

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

January 12, 2024 ♦ 10:30am Service

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

“Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,”

Prelude

Welcome

*** Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #575 v. 1-4**

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul praise him, for he is your help and salvation!
Come, all who hear; brothers and sisters, draw near.
Join me in glad adoration!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things
is wondrously reigning,
sheltering you under his wings, oh, so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?
3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper
your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriends you.
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath,
come now with praises before Him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt., P.D.; Music:
(LOBE DEN HERREN): Erneuertem Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665; desc. Craig S.
Lang (1891-1971) © Novello and Co., Ltd. Admin. G. Schirmer, Inc.;
CCLI #678905

* Opening Prayer

* Call to Worship: (Isaiah 60:1-3)

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

—Isaiah 60:1-3, NIV

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #579 v. 1-4

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above,
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

Words: Walter C. Smith, 1867, alt., P.D.; Music: Roberts' Caniadau y Cyssegr,
1839, P.D. CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting

* We Greet Each Other

“Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;”

Announcements

Invitation to Transformed Living:

Call to Confession

In repentance and rest is your salvation,
in quietness and trust is your strength,
but you would have none of it.
Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you;
he rises to show you compassion.
For the LORD is God of justice.
Blessed are all who wait for him!

—Isaiah 30:15, 18, NIV

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Leader: For it is the God who said,
“Let light shine out of darkness.”

**People: *“Who has shone in our hearts
to give the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”***

Leader: But we have this treasure in clay jars,

**People: *So that it may be made clear
that this extraordinary power belongs to God
and does not come from us.***

God’s Will for our Lives:

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.
Live as children of light. - Ephesians 5:8

* Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #667 v. 1-3

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true and only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
triumph o’er the shade of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

2. Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee
joyless is the day's return
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart
glad my eyes and warm my heart.

3. Visit, then, this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiance divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day!

Words: Charles Wesley, 1740, P.D.; Music: Charles E. Gounod (1818-1893);
1872, P.D.; CCLI #678905

Offering: General Fund

Offertory Video: *"The Choice" – The Bible Project*

*(Following the offertory children ages 3-3rd grade are invited
to make their way to Children in Worship in the Fellowship Hall)*

* Song of Preparation: *"Christ Our Wisdom" v. 1-4*

1. Christ our wisdom we are humbled
When You hide Your ways from us
You have purposes unnumbered
Each one good and glorious
Help us trust when we grow weary
Free us from our anxious thoughts
Give us grace to see more clearly
You are God and we are not
2. Christ our wisdom be our gladness
When we fail to understand
You ordain all joy and sadness
To fulfill Your perfect plan
Help us know You rule with power
Over every raging flood
In our most uncertain hour
You are God and we are loved

3. Christ our wisdom we will follow
Though the way ahead is veiled
As we journey through the shadows
Grant us faith where sight has failed
Help us cling to Your commandments
Strengthened by Your faithful Word
We will never be abandoned
You are God and we are Yours

4. Christ our wisdom we adore You
For the beauty of the cross
Once in foolishness we scorned You
But Your blood has ransomed us
Help us sing the endless mercies
Of Your humble heart to save
Christ our wisdom Christ our glory
You are God forever praised

Tag

Help us sing the endless mercies
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You are God forever praised

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"All praise we would render; O help us to see."

Scripture Readings: Matthew 7:13-23

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"The Parable of the Narrow and Wide Gates"***

Time of Prayer

"'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!"

- * Song of Application: LUYH #738 “*Jesus, All for Jesus*” 2x
Jesus, all for Jesus,
all I am and have and ever hope to be.
All of my ambitions, hopes, and plans—
I surrender these into your hands.
For it’s only in your will that I am free.
For it’s only in your will that I am free.
Jesus, all for Jesus,
all I am and have and ever hope to be.

Repeat Song

Words and Music: Robin Mark © 1991 Authentic Publishing/Kingswaysongs.com;
CCLI #678905

- * Call to Service/Discipleship

Leader: Christ is the light of our souls:

People: We rejoice in this light, great source of truth.

Leader: Christ is the light of our homes:

People: We rejoice in this light, great source of peace.

Leader: Christ is the light of the world:

People: We rejoice in this light, great source of hope.

Leader: Go out as Christ’s true lights,
dispersing the darkness of evil,
for his grace, his power, his peace go with you. Amen.

