

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor Brad Diekema
February 16, 2025 ♦ 10:30am Service

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

“Seek ye first the kingdom of the God”

Prelude

Welcome

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH # 538

“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.
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

* Call to Worship:

Let us worship the eternal God,
the source of love and life, who creates us.
Let us worship Jesus Christ,
the risen one, who lives among us.
Let us worship the Spirit,
the holy fire, who renews us.
To the one true God be praise
in all times and places,
through the grace of Jesus Christ.

*Hymn of Praise: LUYH #863 "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.
2. Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.
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

* Opening Prayer

Triune God,
May the words of our mouths, the meditations of our hearts,
and our actions be pleasing in your sight,
Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. In Jesus's name. Amen.

* Song of Response: LUYH #741 "Take, O Take Me as I Am"

Acapella (2x)

Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.

Words and Music: John L. Bell (b. 1949) © 1995 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent; All rights reserved. OneLicense.netLicense #A711218

"And His Righteousness"

* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

Announcements

Cadet Report – Cadet Counselor

Cadet Sunday Litany

Leader: This year's Cadet theme is "Lead the Way".
The Cadets are learning how God directs
and trains them as leaders.
Cadets must be an example in Christian speech.

Cadets: Keep your mouth free of perversity;
keep corrupt talk far from your lips. (Proverbs 4:24)

Congregation: We will encourage you to become good leaders
by your example.

Leader: Cadets must be an example
in their Christian conduct.

- Cadets: So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 7:12)
- Congregation: We will pray for you as you follow God's leading and serve in His kingdom.
- Leader: Cadets must be an example, displaying Christian love.
- Cadets: And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. (1 John 4:21)
- Congregation: We will support you, enfolding you in God's love.
- Leader: Cadets must show their Christian faith, in all areas of life.
- Cadets: For we live by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)
- Congregation: We will guide you as you follow God's commands.
- Leader: Cadets must show purity in their lives.
- Cadets: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. (Matthew 5:8)
- Congregation: We will help you experience the joy of living a life of following Jesus.
- Leader: Cadets, continue to learn and grow to be more Christlike in all areas of your life.
- Cadets: And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)
- Congregation: Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)

Cadet Theme Video: "Lead the Way"

* Song of Response: Living for Jesus PH #292 v. 1-3

1. Living for Jesus a life that is true,
striving to please Him in all that I do;
yielding allegiance, glad hearted and free,
this is the pathway of blessing for me.

Refrain

*O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee,
for Thou, in Thy atonement, didst give Thyself for me;
I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne;
my life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.*

2. Living for Jesus who died in my place,
bearing on Calvary my sin and disgrace;
such love constrains me to answer His call,
follow His leading and give him my all.

Refrain

3. Living for Jesus wherever I am,
doing each duty in His holy name;
Seeking the lost ones he died to redeem
Bringing the weary to find rest in Him.

Refrain

Text: Thomas O Chisolm, 1917, alt.; Tune: C. Harold Lowden, 1915; Public Domain;
CCLI #678905

Offering: General Fund and Cadets

Offertory: Sovereign Grace Music: "Let Your Kingdom Come"

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

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH # 747 v. 1-2

"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.

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

*"We do not live by bread alone but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God"*

Scripture Reading: Luke 13:18-21

Prayer of Illumination

Message: The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

Time of Prayer

"Allelu, alleluia"

* Song of Application: LUYH #899 "Seek Ye First"

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.
2. Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.
3. We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia.

Words and Music: Matthew 6:33, 7:7, 4:4; para. Karen Lafferty, 1972,
© 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin Music Services; CCLI #678905

* Call into Service: Heidelberg Catechism Question and Answer #123

Pastor Brad: In the Lord's prayer we pray,
"Your kingdom come."
What does the second petition mean?

People: "Your kingdom come" means:
**Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way
that more and more we submit to you.
Preserve your church and make it grow.
Destroy the devil's work;
destroy every force which revolts against you
and every conspiracy against your holy Word.
Do this until your kingdom fully comes,
when you will be all in all.**

* 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 worship! Here let us seek to see God more clearly, love God more completely, and serve God more certainly. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised! 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	Next Sunday February 16	Next Sunday February 23
Sound:	Tim H.	Mardy S.
Projection:	Beth B.	Maddie D.
Video:	Brandon S.	Isaac D.
Offering:	General Fund/Cadets	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

February 16, 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:

Can you recall something you said or did that had a greater impact than you imagine? What happened?

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** will meet on Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 am at IHOP.

Women's Bible Study: Books will be handed out tonight, and even if you haven't signed up yet, you are welcome to come and join us as we "Ascend Through the Psalms" with Beth Moore. This is an introductory session as we begin the lessons.

There is choir practice after the morning service today.

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

- 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

There are still slots open for volunteers to drive Shirley Boonstra to and from church. Check out the sign-up sheet today!

Ministry Associate Position Update: Pastor Brad's term call is coming to an end at the end of June. We are grateful for his years of service with us and trust that God will open the necessary doors for further ministry service in the weeks and months ahead. Please keep Pastor Brad and the various churches he is conversing with in your prayers.

In the meantime, we recently began advertising the Ministry Associate position again and are grateful that we have already received four applications. At the last joint elders and deacons meeting the following council and congregational members were asked and/or appointed to serve on the interview team: Joni Beezhold, Harmen De Jong, Henry Hammingh, Katie Jungquist, Jill Rouw, Jon Vander Kooy, Dave Visser, and Pastor John.

