

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

April 13, 2025 – Palm Sunday

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

"Hosanna, loud hosanna,"

Prelude

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #145 v. 1-3**

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

1. Hosanna, loud hosanna
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.
2. From Olivet they followed
mid an exultant crowd,
the victory palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children
should on his bidding wait.
3. "Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer,
the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.

*Words: Jennette Threlfall, 1873, P.D.; Music: Gesangbuch der Herzogl,
Hofkapelle, Württemberg, 1784, P.D.; CCLI #678905*

Ministry of Music – Sunday School Children

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
People: Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Leader: Lo, your king comes to you;
People: triumphant and victorious is he,

Leader: humble and riding on a donkey,
People: on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
—Zechariah 9:9, NRSV

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest!
—based on Psalm 118:26, NRSV

* Hymn of Praise: GH #375 v. 1-3 *“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”*

1. All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer, King
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel and David’s royal Son,
now in the Lord’s name coming, the King and Blessed One.
2. The company of angels is praising you on high;
and we with all creation in chorus make reply.
The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.
3. To you before your passion they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.
As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
for you delight in goodness, O good and gracious King!

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 820; tr. John M. Neale, 1851, alt.; Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1615; harm William. H. Monk, 1861; Public Domain, CCLI #678905

* God’s Greeting

* We Greet Each Other

“The little children sang;”

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance:

Leader: Hear the Word of the Lord from Psalm 118:
Let those who fear the Lord say,
“His steadfast love endures for ever.”
Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me free.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.
I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

People: **In Christ, God answers us and sets us free!**
In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.
—based on Psalm 118:4-5, 14, 17, NRSV

Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #148 v. 1-4

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

1. My song is love unknown, my Savior’s love to me.
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake,
oh, who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
2. He came from heaven’s throne salvation to bestow;
but they refused, and none the longed-for
Christ would know.
This is my friend, my Friend indeed,
This is my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need, his life did spend.
3. Sometimes they crowd his way and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day, hosannas to their King.
Then “Crucify!” is all their breath,
then, “Crucify!” is all their breath,
and for His death they thirst and cry.

4. Why, what has my Lord done to cause this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run and gave the blind their sight.
What injuries, yet these are why,
what injuries, yet these are why
the Lord Most High so cruelly dies.

*Words: Samuel Crossman; Music: John D. Edwards; arr. Albert Chung
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Offering: General Fund

Offertory Video: *"It is Finished" – Sovereign Grace*
*(After the offering video the children are invited forward
for the Children's Message)*

Children's Message – Mrs. Marjo Rouw
*(Following the children's message children ages 3-3rd grade are
dismissed for Children and Worship)*

* Hymn 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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"Through pillared court and temple"

Scripture Reading: Luke 18:1-8

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"The Parable of the Persistent Widow"***

Time of Prayer

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #894 v. 1-3

"May the Lord God Hear You Pray"

1. May the Lord God hear you pray;
may God's strength be yours today;
may God bless you from above,
lifting up your heart in love.
2. May God give you all you need;
may God make your plans succeed;
may God guide you all your days,
filling all our hearts with praise:
3. Now we see the Lord can save,
now the trembling heart is brave;
now we know that Love will hear:
worship now, for God is near!

Words: Michael Perry © 1990 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing
Company CCLI #678905

"The lovely anthem rang"

* We Confess our Faith: Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.**

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: GH #370 v. 1-4 *"The King of Glory Comes"*
Refrain

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

1. Who is the King of glory: What shall we call him?
He is Immanuel, the promised of ages.

Refrain

2. In all of Galilee, in city or village,
He goes among his people, curing their illness.

Refrain

3. He gave his life for us, the pledge of salvation;
He took upon himself the sin of the nations.

Refrain

4. He conquered sin and death; he truly has risen.
And he will share with us his heavenly kingdom.

Refrain

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

“The King of Glory Comes” text: Wilard F. Jabush, ©1966, tune: Israeli; arr. John Ferguson, 1973. Arrangement from The Hymnal of the United Church of Christ, ©1974, United Church Press. Used by Permission. CCLI #678905

Postlude

| Tech Team | Today: 4/13 | Good Friday: 4/18 | Easter: 4/20 |
|-------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Sound: | Mardick S. | Henry H. | Mardy S. |
| Projection: | Tim H. | Emily VH | Brandon S. |
| Video: | Mardy S. | France B. | Tim H. |
| Offering: | General Fund | | General Fund |

First CRC Bulletin

Announcements

April 13, 2025

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

This Week's Deep Q's with PB & J:

Think about a time when reconciliation happened in your own life.

What was the first step toward healing in that relationship?

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Sunday School resumes this morning at 9:30 am. There is no Sunday School April 20 for Easter.

