsequent surgery.

Please keep **Margaret Vander Pol** in your prayers, as she is home recuperating from a blood clot. Pray for Larry as he continues to walk alongside and care for Margaret.

Please continue to pray for those who have lost loved ones recently.

Please keep **Eleanor Klunder** in your prayers as she recuperates at home.

Continue to pray for **Mary Koopmans** as she recovers from her blood clot.

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

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)

Thursday August 8 - *World Renew: Global food crisis*

Over the past several years, progress made toward food security in many countries has been blocked by conflict, drought, and various results of the COVID-19 pandemic. World Renew works to alleviate hunger through food distribution and food security programs. Ask God to intervene in all situations of chronic hunger.

Friday August 9 - *Resonate: Campus ministries*

Resonate partner campus ministries throughout Canada and the United States are beginning to welcome students back to campus for the fall semester. Brian Bork, Resonate's campus ministry leader, asks you to pray for "energy and wisdom toward peacemaking on campuses where political and ideological polarization is particularly intense."

Saturday August 10 - *Thrive: Safe Church coordinators*

Safe Church coordinators assist CRC classes in establishing teams to educate, prevent, and respond to situations of abuse with compassion and justice, providing opportunities for the transforming power of God's love to be revealed in our midst. Please pray for each coordinator serving in this role within their classis.

Sunday August 11 - *ReFrame: Nepal*

Pray for Kabi, who follows ReFrame's online programs from Nepal. "Pray for my daughter Deepika," Kabi shared. "She has had trouble breathing from her right nostril since she was young. The doctors have no answer but have given her nose drops; please pray for healing and clarity."

Monday August 12 - *Resonate: Japan*

"Please remember these two churches: Chichibu Church and Hikarigaoka Christ Church. Pray for their commitment to love each other as Jesus commanded," ask Jeong and Misook Gho, Resonate missionaries who serve in Japan.

Tuesday August 13 - *Calvin Theological Seminary: New academic year*

The seminary is gearing up for a new school year, both online and residential. Orientation, travel, moving, and readiness for courses are ongoing. Pray for these transitions as we begin the new school year together.

Wednesday August 14 - *World Renew: Latin America*

World Renew's Latin America Ministry Team countries are in the midst of "hurricane season," and forecasts indicate that this may be a tough year. Pray for enough but not too much rain so that farmers will have successful crops. Pray also for programs in Indigenous communities throughout Latin America, that local groups may be resourced to build hope for the future in all seasons.