- * God’s Blessing

- * Parting Praise: LUYH #604 v. 1-3 “*To God Be the Glory*”

1. To God be the glory, great things he has done;
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;

let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;

let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

and give him the glory; great things he has done.

- O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he has done.*

- Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875, alt., P.D.; Music: William H. Doane, 1875, PD.;

Postlude

Welcome to the Lord’s house. May your soul be restored; may your cup overflow; may you experience God’s goodness and mercy (Psalm 23). 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 January 12	Next Sunday January 19
Sound:	Henry VZ	Mardy S.
Projection:	Maddie D.	Tim H.
Video:	Isaac D.	France B.
Offering:	General Fund	1st: General Fund 2nd: Benevolence

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

January 12, 2025

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:

Describe a situation in which you felt called or equipped by God. What happened?

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** will meet on Tuesday, January 21 at 7:00 am at IHOP.

NEW ADDRESS:

Shirley Boonstra moved to Birchview Memory Care in Sedro Woolley this week. Her new address is:

925 Dunlop St., Apt 110B

Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

There is choir practice after the morning service today.

Sunday School resumes on the 26th!

We will be celebrating Lord's Supper during the worship service on Jan. 19. Please take time to prepare your hearts.

CARPET CLEANING: The church building will be CLOSED on Monday, January 20, from 8/9 until the end of the day while the carpets are being cleaned. Please plan accordingly.

Worship Service YouTube Links:

AM January 5, 2025: <https://youtu.be/mK0mH7J1ZsQ>

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

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

The word *'parable'* literally means *"brought alongside."* In the Bible, parables are short stories about familiar subjects that are used to illustrate a spiritual truth. To those with a genuine hunger for God, a parable is often an effective way to convey divine truth and is therefore a blessing. Yet, for those with hard hearts and ears, a parable is often instrument of both judgement and mercy.

Jesus himself told well over 30 parables that are mostly recorded in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Throughout the seasons of Epiphany and Lent we will take a closer look at many of them. Listed below is a tentative plan of study and as always we encourage you to read and ponder them in advance before the day they are proclaimed. May God bless us in this study together. In His Grace, - Pastor John and Pastor Brad

1. Dec. 29 *"The Parable of the Sower"*
Matthew 13:1-13, Luke 8:4-15
2. Jan. 5 *"The Lamp on the Stand"*
Matthew 5:13-16, Luke 8:16-18
3. Jan. 12 *"The Narrow and Wide Gates"*
Matthew 7:13-14
4. Jan. 19 *"The Wise and Foolish Builders"*
Matthew 7:24-27, Luke 6:46-49
5. Jan. 26 *"The Two Debtors"* Luke 7:36-50
6. Feb. 2 *"The Rich Fool"* Luke 12:13-21
7. Feb. 9 *"The Unjust Steward"* Luke 16:1-15
8. Feb. 16 *"The Mustard Seed and Yeast"*
Luke 13:18-21
9. Feb. 23 *"The Wedding Feast and Banquet"*
Luke 14:7-24
10. Mar. 2 *"The Pharisee and Tax Collector"*
Luke 18:9-14
11. Mar. 9 *"The Good Samaritan"* Luke 10:25-37
12. Mar. 16 *"The Friend at Midnight"* Luke 11:1-13
13. Mar. 23 *"The Lost Sheep and Coin"*
Luke 15:1-10
14. Mar. 30 *"The Parable of the Talents"*
Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 19:11-27
15. Apr. 6 *"The Rich Man and Lazarus"*
Luke 16:19-31
16. Apr. 13 *"The Persistent Widow"* Luke 18:1-8
17. Apr. 18 *"The Parable of the Tenants"*
Luke 20:9-19

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts: January 12: Brandon & Julie S., Jack & Trudy VK
Next Week, January 19: Karen S., Judy V.

Worship Team: January 5: January 12: Greg B., Mandi D., Kayla & Ella VH
Next Week, January 19: Greg & Beth B., Isaac D., Jennaya K.

