

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor Brad Diekema
January 19, 2025 ♦ 10:30am Service

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

Prelude

“When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word”

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #492 “Come, Thou Almighty King”**

1. Come, thou almighty King,
help us thy name to sing;
help us to praise.
Father all glorious,
o’er all victorious,
come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.
2. Come, thou incarnate Word,
gird on thy mighty sword;
scatter thy foes.
Let thine almighty aid
our sure defense be made,
our souls on thee be stayed;
thy wonders show.
3. Come, holy Comforter,
thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art,
rule now in every heart,
and ne’er from us depart,
Spirit of power.

4. To thee, great One in Three,
eternal praises be
hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity
love and adore.

Words: anonymous, 1757, alt., P.D.; Music: Felice de Giardini, 1769, P.D.; CCLI #678905

* Call to Worship:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you,
and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.” —Matthew 11:28-29

* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #601 v. 1-3

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

1. All hail the power of Jesus’ name!
Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!
2. O seed of Israel’s chosen race
now ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all!
3. Let every tongue and every tribe
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all!

Words: st. 1-3 Edward Perronet, 1780, alt., st. 4 John Rippon, 1787, alt., P.D.;
Music: Oliver Holden, 1793, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

*“But we never can prove the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay”*

* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Assurance

* Song of Response: LUYH #683 "How Great Is the Love of the Father"

1. How great is the love of the Father,
the love he has shown to us—
so great that he calls us his children,
and children of God we are,
and children of God we are!
2. The world without God does not know us
because it did not know Christ.
Lord, help us to be pure and spotless,
for children of God we are,
for children of God we are.
3. What we are to be in the future
as yet has not been made known,
but when Christ returns, we shall see him,
and then we shall be like him,
and then we shall be like him.

Words: 1 John 3:1-3; vers. Edna W. Sikkema, 1986, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources CCLI #678905

Offering: General Fund and Benevolence

Offertory: Ministry of Music; Choir "Be Born in Us"

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

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #747

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.

2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with yours,
to do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
for all eternity.

Words: Edwin Hatch, 1878; Music: Robert Jackson (1840-1914) Public Domain

"Trust and Obey"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:46-49

Prayer of Illumination

Message:

"The Wise and Foolish Builder: Put Jesus' Words into Practice"

Time of Prayer

"Then Fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet"

* Song of Application: LUYH #327 "When We Walk with the Lord"

1. When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his Word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain

*Trust and obey,
for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus
but to trust and obey.*

2. But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows
and the joy he bestows
are for those who will trust and obey.

Refrain

*Trust and obey,
for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus
but to trust and obey.*

3. Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go—
never fear, only trust and obey.

Refrain

Words: John H. Sammis, 1887, P.D.; Music: Daniel B. Towner, 1887, P.D. CCLI #678905

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper Together

Declaration of God's Invitation and Promises

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Preparing the Bread and Cup

Pastor Brad: The bread that we break is a sharing in the body
of Christ.

**People: We who are many are one body,
for we all share the same loaf.**

Pastor Brad: The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing
in the blood of Christ.

**People: The cup that we drink is our participation
In the blood of Christ.**

Invitation

Distribution of the Elements

◆ LUYH #695 “And Can It Be”

1. And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Savior’s blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain—
for me, who caused his bitter death?
Amazing love! How can it be
that you, my Lord, should die for me?

Refrain

*Amazing love! How can it be
that you, my Lord, should die for me?*

2. He left his Father’s throne above—
so free, so infinite his grace—
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam’s helpless race!
What mercy this, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me!

Refrain

3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature’s night.
Your sunrise turned that night to day;
I woke—the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, your voice I knew;
I rose, went out, and followed you.

Refrain

4. No condemnation now I dread,
for Christ, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Refrain

*Amazing love! How can it be
that you, my Lord, should die for me?*

Words: Charles Wesley, 1738, alt, Public Domain

Music: Thomas Campbell, 1825, Public Domain

◆ LUYH # 833 “There is a Redeemer”

1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Chorus:

*Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;
and leaving Your Spirit ‘til the work on earth is done.*

2. Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.

Chorus

3. When I stand in glory, I will see His face;
there I’ll serve my King forever, in that holy place.

Chorus

Words and Music: Melody Green (b. 1946)©1982 Birdwing Music(ASCAP)/BMG
Songs (ASCAP)/ Ears to Hear Music (ASCAP), admin. EMICMGPublishing.com
CCLI# 678905

◆ LUYH # 691 “Amazing Grace” v. 1-3

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.

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

Communion

Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH # 943 "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

1. God be with you till we meet again;
by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

2. God be with you till we meet again;
'neath his wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

3. God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put his arms unfailing round you:
God be with you till we meet again.

4. God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating over you,
smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Words: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880, P.D.; Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906, P.D.

Postlude

Welcome to everyone! We are so glad you chose to worship with us this Lord's Day. Today, we are having Holy Communion. Please reflect in reverence as we symbolize the body of Christ and His redemption for us. The Lord's Supper is a table of grace. All those who have received the grace of Christ and confess Him as Lord and Savior of their life are warmly invited to participate. Yet, know too that there is also 'grace' from this community of faith for those who do not yet confess Christ as Lord. And if that's the case then we encourage you not to partake until you have the genuine desire to receive God's grace and are ready to proclaim Christ as your Lord. After joining us in worship, please join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Tech Team	Today January 19	Today January 26
Sound:	Mardy S.	Henry H.
Projection:	Tim H.	Isaac D.
Video:	Brandon S.	Brandon S.
Offering:	1st: General Fund 2nd: Benevolence	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

January 19, 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:

Who has been instrumental in sharing the gospel with you?

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

There is choir practice after the morning service today.

