

**Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!**  
**Pastor John Knoester**  
**January 5, 2024 ♦ 10:30am Service**

\* Please stand in body or in spirit

“Light of the world, you stepped down  
into darkness,”

Prelude

Welcome

\* Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #775 v. 1-3 *“Across the Lands”*

1. You’re the Word of God the Father  
from before the world began;  
every star and every planet  
has been fashioned by your hand.  
All creation holds together  
by the power of your voice.  
Let the skies declare your glory;  
let the land and seas rejoice.

*Refrain*

*You’re the author of creation,  
you’re the Lord of everyone,  
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

2. Yet you left the gaze of angels,  
came to seek and save the lost  
and exchanged the joy of heaven  
for the anguish of a cross.  
With a prayer you fed the hungry,  
with a word you calmed the sea;  
yet how silently you suffered,  
that the guilty may go free.

*Refrain*

3. With a shout you rose victorious,  
wresting victory from the grave,  
and ascended into heaven,  
leading captives in your way.  
Now you stand before the Father,  
interceding for your own;  
from each tribe and tongue and nation  
you are leading sinners home.

### *Refrain*

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2002 Thankyou Music (PRS), admin. worldwide at EMICMGPublishing.com except Europe which is admin. by Kingswaysongs. CCLI #678905

### \* Opening Prayer

- \* Call to Worship: (Based on John 8:12, John 14:6, Isaiah 60:1-2)

Reader #1:

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said,  
“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me  
will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life”

Reader #2:

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Reader #1: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

**People:**

**The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Reader #2:

Let us praise the Lord together.

**People:**

**The sun shall no longer be our light by day,  
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on us,  
For the Lord will be our light, and our God will be our glory.**

### \* Opening Songs of Praise

◆ LUYH #567 v. 1-2 *“Here I Am to Worship”*

1. Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,  
opened my eyes, let me see.  
Beauty that made this heart adore you,  
hope of a life spent with you.

*Refrain*

*Here I am to worship; here I am to bow down;  
here I am to say that you're my God.  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
altogether wonderful to me.*

2. King of all days, oh so highly exalted,  
glorious in heaven above.  
Humbly you came to the earth you created,  
all for love's sake became poor.

*Refrain*

*Bridge*

*I'll never know how much it cost  
to see my sin upon that cross.  
I'll never know how much it cost  
to see my sin upon that cross.*

*Refrain*

*Words and Music: Tim Hughes; acc. Ed Bolduc © 2001 Thankyou Music, admin.  
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CCLI #678905*

◆ 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

\* God's Greeting

\* We Greet Each Other

*"Opened my eyes, let me see."*

Announcements

### **Invitation to Transformed Living:**

Call to Confession

The light has come into the world,  
and people loved darkness rather than light  
because their deeds were evil.  
Let us confess our sin to God.

—based on John 3:19, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Sung Prayer of Confession: *"Shine on Us"* v. 1-3

1. Lord, let Your light, light of Your face shine on us.  
Lord, let Your light, light of Your face shine on us  
that we may be saved, that we may have life,  
to find our way in the darkest night,  
let Your light shine on us.
2. Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us.  
Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us  
that we may be saved, that we may have life,  
to find our way in the darkest night,  
let Your grace fall on us.

3. Lord, let Your love, love with no end come over us.  
Lord, let Your love, love with no end come over us  
that we may be saved, that we may have life,  
to find our way in the darkest night,  
Let Your love come over us,  
let Your light shine on us.

*"Shine on Us" Authors: Deborah D. Smith & Michael W. Smith,  
© 1996 Sony/ATV Milene Music, Deer Valley Music, CCLI #678905*

### Words of Assurance

The true light that gives light  
to everyone was coming into the world.  
To all who have received him,  
to those who believe in his name,  
he gave the right to become children of God.  
—from John 1:9, 12, NIV

### 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

### Video Teaching "Light of the World"

#### \* Song of Response: *"This Little Light of Mine"* v. 1-4

1. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
2. Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
3. Don't let Satan (*blow*) it out. I'm gonna let it shine.  
Don't let Satan (*blow*) it out. I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
4. Let it shine till Jesus comes. I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine till Jesus comes. Yes! I'm gonna let it shine  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

