

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

January 26, 2025 ♦ 10:30am Service

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

“Take my will and make it thine;”

Prelude

Welcome

*** Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #551 v. 1,3,4,6**

“All Creatures of our God and King”

All Sing

1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice with us and sing:
alleluia, alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam,
and shining moon with silver gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Women Sing

3. Cool flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear;
alleluia, alleluia!
Fierce fire, so masterful and bright,
providing us with warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Men Sing

4. Earth ever fertile, day by day
bring forth your blessings on our way,
alleluia, alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
let them his glory also show:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All Sing

6. Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
alleluia, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Francis of Assisi; Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams. Public Domain; CCLI #678905

* Opening Prayer

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

Leader: In your wisdom, O God,
you call us here to worship you.

People: We gather, alive to the Word of God.

Leader: You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant,
ready to listen and respond with heart, soul,
strength, and mind.

People: We listen, alive to the Word of God.

Leader: You call us to be always watchful
for your Word of wisdom,
sometimes startling and unexpected,
sometimes still and quiet,
but always dwelling among us.

People: We watch and wait for the Word of God.

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #590 v. 1,3,4,5,8 *"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

1. Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!
3. The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

4. He breaks the power of canceled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.
5. He speaks, and, listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
the humble poor believe.
8. To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heaven.

Words: English, Charles Wesley, 1739, alt., P.D.; Music: Carl G. Gläser, 1828, and
arr. Lowell Mason, 1939, P.D. CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting

* We Greet Each Other

"It shall be no longer mine."

Announcements

Invitation to Transformed Living:

Call to Confession

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

This is the message we have heard from God
and proclaim to you,
that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all.
If we walk in the light, as God is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
—from 1 John 1:5, 7, NRSV

God's Will for our Lives:

God spoke all these words:
"I am the LORD your God.
You shall have no other gods before me.
You shall not make for yourself an idol,
whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above,
or that is on the earth beneath,
or that is in the water under the earth.
You shall not bow down to them or worship them.
You shall not make wrongful use of the name
of the LORD your God.
Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house;
you shall not covet your neighbor's wife,
or anything that belongs to your neighbor."
—from Exodus 20:1-17, NRSV

* Song 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

Offering: General Fund

Offertory Video: "Anointing" – The Bible Project

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

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #755 v. 1-3 "Speak, O Lord"

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
to receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all Your purposes, for Your glory.

2. Teach us Lord full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity,
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
and the earth is filled with Your glory.

Words and Music: Keith Getty / Stuart Townend; © 2005 Thankyou Music
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“Take my heart – it is thine own;”

Scripture Readings: Luke 7:36-50

Prayer of Illumination

Message: *“The Parable of the Two Debtors”*

Time of Prayer

“It shall be thy royal throne.”

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #863 v. 1,3,4,5,6

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

1. Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.

3. Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.
4. Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.
5. Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart—it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.
6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

Words: Frances R. Havergal, 1874, P.D.; Music: H.A Cesar Malan, 1827, P.D.;
CCLI #678905

* We Proclaim our Faith: (Based on Belgic Confession Art. 23)

Q. What do you believe about your forgiveness?

**A. We believe that our blessedness lies
in the forgiveness of our sins because of Jesus Christ,
and that in it our righteousness before God is contained,
as David and Paul teach us when they declare
that person blessed to whom God grants righteousness
apart from works.**

Q. How do you come by such forgiveness?

**A. We are justified “freely” or “by grace”
through redemption in Jesus Christ.
And therefore we cling to this foundation,
which is firm forever, giving all glory to God,
humbling ourselves, and recognizing ourselves as we are;
not claiming a thing for ourselves or our merits
and leaning and resting on the sole obedience
of Christ crucified, which is ours when we believe in him.**

Q. Does this forgiveness give you peace with God?

A. **This is enough to cover all our sins
and to make us confident,
freeing the conscience from the fear, dread,
and terror of God's approach,
without doing what our first father, Adam, did,
who trembled as he tried to cover himself
with fig leaves.**

—based on Belgic Confession, Art. 23

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #965

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, P.D.; Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551, P.D. CCLI #678905

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 January 26	Next Sunday February 2
Sound:	Henry H.	Mardick S.
Projection:	Isaac D.	France B.
Video:	Brandon S.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

January 26, 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:

What do you wonder about God?

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** will meet on Tuesday, February 4 at 7:00 am at IHOP.

There is choir practice after the morning service today.

Women's Bible Study will meet tonight at 6:30 pm. We will be deciding on our Bible Study materials for Spring.

Don't forget to sign up as a volunteer to drive Shirley Boonstra to and from church. The sign-up sheet is by the coffee in the fellowship hall.