Lord willing, the hope is that the interview team will make a recommendation to the church council by early April. Afterwards, if approved by council, we hope to bring the recommended individual to Mount Vernon to meet the congregation sometime at the end of April and/or early May. Congregational approval is needed to extend a call and our hope is that this will be an item on the agenda of our May 19 congregational meeting. If you have any questions and/or concerns - please don't hesitate to reach out to a council member. In the

meantime, please keep the interview team in your prayers throughout the week ahead.

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

Worship Service YouTube Links:

AM February 9, 2025: https://youtu.be/pXuioYyGU_E

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts: Today, February 16: Cadets, Jeannette F., Keith & Jean R.

Next Week, February 23: Henry & Pam VZ, Kevin & Glenda K.

Worship Team: Today, February 16: Henry & Pam VZ, Adriana/Tessa S.

Next Week, February 23: Greg G., Mandi D., France B. & Emma S.

Nursery: Today, February 16: Mandi D. & Lexi VDP

Next Week, February 23: Glenda K. & Tessa S.

Children in Worship: Today, February 16: Julie S., Emily VH

Next Week, February 23: Heather VH, Ella VH

Volunteers to drive Shirley B:

This Week: February 16: Jill R.

Next week, February 23: Alice DV

This Week:

Sunday: February 16

Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Choir practice

Youth Group

Upcoming Events:

Friday, March 14: "Taste of Asia"! Please sign up to come or bring an entrée in the Fellowship Hall.



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

Friday, March 14, 2025, 6:30 pm.

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.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

Mid-America Reformed Seminary invites you to participate in a four-part evening class led by Dr. J. Mark Beach, Learning to Believe through Samson: Finding Divine Strength in an Age of Spiritual Weaklings.

Together, we'll explore Judges 13-16, examining how Samson's story reflects our Christian walk, the challenges the Church faces, and Christ as our source of strength.

When: Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20, and 27, at 7:30 PM (CT)

Where: Seminary (In-person or Livestream)

Cost: Free! Register today at www.midamerica.edu

Mid-America Reformed Seminary is excited to welcome Dr. Kevin DeYoung on Thursday, March 13, 2025, for our Spring Student Lectures. He will present on the theme of "Godly Masculinity in the World, Home, and Church." The series of lectures begins at 1:00 pm. The event is free and will be held in our new chapel auditorium

(limited seating). Registration is first come, first served. A live stream will also be available on Facebook & YouTube. Register at www.midamerica.edu and secure your seat today!

Leanna Crawford

STILL WATERS TOUR



Featuring **Cade Thompson**

28
FEB

SCAN FOR

TICKET INFO

7:00
PM

 **Compassion**

A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR MOUNT VERNON CHRISTIAN PTF

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Kids Corner: God's Call for Justice- Check out this week's kids' devotion "God's Call for Justice" at www.kidscorner.net. God saw injustice in Israel. Through the prophet Isaiah, God spoke out against their wrong. He protested to help the Israelites make a change! Will you join God in his call for justice? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Church in Action Comic Book.

World Renew DRS Sunday is Next Week - The damage from a tornado, flood, wildfire, or hurricane is overwhelming for people who have lost their belongings — but you can help. Join us next week for World Renew DRS Sunday. Your prayers and financial support provide vital services for those in need. Visit worldrenew.net/drs, call 1-800-552-7972, or email drs@worldrenew.net to give or to learn more.



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:

Please keep regular visitors **Glen and Sandra** in your prayers. Sandra is facing serious health issues right now. Pray for God's healing. Pray that God gives wisdom to the doctors as they treat Sandra. Pray that Glen and Sandra experience God's presence and wisdom as they navigate these health issues.

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

Continue to pray for **Amy Stiles** as she continues with new heart medication.

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 February 9 - Communications: Ministry shares

Praise God for the generous way in which congregations together support each other and the ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. May God continue to use the church's resources to further his work in this world through congregations, campus and training ministries, media connections, outreach, and more.

Monday February 10 - Resonate: Indonesia

Praise God for the ways in which Educational Care, a Resonate training

program, is equipping teachers and transforming classrooms. Through Educational Care training, Cici, a teacher in Indonesia, was able to work more effectively with a difficult student. He is now better behaved and has friends!

Tuesday February 11 - *World Renew: Family*

World Renew works with families in more than 1,300 communities. Most of them deal with tremendous challenges, including poverty and food insecurity. Pray that they may feel God's love for them as we and our partners walk alongside them. May the Lord equip them with what they need in order to thrive in the coming year.

Wednesday February 12 - *Resonate: Ukraine*

It has been three years since Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Give thanks for the many believers, like Pastor Pavel of Salt of the Earth Church in Estonia, who are welcoming and supporting refugees from Ukraine. Please pray that refugees may continue to experience the love of Christ through this care.

Thursday February 13 - *ReFrame: Burkina Faso*

Pray for Aïcha in Burkina Faso, West Africa, who lives in a Muslim family and is not allowed to attend church. Despite this challenge, she listens to our French ministry programs, taking notes and growing in faith through biblical teachings. Ask God to strengthen Aïcha's faith, provide her with opportunities for fellowship, and bless her with his peace and guidance.

Friday February 14 - *Justice Ministries: Hearts Exchanged*

On this Valentine's Day please pray for Hearts Exchanged. Participants in this program are exploring how our churches can become places of belonging, especially for Indigenous people. Pray that each participant may be equipped to better exchange their heart with others, and pray for program leaders as they guide group members through the training.

Saturday February 15 - *Thrive: Disability Advocates*

Disability advocates serve congregations by advocating with and for people with disabilities and working to address barriers to full inclusion. Please pray for the advocates serving in your local area.