*"This Little Light of Mine" Public Domain*

### Offering: General Fund

### Offertory

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

\* Song of Preparation: *"Every Promise"* v. 1-4

1. From the breaking of the dawn  
to the setting of the sun,  
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.  
Words of power, strong to save,  
that will never pass away;  
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.  
For Your covenant is sure,  
and on this I am secure:  
I can stand on ev'ry promise from Your word.
2. When I stumble and I sin, condemnation pressing in,  
I will stand on every promise of Your word.  
You are faithful to forgive,  
that in freedom I might live.  
So I stand on every promise of Your word.  
Guilt to innocence restored;  
You remember sins no more.  
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
3. When I'm faced with anguished choice,  
I will listen for Your voice,  
and I'll stand on every promise of Your word.  
Through this dark and troubled land,  
You will guide me with Your hand,  
as I stand on every promise of Your word.  
And You've promised to complete  
every work begun in me.  
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
4. Hope that lifts me from despair;  
Love that casts out every fear;  
as I stand on every promise of Your word.  
Not forsaken, not alone,  
for the Comforter has come;  
and I stand on every promise of Your word.  
Grace sufficient, grace for me,  
Grace for all who will believe.  
We will stand on every promise of Your word.

*"Every Promise"* Authors: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend; © 2005 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing); .  
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# "Beauty that made this heart adore you,"

Scripture Readings: Matthew 5:13-16 and Luke 8:16-18

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "***The Parable of a Lamp on a Stand***"

Time of Prayer

"Hope of a life spent with you."

\* Song of Application: "*Shine, Jesus, Shine*" v. 1-3

1. Lord, the light of Your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness shining;  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;  
set us free by the truth You now bring us,  
shine on me, shine on me.

*Chorus:*

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, River, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

2. Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,  
from the shadows into Your radiance;  
by the blood I may enter Your brightness,  
search me, try me, consume all my darkness,  
shine on me, shine on me.

*Chorus*

3. As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,  
so our faces display Your likeness;  
ever changing from glory to glory,  
mirror'd here may our lives tell Your story,  
shine on me, shine on me.

*Chorus*

"Shine, Jesus, Shine" | John 1:7 Graham Kendrick, ©1987 Make Way Music, Ltd.  
CCLI #678905

\* Call to Service/Discipleship

Leader: The light of God's purposes has shone upon us.  
Carry that light into another week.

**People: The star of God's promises that led us to worship  
now leads us to serve in God's world.**

Leader: When we have met God in the light,  
we cannot dwell comfortably in the shadows.

**People: We cannot enjoy our abundance and wealth  
without thanksgiving and generous sharing.**

Leader: The glory of God shines on you today.  
Others will see your radiance and rejoice with you.

**People: We seek God's peace that we may share it,  
God's wisdom that we may live by it,  
in Christ's name.**

\* God's Blessing

\* Parting Praise: Sing! "*Bring Forth the Kingdom*"

1. You are salt for the earth, O people:  
salt for the kingdom of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people:  
Life in the kingdom of God!

*Refrain*

*Bring forth the kingdom of mercy;  
Pray for the kingdom of peace;  
Work for the kingdom of justice;  
Hope for the city of God!*

2. You are a light on a hill, O people:  
Light for the city of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people;  
Shine for the kingdom of God!

*Refrain*

3. You are a seed of the Word, O people:  
Live for the kingdom of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,  
Grow in the kingdom of God!



*Refrain*

*Bring forth the kingdom of mercy;*

*Pray for the kingdom of peace;*

*Work for the kingdom of justice;*

*Hope for the city of God!*

*"Bring Forth the Kingdom"* Words and Music: Mary Haugen; based on Matt. 5:13-16, © 1986, G.I.A. Publications. Use by permission. All rights reserved.  
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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 January 5	Next Sunday January 12
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Beth B.	Maddie D.
Video:	Brandon S.	Isaac D.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

# First CRC Bulletin Announcements

**January 5, 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 longing do you have for the faith of a generation that is not your own? Why?

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 Ave, Apt 110B

Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

## **Worship Service YouTube Links:**

AM December 29, 2024: <https://youtu.be/eON3SN1rKHw>

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)

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



**Nursery: January 5:** Brooke K., Emma S.

Next Week, January 12: Marissa VDK & Macy VDP

**Children in Worship: January 5:** Heather VH & Millie F.

Next Week, January 12: Heidi B., Emma S.