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 *"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

Worship Service YouTube Links:

AM January 19, 2025: <https://youtu.be/kFpHqWOaP6I>

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 26: Mardick & Jill S., Brad & Crystal DK
Next Week, February 2: Brook K., Harmen & Sue DJ

Worship Team: January 26: Kevin & Glenda K., France B.,
Next Week, February 2: Men's Group

Nursery: January 26: Juliana LC, Maddie D.
Next Week, February 2: Angela S., Ella VH

Children in Worship: January 26: Jodi VP, Isaac D.
Next Week, February 2: Jenny VV., Myra VDB

This Week:

Sunday: January 26

Sunday School Resumes 9:30 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Ladies' Bible Study: 6:30 pm

Youth Group

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, February 2: Church Potluck following the service

Friday, March 14: "Taste of Asia"! Please sign up to come or bring an entrée!

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

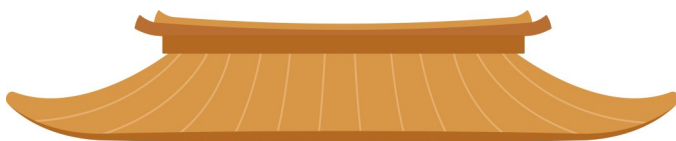
Kids Corner: Faith and Action - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. In James 2:14-16, God tells us that if we truly have faith, we can't help but also do good things! How can you show your faith every day this week? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Valentine Cards.

Groundwork: Jesus Prays for His Disciples - As Jesus prays his high priestly prayer, he intercedes on behalf of his disciples. Join Groundwork as we study John 17:6-19 to learn what Jesus desires for them and how his prayer for protection, unity, joy, and sanctification helps us live as sanctified people in a world that isn't always welcoming to our faith. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

CRCNA Heritage Circle Invitation - 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're 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

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

Technology Support Volunteer Opportunity in Nicaragua - Do you have IT skills and a heart for service? Tesoros de Dios, a ministry in Nicaragua serving children and youth with disabilities, is seeking a volunteer to help improve their technological systems. Tasks include updating databases, cleaning and securing computers, improving networks, and training staff in technology. This flexible opportunity ranges from 1 week to 3 months. Basic Spanish is preferred. Visit resonateglobalmission.org/technology to learn more and apply!



A “Taste of Asia” is Coming to First CRC in March!

Friday, March 14, 2025.

There are two sign-up sheets
in the fellowship hall.

One sign-up sheet is for attending.

The second sign-up sheet
is if you plan to bring a dish.

Please sign up by February 23, 2025.





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 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.
– Amy Stiles

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 20 - Thrive: Justice

Holy Spirit, help us to remember that justice is mission work. We thank you for being the Prince of Peace, tearing down the dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles. Lord, we ask that you replace any hostility in the world with the peace of Christ and any hate with the unconditional love of Jesus. Amen.

Tuesday January 21 - Resonate: Uganda

Please pray for missionary Anastaze Nzabonimpa's work with refugees in Uganda. Ask God to work through him as he encourages refugees,

works to help meet their needs, and shares the hope of Christ with them.

Wednesday January 22 - *World Renew: Leadership*

Join us in gratitude for all who take on the mantle of leadership at World Renew! We are also grateful for the board members who volunteer their time to direct the work of this organization with wisdom and faithfulness to the mission of justice and mercy.

Thursday January 23 - *Trinity Christian College: Community*

Pray that students, faculty, and staff will continue to build into and enjoy a strong sense of community. Pray that good learning may take place and that academic and spiritual growth may continue as students prepare to follow their calling.

Friday January 24 - *ReFrame: Burkina Faso*

Pray for protection and strength for a woman who listens to our French-ministry broadcasts. "I live in a Muslim family," she shared, "and I'm not allowed to go to church, but through your radio broadcasts I listen to biblical teachings."

Saturday January 25 - *Resonate: Ontario*

Give thanks for Redeemer University students who led a workshop on the spiritual formation of young adults at our recent Moving Forward in Faith conference. Beth Fellingner, who coached the students, shared that ministry leaders appreciated learning from them. Pray for these students as they graduate this year and transition into the next season of their lives.

Sunday January 26 - *Cadets: Cadets and counselors*

Our "Lead the Way" theme, inspired by 1 Timothy 4:12, encourages cadets and counselors to become leaders in their clubs, churches, and communities. We ask for your prayers for counselors as they guide boys to grow in Christ, and for cadets to boldly live out their motto: "Living for Jesus." Let's prayerfully support the next generation of Christ-centered leaders!