There is Choir Practice this morning after the service.

New Mailbox for Lexi Blom: #17.

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

This morning after the service is our Church Potluck. Please join us for food and fellowship!

Our **Good Friday Service** will be held at First CRC on April 18 at 7:00 p.m. We will celebrate communion. There will be reader parts for the service. Please call the office at 336-2405 if you are interested in reading or sign up on the sheet by the coffee and take the corresponding Scripture reading with you. Thank you to those who have already reached out.

Would you like to purchase an **Easter Lily or Bible** in memory of a loved one? They will be placed at the front of the church on Easter Sunday and your loved one's name will be listed in the bulletin. If you would like to order, please call or leave a message for Beth at the church office (336-2405) by Wednesday, April 16. Donations are \$11 for a lily and \$5 for a Bible. The lilies may be taken home after the Easter service.

A LIVING GIFT: Have you noticed the new red maple sapling in the front lawn of our church? It was planted by John Vander Meulen and is a gift from his son, Jansen, and daughter-in-law, Eleanor. Jansen is a grandson of our former members, Dick and Mary Jo Reitsma, and is a lover of trees and plants. He attended Mount Vernon Christian School as a child and often enjoyed the shade of the beautiful old birch tree that for decades stood near the spot of the new sapling. His hope is that the new tree will also provide beauty and shade for many years to come! Jansen, Eleanor, and their infant son, Peter, live in Washington, D.C., where Jansen and Eleanor practice as lawyers and are members of Wallace Presbyterian Church. We gratefully accept their living gift and say a heartfelt thank you!

Heather Van Hofwegen will be making her famous cinnamon rolls for us before the service on Easter morning, starting at 9:00 am. Come and get 'em!

There is a cookie sign-up sheet for after the GEMS Sunday service on the 27th of April. Please sign up today after church!

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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|----------|---|
| March 2 | <i>"The Pharisee and Tax Collector"</i> Luke 18:9-14 |
| March 9 | <i>"The Good Samaritan"</i> Luke 10:25-37 |
| March 16 | <i>"The Friend at Midnight"</i> Luke 11:1-13 |
| March 23 | <i>"The Lost Sheep and Coin"</i> Luke 15:1-10 |

March 30 *"The Rich Man and Lazarus"*
 Luke 16:19-31
April 6 *"The Parable of the Talents"*
 Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 19:11-27
April 13 *"The Persistent Widow"* Luke 18:1-8
April 18 *"The Parable of the Tenants"*
 Luke 20:9-19

Worship Service YouTube Links:

AM April 6, 2025: <https://youtu.be/BFnmxCRX774>

Cascade Family Bible Camp – July 3-7 at Warm Beach Camp, Stanwood, WA: Enjoy a faith-filled getaway with fellowship, worship, and fun activities for all ages! Hear inspiring speakers, engage in dynamic kids' programs, and take part in swimming, mini golf, sports, rock climbing, zipline, laser tag and more.

<https://cascadefamilybiblecamp.org/registration-info> Register online:
<https://cascadefamilybiblecamp.org/registration-info>

For questions, contact rona718@hotmail.com or dean@lithocraft.com.

<https://youtu.be/jRiQjiHD6MM> or longer 2-minute video: <https://youtu.be/NNcnqNLLU0s>



Friday we are having Communion!

Creation groans

waiting for the children of God to be revealed

Creation groans

waiting to be born again;

*waiting to be released from the bondage
of sin and decay.*

Creation groans

in wars and rumors of war, in signs and wonders.

*These are the birth pangs that
come before all things are made new.*

Creation groans

*in expectation of being fully restored,
renewed, and reborn.*

We groan too

for the Spirit of God is in us

And moving toward all that is yet to be.

Come Celebrate!

***Christ has died, Christ is Risen,
Christ will come again!***

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts: April 13: Wiebe & Johnna VDH, Darrel & Sunee L.

Next Week, April 18, Good Friday: Eliot & Sue B.

April 20 (Easter): Dave & Nancy V., Eric & Theresa VK

Worship Team: April 13: Greb B., Mandi D., Kayla & Ella VH

Next Week, April 18, Good Friday: Henry VZ, Julie S., Adriana & Tessa S.

April 20, Easter: Men's Group

Nursery: April 13: Pam VZ & Maddie D.
Next Week, April 20: Angela S. & Emma S.

Children in Worship April 13: Julie S., Leia V.
Next Week, April 20: Heidi B., Kenzi S.

