

***Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!***  
***Pastor Brad Diekema***  
***December 1, 2024 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service***

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

Prelude

*"On Christ the Solid Rock, I stand"*

Welcome

\* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #351

*"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit;  
let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee with thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

*Words: Charles Wesley, 1747, P.D.; Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1831, P.D.*

\* Call to Worship:

Leader: A voice cries, "In the wilderness prepare the way  
for the Lord; Make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God."

**People: We are preparing our hearts for the God of Hope  
to come into the world.**

Leader: God's love flows into our lives through the gift  
of the Christ child.

**People: The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are filled with hope.**

Leader: God calls us out of the exile of sin with the good news  
of restoration. God has built a highway  
through the wilderness; Immanuel has come  
into our lives, and we know that God has the power  
to keep God's promises.

**People: God calls us to strengthen our faith  
and prepare our hearts to glorify God.  
We are hopeful people waiting for the return  
of our God.**

\* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #56 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art:  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1744), P.D.; Music: Christian F. Witt's *Psalmody Sacra*,  
1715; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1861; desc. John W. Wilson © 1983 Hope  
Publishing Company; CCLI# 678905

"My Hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness"

\* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

[The candle is lit]

Sing: Songs For Life #136 "He Came Down"

1. He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love.  
Hallelujah forever more.
2. He came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy,  
he came down that we may have joy.  
Hallelujah forever more.
3. He came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace.  
Hallelujah forever more.

4. He came down that we may have hope;  
he came down that we may have hope;  
he came down that we may have hope\*  
Hallelujah forever more.

*"He Came Down"* Words; Traditional, Music: from the Cameroons

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Assurance

\* Song of Response: LUYH #698 'Your Grace is Enough'

1. Great is your faithfulness, O God.  
You wrestle with the sinner's heart.  
You lead us by still waters into mercy,  
and nothing can keep us apart.

*Refrain*

*So remember your people, remember your children,  
remember your promise, O God.*

*Your grace is enough, your grace is enough,  
your grace is enough for me.*

*Your grace is enough, heaven reaching down to us.*

*Your grace is enough for me.*

*God, I see your grace is enough.*

*I'm covered in your love.*

*Your grace is enough for me, for me.*

2. Great is your love and justice, God.  
You use the weak to lead the strong.  
You lead us in the song of your salvation,  
and all your people sing along.

*Refrain*

Words: Matt Maher © 2003 Matt Maher, published by spiritandsong.com,  
a division of OCP and EMICMGPublishing.com d/b/a Thank You Music  
(excluding Europe which is admin. by Kingswaysongs)

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

## Children's Message

(Following the Children's Message children ages 3-3rd grade  
are excused for Children and Worship)

### \* Hymn of Preparation: 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,  
CCLI# 678905

*"I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name"*

Scripture Reading: Romans 4:16-25

Prayer of Illumination

Message: The Gift of Hope

Time of Prayer

*“O may I then in him be found,  
dressed in his righteousness alone  
faultless to stand before the throne”*

\* Song of Application: LUYH #772 “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

1. My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

*Chorus:*

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

2. When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
in ev’ry high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil.

*Chorus*

3. His oath, His covenant, His blood  
support me in the whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.

*Chorus*

4. When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in Him be found,  
dressed in His righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne.

*Chorus*

Words: Edward Mote (1797-1874), Tune: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868), Public Domain. CCLI# 678905

\* Profession of Our Faith: The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
begotten from the Father before all ages,  
God from God,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made;  
of the same essence as the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and was made human.  
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried.  
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again with glory  
to judge the living and the dead.  
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life.  
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
He spoke through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

\* God's Blessing

\* Parting Praise: LUYH # 947 "We Receive Your Blessing"

We receive Your blessing; we receive Your grace,  
as we walk in the light shining from Your face.  
May the peace that You give change the way that we live.  
We receive Your blessing as we leave this place.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, you heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son, and praise the Holy Ghost.

*Repeat Song*

We receive your blessing as we leave this place.

Words & Music: Grace Moes & Natasha Moes  
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\* 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 December 1	Next Sunday December 8
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Beth B.	France B.
Video:	Brandon S.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund



# First CRC Bulletin Announcements

**December 1, 2024**

***The deadline for announcements this next week is Thursday, 9:00 A.M.***

## **OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

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

What Scripture passage, Bible Story or song has special meaning to you, and why?

