

**Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!**  
**Pastor John Knoester**  
**March 9, 2025 ♦ 10:30am Service**

\* Please stand in body or in spirit

*"Jesu, Jesu,"*

Prelude

Welcome

\* Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #19 v. 1-5 *"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

1. For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies,

*Refrain*

*Christ, our Lord, to you we raise  
this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

2. For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light,

*Refrain*

3. For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight:

*Refrain*

4. For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

*Refrain*

5. For yourself, best gift divine,  
to the world so freely given,  
agent of God's grand design:  
peace on earth and joy in heaven,

*Refrain*

Words: Folliot S. Pierpont, 1864, alt., P.D.; Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838; adapt.  
William H. Monk, 1861, P.D.; CCLI #678905

\* Opening Prayer

\* Call to Worship: (Based on Hebrews 12:1)

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,  
let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,  
and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.  
In the name of Jesus, our one Lord and Savior,  
let us worship God. —based on Hebrews 12:1, NRSV

\* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #264 v. 1,3,5,7 "*Lift High the Cross*"

*Refrain*

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

1. Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

*Refrain*

3. From north and south, from east and west we raise  
in growing unison our song of praise.

*Refrain*

5. Let every race and every language tell  
of him who saves our lives from death and hell.

*Refrain*

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

7. So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory!

*Refrain*

Words: George W. Kitchin, 1887, rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1916, alt. © 1974  
Hope Publishing Company Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1916, © 1974 Hope  
Publishing Company; des. Richard Proulx © 1974 Hope Publishing Company;  
CCLI # 678905

\* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

*"Fill us with your love,"*

Announcements

**Invitation to Transformed Living:**

Call to Confession

During his whole life on earth,  
but especially at the end,  
Christ sustained in body and soul  
the anger of God against the sin of the whole human race.  
In response to his sacrifice, let us confess our sins to God.  
—based on Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 37

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
through whom we have obtained access to this grace  
in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing  
the glory of God. —Romans 5:1-2, NRSV

\* Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #299 v. 1-4

*"Jesus, Jesus, Fill Us With Your Love"*

*Refrain*

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them.

*Refrain*

2. Neighbors are rich folk and poor,  
neighbors are black, brown, and white,  
neighbors are nearby and far away.

*Refrain*

3. These are the ones we should serve,  
these are the ones we should love;  
all these are neighbors to us and you.

*Refrain*

4. Loving puts us on our knees,  
serving as though we are slaves:  
this is the way we should live with you.

*Refrain*

Words: Tom Colvin, 1963, © 1969 Hope Publishing Company

Offering: General Fund

Offertory Video: “*Ahavah / Love*” – The Bible Project

*(Following the offertory video 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: LUYH #309 v. 1-5 “*The Servant Song*”

1. Will you let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey;  
we are travelers on the road.  
We are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the nighttime of your fear.  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we’ve seen this journey through.
5. Will you let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

Words: Richard Gillard (b. 1953) © 1977 Scripture in Song, a div. of Integrity Music/Maranatha Music, admin. Music Services CCLI #678905

## "Show us how to serve"

Scripture Readings: Luke 10:25-37

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "***The Parable of the Good Samaritan***"

Time of Prayer

Ministry of Music: "Psalm 139" First CRC Choir

"The neighbors we have from you."

\* Song of Application: Sing! #123 v. 1-3 "*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" Words and Music: Mary Haugen; based on Matt. 5:13-16,  
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\* We Proclaim our Faith: Love in Action (Romans 12:9-21)

Leader: <sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil;  
cling to what is good.  
<sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love.  
Honor one another above yourselves.

**People: <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal,  
but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.  
<sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer.  
<sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people  
who are in need. Practice hospitality.**

Leader: <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you;  
bless and do not curse.  
<sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice;  
mourn with those who mourn.

**People: <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another.  
Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with  
people of low position. Do not be conceited.**

Leader: <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil.  
Be careful to do what is right in the eye  
of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible,  
as far as it depends on you, live at peace  
with everyone.  
<sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends,  
but leave room for God's wrath,  
for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay,"  
says the Lord.

**People: <sup>20</sup> On the contrary:  
"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
In doing this, you will heap burning coals  
on his head."  
<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil,  
but overcome evil with good.**

\* Call to Service: Matthew 22:36-40

Someone asked Jesus,

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your mind.’

This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

All the Law and the Prophets hang on these  
two commandments.”