Volunteers to drive Shirley B:

This Week: April 13: Katie J.
Next week, April 18 (Good Friday): Alice DeVries
April 20 (Easter) Lexi Blom

THIS WEEK:

Sunday, April 13

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Youth Group

Church Potluck after the service

6:30 p.m. – **Women's Bible Study**

Monday at 6:30 p.m.: **Council Meeting**

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. - **GEMS**

Friday at 7:00 p.m. – **Good Friday Service**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 20 at 10:30 a.m.: Easter Service

May 19, 7:00 p.m.: Congregational Meeting

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Kids Corner: Lent: Jesus Loves Me - Check out this week's Kids Corner devotion "Lent: Jesus Loves Me" at www.kidscorner.net. What does it mean to love like Jesus? Even while on the cross and in his deepest suffering, Jesus prayed for forgiveness for those who hurt him and extended love to a criminal who asked to be remembered (Luke 23:39-43). Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Lent and Easter Collection.

Groundwork: Holy Week: The Week of Jesus' Death - Many formative events for our Christian faith occurred in the last week of Jesus' journey to the cross. Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 21:1-11, John 13:1-17, 34-35, Matthew 26:26-30, and Matthew 27:32-50 to remember, meditate on, and nurture our faith by once again journeying through Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday with Jesus. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Help Families Affected by the Myanmar Earthquakes- World Renew is working with our partners and network peers in Asia to share Christ's hope with survivors of the recent earthquakes in Myanmar. For families displaced by this disaster, and currently living in the open, the situation has been made more dire by the onset of heavy rains. Your gifts will help us to provide food, shelter, medical support, clean water, and other essentials to the most vulnerable families affected by this crisis. Please give generously at worldrenew.net/myanmar-earthquake-response, by calling 1-800-552-7972, or by mailing a check made out to World Renew, with "Myanmar Earthquake 2025" in the memo line, to: World Renew, 8970 Byron Commerce Dr SW, Byron Center, MI 49315.



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.

NEW CONCERNS:

Sandra Scalf entered into her eternal rest last week. Please keep her husband Glen and family in your prayers as they mourn her loss. A memorial service is being planned for May.

THANK YOU! **Beth, Greg and Kera Boon** wish to thank the congregation for all the heartfelt cards, messages and phone calls following the death of Beth's father in March. The Lord's presence was certainly felt and your kindness was so much appreciated!

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Elaine Hammingh has had a few heart procedures done recently and she has more scheduled for the coming weeks. Please pray for healing and guidance for the doctors.

Continue to pray for the families ***of Mary Koopmans, Greg & Beth Boon, and Corky Vander Griend*** in the recent loss of their loved one.

We thank God that the eye surgery **Greg Ackermann** had recently was successful. Pray for continued healing.

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

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, Clarence Vander Griend at Home Place in Burlington; Sally Reehorn at Creekside in Burlington.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

Sunday April 6 - ReFrame: English ministry

Pray for Bobbie, who recently reached out to our Prayer Ministry team and shared, "I'm drug-free and rebuilding my life after addiction. I live in transitional housing, seeking work and stability, but a mentally unstable man threatens my safety. Fear holds me back. Pray for my faith, protection, and freedom from these obstacles."

Monday April 7 - Resonate: South Korea

Resonate missionaries Jeong and Misook Gho ask for prayer for Rev. Kim, a pastor from North Korea who now lives in South Korea. Please pray for him as he seeks to share the gospel with fellow North Koreans who have moved to his community.

Tuesday April 8 - GEMS Girls' Clubs: New believers

Please join us in praising God for the five girls who recently came to trust in Jesus as their Savior through a GEMS Club in Illinois. Pray that more girls will come to know Jesus and believe they are loved in the Lord through GEMS Girls' Clubs around the globe.

Wednesday April 9 - World Renew: Global executive team

We are grateful to have filled our Global Executive Team roles after a prayerful and discerning recruitment period. Please join us in praying for Brittani Anthony, Bernad Ojwang, Christi Schaeftbauer, and Ru Waddell as they lead and guide our work along with World Renew's codirectors, Mike White and Carol Bremer-Bennett.

Thursday April 10 - Thrive: Guidance

Please pray for wisdom, discernment, and strength for pastors, leaders, and volunteers in congregations across the United States and Canada.

Friday April 11 - *Resonate: Graduates*

Many university students are wrapping up their spring semesters this month. Resonate partner campus ministers ask you to pray especially for students who are graduating. Ask God to guide their steps as they transition into the next season of life. Pray that God will provide them with a strong faith community.

Saturday April 12 - *ReFrame: Indonesia*

Pray for Sutrisno, who has deeply appreciated Ngulik Alkitab (Bible Study) YouTube videos produced by our Indonesian ministry partners. Through this program, Sutrisno says he continues to grow in faith and in understanding God's Word. Pray that he may encourage others in his community and that Ngulik Alkitab may continue to be a source of learning and transformation.