**Angel Tree:** Today after the service you will have the opportunity to pick up an Angel Tree tag in

the Fellowship Hall. Please sign your name on the sheet on the table by the name of the child

on the Angel Tree tag that you chose. Each child receives a gift valued at around \$35. After purchasing your gift, please wrap and put the Angel Tree sticker on the outside of the gift.

Please bring your gift back to the Fellowship Hall and place it on the table by December 15th (or

earlier). Thank you for your generosity and for blessing the children in our community! Any questions? Please reach out to Catherine Vander Kooy 360-982-8429.

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** will meet on Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00 am at IHOP.

## **Worship Service YouTube Links:**

AM November 24, 2024: <https://youtu.be/hPaTggud3Ys>

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](https://firstcrcmv.com/?page_id=1509)

**Foster Kids Winter Clothes Drive:** Community & Family Services, a local foster care agency, is currently doing a winter clothes drive for foster children ages 0-18. Any donations of new, or gently used, coats, pajamas, hoodies, socks, and sweatpants are greatly appreciated. They can especially use items for kids that are 10 years to even adult sizes. Donations will be accepted through Friday, December 13 and can be placed on the wood table underneath the south windows next to the kitchen in the fellowship hall. Thanks in advance for your willingness to donate!

There is **CHOIR PRACTICE** this morning after church.

### **2024 Advent Series – The Gifts of Christmas**

Dear Friends,

During the season of Advent we often recall the *'already'* and *'not yet'* tension of our faith. Yes, Christ's kingdom has *'already'* come, but it has *'not yet'* come in its fullness. Often the focus during Advent is on the *'not yet'* as we look forward to Christ's return. However, this year we are going to focus more on the *'already'* and the practical implications of Jesus' incarnation. We plan to do so by pairing specific texts from the book of Romans with some of the familiar narratives around Jesus' birth. We will also focus specifically on the *'gifts'* of hope, love, joy, and peace. May God bless us throughout our study during this special time of the year.

In His Grace, -Pastor John and Pastor Brad

1. Dec. 1 – *"The Gift of Hope"* (Luke 1:5-25, Romans 4:16-25)
2. Dec. 8 – *"The Gift of Love"* (Luke 1:39-56, Romans 5:12-21)
3. Dec. 15 – *"The Gift of Joy"* (Luke 2:8-20, Romans 6:1-14)
4. Dec. 22 AM – *"The Gift of Peace"* (Luke 2:8-14, Romans 5:1-11)
5. Dec. 22 PM – *"The Gift of Jesus"* (Romans 6:23, Romans 8:31-39)
6. Dec. 25 – *"The Result of the Gifts"* (Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20, Romans 6:15-23)

### **Save These Dates!**

1. **Candlelight Service** - Sunday, Dec. 22 at 6:30 PM
2. **Christmas Day Service** - Wednesday, Dec. 25 at 10 AM (Note earlier time)
3. **Post High School Pizza Night:** Thursday, Dec. 26 at 6pm and Coconut Kenny's. Please RSVP to Pastor John ([jknoes0812@gmail.com](mailto:jknoes0812@gmail.com)) or to Beth at ([secretary@firstccrmv.com](mailto:secretary@firstccrmv.com))

4. **Movie Night at Church** - Friday, Jan. 24 (Title of movie yet to be determined!)

**CALENDAR:**

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts:** December 1

Mardy & Kristi S., Randy & Peggy B.

Next week: December 8: Wayne & Rhea D., Jogn & Dena K.

**Worship Team:** December 1: Henry VZ, Julie S., Adriana & Tessa S.

Next Week: December 8: Greg & Beth B., Isaac D., Nellie VDH

**Nursery:** December 1: Jeannette F., Ella VH

Next Week: December 8: Catherine & Noah VK

**Children in Worship:** December 1: Heidi B., Jennaya B.

Next Week: December 8: Jodi VP, Kayla VH

**This Week:**

**Sunday:** December 1

Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

**CHURCH POTLUCK**

**NO** Youth Group

**Wednesday:** December 4 at 7:00 pm

Fountainview Academy Choir

**Friday:** December 6 at 7 pm NOËL Ensemble

**Upcoming Events:**

**Friday,** December 13 at 1 pm: Memorial Service for Marion Ekkelkamp

**Friday:** December 13 at 7 pm: Sonshine Singers Christmas Concert

**Sunday,** December 22 at 6:30 pm: Candlelight Service

**Wednesday,** December 25 at 10:00 am: Christmas Day Service

**Thursday,** December 26, 6 pm: Post-High School Pizza Night at Coconut Kenny's in Burlington

**Friday,** January 24: Movie Night at Church

### *OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS*

**Fountainview Academy Choir and Orchestra** is coming from Lillooet, British Columbia, Canada to Mount Vernon First Christian Reformed Church on **December 4 at 7:00 p.m.** Come and enjoy a free concert of up to 100 young people praising God with voices and instruments as they perform a variety of Christmas carols and classics. Invite your friends.