Sunday School resumes on the 26th!

We are celebrating Lord's Supper during the worship service this morning.

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.

Don't forget, this Friday, January 24, 2025, The Evangelism Committee is hosting movie night! You'll find postcard size invitations in your mailboxes. We encourage you to use these invitations to invite your friends and neighbors. If you need more, there will be more next to the mailboxes. We look forward to having a fantastic night on January 24.

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 an 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

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

Worship Service YouTube Links:

AM January 12, 2025: <https://youtu.be/qacpXS10xzE>

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: January 19: Karen S., Judy V.

Next Week, January 26: Mardick & Jill S., Brad & Crystal DK

Worship Team: January 19: Greg B & Mandi D., Isaac D., Jennaya K.

Next Week, January 26: Kevin & Glenda K., France B.,

Nursery: January 19: Kayla VH, Tess VDH

Next Week, January 26: Angela S., Maddie D.

Children in Worship: January 19: Angela S., Nellie VDH

Next Week, January 26: Jodi VP, Isaac D.

This Week:

Sunday: January 19

NO Sunday School

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Youth Group

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 7:00pm-9:00pm: Cadets

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

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, February 2: Church Potluck following the service

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: Word Power MLK Day - Word Power MLK Day Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Did you know words have power? Your words. Your neighbor's words. Everybody's! Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. knew that. He used his word power to help people see each other as equals, no matter their skin color. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like KC's The Bible in One Year Plan.

Annual Inter-Classis Safe Church Conference - Save the date! The 2025 annual inter-classis safe church conference is scheduled for March 1, 2025, from 9:00am-3:30 pm at the Waterloo (Ontario) CRC. Planning is ongoing, but we have confirmed that Sheila Wray Gregoire will be the plenary speaker. Dr. Amanda Benckhuysen and Julia Rathbun, both Safe Church Consultants with the CRCNA, will be leading workshops. The conference is hosted by the Classis Huron Safe Church Team under the coordination of Rev. Carel Geleynse. Further details will be available soon.

California Wildfire Response - World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) is preparing to respond to the wildfires currently devastating the Los Angeles region. World Renew DRS prioritizes the needs of those who are elderly, disabled, or living in lower-income communities, and helps them rebuild their homes. Please give generously. You can donate online at worldrenew.net/californiafires, call 1-800-552-7972, or make out your check to World Renew DRS, with "DRS California Wildfires 2025" written in the memo line, and mail to: World Renew, 8970 Byron Commerce Dr SW, Byron Center, MI 49315.

Ride for a Cause with World Renew - Join World Renew in November 2025 for a weeklong cycling adventure of a lifetime! Pedal through Florida's warm sunshine and amazing natural landscapes from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canaveral National Seashore—all while supporting sustainable farming programs that transform lives worldwide. Got questions? Email ride2renew@worldrenew.net. Sign up today at worldrenew.net/ridetorenew



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:

Dear Church Family, Thanks for your support. Cody and I both felt covered in prayer and encouraged last Monday as we were at the UW Heart Institute. We got many questions answered and my new doctor will work with my Skagit cardiologist as well. That means I can do labs in Mount Vernon and not have to drive down to Seattle each time. Furthermore, my diagnosis was more clearly explained. I have started new medications and will also participate in genetic testing due to my late Father's heart issues. It was a very productive appointment. Thank you again for your continued prayers as we are on this journey.

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)

Monday January 13 - Resonate: Worldwide

God is calling believers worldwide to step into new ways of sharing Christ's love with people who wouldn't normally set foot in a church building. "Pray for the members of historic churches to encourage new believers in Jesus who may act or think somewhat differently than traditional churchgoers do," asked Steve Holtrop, Resonate's regional mission leader for Central America.

Tuesday January 14 - World Renew: Disaster Response Services (DRS)

We recently bid farewell to one of our longest serving staff members, Bob Laarman, as he retired from the role of leading our DRS team. Pray for Bob in this time of transition, and ask God to continue guiding the DRS ministry team as they rebuild homes and hope in people's lives in the wake of disasters.

Wednesday January 15 - ThereforeGo Ministries: SERVE 2025

We are excitedly preparing for SERVE 2025 and the impact it will have in the lives of over 1,000 participants across the U.S. and Canada. As the new year begins, please join us in praying for all who will consider

hosting SERVE in 2026 as we work to expand the locations and congregations we are able to reach through SERVE.

Thursday January 16 - *Justice Ministries: Intercultural Ministry*

Sebastian Maldonado and Jeremiah Bašurić have been hired as co-senior leaders for Intercultural Ministry in Canada. Please pray for them as they start this role and work. May the church benefit from their insights into creating spaces where many different voices are valued and empowered.

Friday January 17 - *Resonate: Philippines*

“We are praying to distribute Bibles to every child, which means Bibles for entire families,” write missionaries Charles and Hensel Oh in the Philippines. Early this year they expect also to receive copies of Manga Messiah, an animated retelling of Jesus’ story for distribution in schools nationwide. May God see this plan through and work through it!

Saturday January 18 - *World Renew: Economic opportunities*

Even in the best of times, our global neighbors earn barely enough to get by. World Renew offers training so that people can diversify their livelihoods. Pray for community members who seize these opportunities and who often become trainers themselves. May they be encouraged as they help others in their communities learn skills like beekeeping, sewing, and fish farming.

Sunday January 19 - *Thrive: Sanctity of Human Life Sunday*

Lord, grant wisdom and compassion to all who face hard choices about ending pregnancies. Grant them courage to choose life, and inspire us to be nurturing and enduring communities of support. Guide us also to be allies, advocates, and friends of people with disabilities and of people near the end of life, advocating for compassionate care and offering support and love.