Nursery: January 12: Marissa VDK & Macy VDP
Next Week, January 19: Kayla VH, Tess VDH

Children in Worship: January 12: Heidi B., Emma S.
Next Week, January 19: Angela S., Nellie VDH

This Week:

Sunday: January 12

NO Sunday School

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Youth Group

Women's Bible Study at 6:30pm

Wednesday, Jan. 8, 6:30pm-8:30pm: GEMS

Upcoming Events:

Friday, January 24, 7 pm: Movie Night at Church "Unsung Hero"

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Notice of Address Change - The CRC denominational offices in the US have moved. Here is their new address if you would ever like to send correspondence or a financial gift to Thrive, ReFrame, Resonate, or The Banner: 300 East Beltline NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506-1208 for all mail. More information can be found at: crcna.org/contact

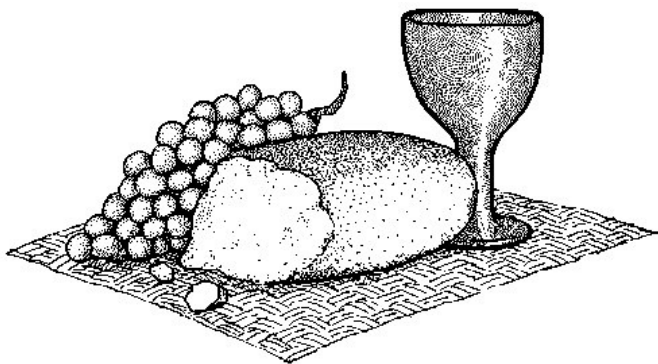
Kids Corner: Loving My Enemy - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. As you listen, remember that what bullies say about you doesn't define you. God has already said who you are. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's The Bible in One Year Plan.

Groundwork: Repentance, Forgiveness, and Sin's Consequences - Does God still punish us for our sins, even though in Jesus he forgives all our sins? Join Groundwork as we explore 2 Samuel 12 and the prophet Nathan's conversation with King David to help us answer that question and discover God's hope even in bad situations. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

CRCNA Heritage Circle Invite - If you have named the CRCNA (or one of their four agencies: Resonate, Thrive, World Renew or ReFrame) in your will or estate plan you are invited to join the Heritage Circle - a group of people who have named the CRCNA in future plans. As a member, you will receive a welcome package and be invited to special events throughout the year. Learn more about the Heritage Circle and planned giving at crcna.org/heritagefund

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)

Come share the fellowship of the forgiven!



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.

NEW REQUESTS:

Please pray for **Amy Stiles** as she goes to the U.W. Heart Institute on January 13 for more testing and a specialized care plan. Pray that God continues to heal and strengthen Amy's heart. Also pray for wisdom and peace for both Cody and Amy as they navigate all the new information. God is in control, but prayers are appreciated.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

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

SHUT INS: **Nell Annema** and **Shirley Boonstra** at Birchview Memory Care 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)

Sunday January 5 - Resonate: East Asia

Please pray for two people who recently started attending a church led by a Resonate missionary in East Asia who guided them through a six-week course so that they could learn more about Christianity. Both are eager to learn more about God and the Bible. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue drawing these two seekers nearer to Christ!

Monday January 6 - *Communications: Epiphany*

Today much of the worldwide church celebrates Epiphany, when we reflect on the revelation of Christ as the Redeemer for all peoples. Pray today that people around the world will welcome Jesus as their Savior.

Tuesday January 7 - *World Renew: Syria*

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Syria. As the political landscape shifts, there is a sense of uncertainty, and many in the global community fear what the future holds for the region. We ask for your prayers during this tumultuous time, that God may intervene and guide Syria toward lasting peace and stability.

Wednesday January 8 - *ReFrame: Ukraine*

Lift up Rev. Sergei Sosedkin and other members of our Russian-language ministry team. Ask God to bless their new radio programs, comforting women affected by war. May he grant listeners wisdom and strength as they share testimonies and offer hope amid uncertainty.

Thursday January 9 - *Resonate: Seattle*

Church on the Ave., a Resonate partner church plant in Seattle, recently celebrated the baptisms of three young adults! Please pray for these new believers, asking the Holy Spirit to guide their steps as they continue to follow Jesus.

Friday January 10 - *Thrive: Gather*

Pray for the Gather events taking place in Orlando (Jan. 13-15) and San Diego (Jan. 29-31). At each event several Christian Reformed classes are coming together to bear witness to what has been happening in their local contexts and to discern where God may be leading them into renewed ministry and mission.

Saturday January 11 - *Calvin Theological Seminary: Classes and students*

Please pray for January Term classes, for Doctor of Ministry students coming to campus for classes, for other students who are traveling, and especially for new students preparing to begin their studies in the spring semester. Pray for health and safety for all.