The NOËL ensemble bringing the magic and the mystery of a medieval Christmas with harps, flute, strings, and poetry will be held. No tickets required . . . a free event with a freewill offering to benefit New Earth Recovery. Will be held **Friday December 6, 2024 @ 7:00 pm at Bethany Covenant Church at 1318 S. 18th Street - Mount Vernon, WA** . Warm yourself with song and story, support men and women in recovery, and prepare your heart for the season.

**You are invited to The Sonshine Singers Christmas Concert** here at First CRC on Friday, December 13 At 7:00pm. Please join them for a night of joy-filled song as we gather to celebrate the Christmas season!

### *CRC COMMUNICATIONS:*

**Kids Corner: Advent Week 1: The Prophecy** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). During this Advent season, we can remember God's faithfulness and our hope in Jesus, our Lord. Think of the names of Jesus in Isaiah 9:6: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. How do these names bring us hope? How do they express God's faithfulness? Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like the Bible Story Podcast The Story of the Prophets.

**Groundwork: Jesus: Our Wonderful Counselor** - The prophet Isaiah calls the coming Messiah a "Wonderful Counselor." Join Groundwork as we explore Isaiah 9:6, Proverbs 1:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:18-24, and Colossians 1:15-19 to discover what this title communicates to us about Jesus and its connection to the biblical wisdom tradition. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - Advent is a season of waiting. We wait expectantly for the birth of Christ, and we wait with hope for his coming again. Yet this season is often marked by hurried consumerism and overfilled calendars. How might you practice “waiting” in new ways this Advent season? Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)



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

**Joan DeVries'** surgery went well and she is now waiting for biopsy results. We thank God for a successful surgery! Please pray for good answers from the doctor.

**John Velasquez** was recently diagnosed with a serious lung disease. He is currently on oxygen full-time and is currently waiting to get into therapy for greater improvement. Please pray that he can get into therapy soon and that it will be effective!

**CONTINUING REQUESTS:**

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

**SHUT INS:** *Nell Annema* 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.

**OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)**

**Saturday November 23 - Thrive: Leadership**

Please pray for pastors, chaplains, and all church staff who work tirelessly to lead their congregations. May they find rest, encouragement, and wisdom through the support and resources we provide, and may they experience renewed strength in their calling.

**Sunday November 24 - Resonate: Ministry leaders**

Please pray for our missionaries, campus ministers, and church planters who are shining a light for Christ in more than 40 countries throughout the world, including Canada and the United States. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance, wisdom, and opportunities to share God's love.

**Monday November 25 - Cadets: Living for Jesus**

Our "Lead the Way" theme, based on 1 Timothy 4:12, challenges cadets and counselors to be leaders in their clubs, churches, and communities. Please pray for our counselors as they work to help boys become more Christlike in all areas of life. Please pray for our cadets as they strive to live out our motto, "Living for Jesus."

**Tuesday November 26 - ReFrame: Burkina Faso**

Pray for Mariam, who is part of a church plant for displaced people in Burkina Faso. She has not heard from her two sons in two years. Pray for God's comfort, strength, and protection for her as she continues to seek the Lord amid difficult circumstances. May God provide peace in her heart and reunite her with her sons.

**Wednesday November 27 - Resonate: Ireland**

"Our church continues to grow. Week by week we are welcoming new people—and new Christians—into our fellowship," share Resonate missionaries Luke and Kelsey Carrig in Ireland. Praise God!

**Thursday November 28 - World Renew: Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)**

Give thanks with us for all that God is doing through World Renew. We praise him for the generous support we receive for community development, disaster response, and justice programs worldwide. May God bless all individuals, churches, organizations, and government agencies supporting this work in various ways.

**Friday November 29 - Thrive: Congregations and Thrive**

Please pray for guidance and wisdom for Thrive staff as they journey alongside congregations. May they provide meaningful support to church leaders and volunteers as they seek to cultivate deeper spiritual growth and vibrant faith communities.