—from Matthew 22:36-40, NIV

\* God’s Blessing

\* Parting Praise: LUYH #256 *“They’ll Know We Are Christians”*

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.  
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.
2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
and together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land.  
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.
3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side.  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
and we’ll guard each one’s dignity and save each one’s pride.  
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.
4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us all one.  
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

Words: Peter Scholtes (b. 1938) © 1966, 1967 F.E.L. Church Publications, Ltd.,  
assigned 1991 to Lorenz Corporation CCLI #678905

Postlude

**Welcome!** The prophet Isaiah proclaimed: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation” (Isaiah 12:3). We welcome all who are present today and invite everyone to drink of Christ’s “living water,” which can quench our spiritual thirstiness forever. 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.

<b>Tech Team</b>	<b>This Morning March 9</b>	<b>Next Sunday March 16</b>
Sound:	Mardick S.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Tim H.	France B.
Video:	France B.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund



# **Message Outline – Morning Service**

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 10:25-37

## **“The Parable of the Good Samaritan”**

### **I. Introduction**

**\*A familiar parable**

**\*The setting/context of our text**

### **II. Luke 10:25-37**

#### **A. The initial conversation (v. 25-29)**

**1. An important, but misguided question (v. 25)**

**2. Jesus’ response (v. 26)**

**3. The summary of the Law (v. 27)**

**4. Jesus’ affirmation of the response received (v. 28)**

**5. Another attempt to justify himself (v. 29)**

**a. What is at the heart of the question being asked?**

**B. The parable of the Good Samaritan (v. 30-35)**

**1. A mugging on the 'bloody way' (v. 30)**

**2. "Pass by" – two sins of omission (v. 31-32)**

**3. The "Samaritan"**

**a. Brief history of the hatred between Jews and Samaritans**

**b. The costly sacrificial love expressed by the Samaritan**

**C. Returning back to the conversation (v. 36-37)**

**1. Jesus' question to the expert in the Law (v. 36)**

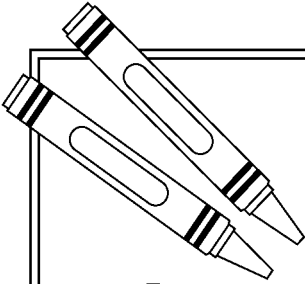
**2. The answer received and the command given (v. 37)**

**D. The parable as a summary of the Gospel**

**1. *What must I do to inherit eternal life?***

**2. The self-sacrificial love of Christ Himself**

**III. Conclusion – What happens to the expert in the law?**

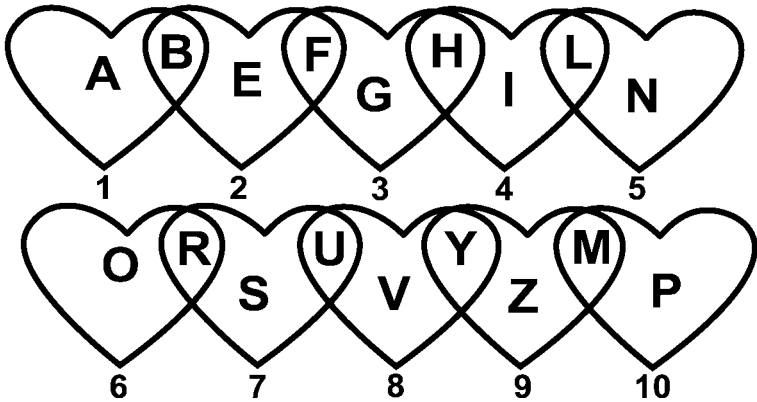


# Just for **KIDS**

## THE SECOND GREAT Commandment

In the Gospels, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37, NIV).

Do you remember what the second great commandment is? Use the code below to discover it.



“L  
 4,5   6   8   2   8,9   6   7,8   6,7  
 5   2   4   3   3,4   1,2   6   6,7  
 1   7  
 8,9   6   7,8   6,7   7   2   4,5   2,3”

*Matthew 22:39, NIV*

# First CRC Bulletin Announcements

**March 9, 2025**

***The deadline for announcements this next week is  
Thursday, 9:00 A.M.***

## **OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

What do you find it easy to pray for? What do you find it hard to pray for?

**Beth will be out of the office** for the next while, as her father is nearing the end. Sylvia Van Zanten will be graciously filling in during this time. Please send your prayer items and announcements to the regular email address. Thank you.

**Sunday School** will meet again on March 16, at 9:30 p.m.

**Women's Bible Study** will meet on Sunday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m.

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

**GEMS** will meet on Wednesday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m.

**Please change the phone number for Karen Jones in your directories. Her correct phone number is: (208) 603-1692.**

**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

- 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](https://firstcrcmv.com/?page_id=1509)

### **Worship Service YouTube Links:**

AM March 2, 2025: <https://youtu.be/v3NVYaO6nqs>

### **CALENDAR:**

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts:** Today, March 9: Adam & Katie F., Joe LC  
Next Week, March 16: Spencer & Janelle D., Elly C.