**This Week:**

**Sunday:** January 5

**NO** Sunday School

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Youth Group

**Wednesday, Jan. 8, 7:00pm-9:00pm:** Cadets

**Upcoming Events:**

**Friday, January 24:** Movie Night at Church “Unsung Hero”

**CRC COMMUNICATIONS:**

**We're Hiring! Learning and Development Specialist** - This position will implement a learning and development program for denominational staff, focusing on improving skills, knowledge, and overall professional development. The successful candidate will also oversee the Performance Review System and collaborate with the Human Resources Directors to execute the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) strategy for denominational staff. This full time, hybrid position can work from either Grand Rapids, Mich., or Burlington, Ont. Apply at [crcna.pinpointhq.com](http://crcna.pinpointhq.com)

**Kids Corner: God's Guidance** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Ask yourself, “How can you tell what God wants you to do?” Spoiler Alert: the key is to remember who God is. Listen now at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like KC's The Bible in One Year Plan.

**Groundwork: Learning from the Sins of King David** - Complacency and desperation lead David to compound sin upon sin as he unsuccessfully relies on his own power and abilities to right his wrongs. Join Groundwork as we explore 2 Samuel 11 to study David's fall from grace, the consequences of his actions, and how his journey can illuminate our own path toward honesty, repentance, and a life that pleases the Lord. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - Today is Epiphany Sunday, when we celebrate Jesus' coming as the light to all people. On this Sunday we remember the Magi, who saw the light in the sky and followed it to hono(u)r the birth of Jesus. Read Matthew 2:1-12. Talk about what kind of gift you would bring to Jesus, and why. Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)

**Start the New Year with a Study** - Join one of our Global Coffee Break Online Zoom Studies. Here is your opportunity to participate in a CRCNA resource led by their team. Space is limited. Men, women and young adults welcome. Go to [Globalcoffeebreak.org/events](http://Globalcoffeebreak.org/events) for more information and to register!



How can  
we  
**PRAY**  
for you?

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.

**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; *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)**

### **Wednesday December 25 - *Communications: Christmas***

Today we celebrate again the birth of Jesus and marvel at his love. He came, lived among us to bring the good news of the kingdom of God, died, and rose again to redeem us and give new life to all who believe. Praise be to God!

### **Thursday December 26 - *Resonate: Ontario***

Resonate missionaries Nasser and Sylvie Charliékaram minister with Farsi speakers—both in person in Toronto and online throughout the world. “Pray that the gospel will continue to spread throughout Iran and the Middle East, despite many challenges,” they ask. “Ask God to empower believers with boldness and courage, raising up more witnesses to share the hope and love of Christ.”

### **Friday December 27 - *World Renew: New staff***

We praise God for our growing ministry as we welcome new staff members, including Bernad Ojwang, our new chief operations officer, and Brittani Anthony, our new chief people and culture officer. We thank God for the gifts and strengths they bring to these leadership positions, and we pray for smooth transitions for all new staff at World Renew.

### **Saturday December 28 - *ReFrame: India***

Lift up Bipin, who watches our Hindi ministry programs online. May God continue to bless him with strength and joy. “I found amazing peace in my heart,” he shared. “May God bless you and your ministry.”

### **Sunday December 29 - *Resonate: Europe***

Resonate missionaries Sarah and George de Vuyst give thanks for “the growth of Healing Hearts Transforming Nations in work with diaspora and refugee ministry in Europe.” Ask God to continue using this ministry to heal people and reconcile communities.

**Monday December 30 - CRCNA Leadership: All nations**

The Heidelberg Catechism reminds us that God has chosen his “holy catholic church” from out of “the entire human race” (Q&A 54). Pray that CRC congregations and classes will welcome and embrace people from all nations and languages into the life, ministry, and leadership of our denomination.

**Tuesday December 31 - Thrive: New Year**

God, we pray for a peaceful and safe new year. We ask for your protection over our congregations and the communities in which they minister. You are our refuge and strength, and we trust in your unfailing love to keep us secure. May your peace guard our hearts and minds as we navigate through whatever may come our way.