**Worship Team:** Today, March 9:  
Kevin & Glenda K., Isaac D. & Nellie VDH.  
Next Week, March 16:  
Greg & Beth B, Kayla VH & Ella VH

**Nursery:** Today, March 9: Adriana S. & Myra VDB  
Next Week, March 16: Pam VZ. & Nellie VH.

**Children in Worship:** Today, March 9:  
Angela S., Riley VV  
Next Week, March 16:  
Jodi VP., Landon

**Volunteers to drive Shirley B:**  
This Week: March 9: Greg A.  
Next week, March 16: Jill R.

### **This Week:**

**Sunday:** March 9  
No Sunday School  
Worship Service: 10:30 am  
Choir practice  
Youth Group

**Upcoming Events:**

**Wednesday March 12 at 7:00 pm** - Cadets

**Friday, March 14 at 6:30 pm** - A "TASTE OF ASIA"

**Sunday, March 16 at 6:30** - Women's Bible Study

**Tuesday, March 18 at 7:00 am**—Men's Bible Study Study at IHOP

**Wednesday, March 19 at 7:00 pm:** GEMS at 7:00 pm

**CRC COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Kids Corner: Living in God's Kingdom** - Check out this week's kids' devotion "Living in God's Kingdom" at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Have you noticed that the Bible is full of stories about the kingdom of God? That theme appears more than 80 times in the New Testament. What does it mean to be a part of God's kingdom? Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like KC's Lent and Easter Collection.

**Groundwork: Paul's Second Journey: Jesus the Messiah and the Resurrection of the Dead** - As he traveled, Paul convinced new believers of the gospel message, but his message also stirred up opposition. Join Groundwork as we explore his second missionary journey in Acts 15:39-18:22 to gain theological clarity and encouragement for our own efforts to share our faith and remain faithful to Jesus Christ in all circumstances. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Paul's Missionary Journeys in Greece** - (October 13 - 24, 2025) Travel by motor coach (6 days) and cruise ship (4 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or [weimje@calvinseminary.edu](mailto:weimje@calvinseminary.edu).



# 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.

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.

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

Please pray for **Corky Vander Griend**, whose brother passed away recently.

Continue to pray for **John Velasquez**.

**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 March 3: from: Thrive: Gather events** - Please pray for the ongoing Gather events taking place across the United States and Canada. Pray that attendees may experience a renewal of faith and a sense of community with other congregations.



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#### **Tuesday March 4: from: Calvin Theological Seminary: Exams**

Senior students will be taking their oral comprehensive exams this month as they prepare for graduation and ministry beyond seminary. Pray that the exams will not cause undue anxiety but will bless them in knowing how much they have learned in their studies.

#### **Wednesday March 5: from: Communications: Ash Wednesday**

As we enter the Lenten season, may the Holy Spirit turn our hearts to the light of God. In times when many people are experiencing uncertainty, anxiety, fear, and grief, may the Spirit lead us to repentance and assure us of God's love in Jesus Christ. May God help us to live generously as we trust in his goodness and grace.

#### **Thursday March 6: from: ReFrame: Japan**

Pray for Emi, who listens to our Japanese audio program every week while commuting. Recently she asked for prayers that she would grow closer to God, recognizing her need for his guidance and strength. Pray that Emi will continue to find encouragement, grow in faith, and experience God's love in her daily life.

**Friday March 7: from: Thrive: Worship and ministry**

Please pray for your congregation's worship leaders and planners. Lent is an exceptionally busy time of preparing for Easter. Ask God to fill these leaders with energy, joy in their work, and ample times of rest.

**Saturday March 8: from: World Renew: International Women's Day**

Among all the people we work with, women are generally most susceptible to abuse, poverty, and powerlessness. Many of our programs are therefore designed to offer women resources and training so that they can gain influence and become changemakers. Pray for women everywhere, and praise God for their gifts and willingness to help grow healthy, strong communities.

**Sunday March 9: from: Centre for Public Dialogue: Justice and Hope Sunday**

Lent gives us space to grieve the many injustices we see in the world. Praise God that we are not left in this season but are also a resurrection people. The Centre for Public Dialogue (Canada) helps to point out injustices in public policy and works for shalom in this world. Pray for this work as Lent begins.

<b>Tech Team</b>	<b>Today</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
Sound:	Mardick S.	Henry V.Z.
Projection:	Tim H.	Franchesca B.
Video:	France B.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund