

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
February 22, 2026, 10AM Service – 1st Sunday of Lent

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

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

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

*** Opening Hymn 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.
EMICMGPublishing.com (excl. Europe which is admin. by Kingswaysongs CCLI
#678905*

* Opening Prayer

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

People: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Leader: 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,**

Leader: for the Lord will be our light,
and our God will be our glory.

**People: The Lord will be our everlasting light,
and our days of sorrow will end.**

Leader: Come, let us sing to our light and salvation!
—based on Isaiah 60

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #21 v. 1-3 *“This Is My Father’s World”*

1. This is my Father’s world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.
2. This is my Father’s world; the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker’s praise.
This is my Father’s world; he shines in all that’s fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me everywhere.
3. This is my Father’s world; oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world; why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King, let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let the earth be glad.

Words: Maltbie D. Babcock (1858-1901) P.D.; Music: English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard (1852-1930), P.D.; CCLI #678905 Music (TERRA BEATA 6.6.8.6 D): English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard (1852-1930), P.D.

* God’s Greeting/We Greet One Another

"Opened my eyes, let me see."

Announcements

Call to Confession

This is the message we have heard from him
and proclaim to you,
that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.
If we say that we have fellowship with him
while we are walking in darkness,
we lie and do not do what is true;
but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
—1 John 1:5-7, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"
made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of
the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.
—II Corinthians 4:6

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness
but will have the light of life."
—from John 8:12, NIV

God's Law

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world.
A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.
⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.
Instead they put it on its stand,
and it gives light to everyone in the house.
¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your Father in heaven. —Matthew 5:14-16

⁸ For you were once darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.
—Ephesians 5:8

* Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #296 v. 1-3 *"We Are Called"*

1. Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain

We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

2. Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and blindness will be no more.

Refrain

3. Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love.

Refrain

Words and Music: David Haas (b. 1957) © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc.; All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-711218

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

*(Following the offering children ages 3-3rd grade
are invited to go to Children in Worship)*

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #763 *"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"*

1. Blessed Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you.
By your gospel pure and holy,
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.

2. All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night
with your beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
you must work all good within us.
3. Glorious Lord, yourself impart;
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
open lips and ears and heart;
help us by your Spirit's leading.
Hear the cry your church now raises;
Lord, accept our prayers and praises.

Words: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1663; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt., P.D.; Music: Johann R. Ahle, 1664, P.D.; CCLI # 678905

"Beauty that made this heart adore you,"

Scripture Readings: Exodus 13:17-22 and John 8:12-20

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"I Am – The Light of the World"***

Prayer of Application

"Hope of a life spent with you."

* Song of Application: *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*

* We Profess our Faith:

Leader: Following the apostles, the church is sent—
sent with the gospel of the kingdom

**People: to make disciples of all nations,
to feed the hungry, and to proclaim the assurance
that in the name of Christ
there is forgiveness of sin and new life
for all who repent and believe—
to tell the news that our world belongs to God.**

Leader: In a world estranged from God,
where millions face confusing choices,
this mission is central to our being,
for we announce the one name that saves.

**People: We repent of leaving this work to a few,
we pray for brothers and sisters
who suffer for the faith,
and we rejoice that the Spirit is waking us
to see our mission in God's world.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: *"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

*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.*

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

Postlude

Welcome to the House of the Lord! We have come to bring our worship to our God. May we do so in our singing, praying, giving, preaching and listening. May God be glorified. After the morning service all are invited to the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Tech Team	Today: February 22	Next Week: March 1
Sound:	Mardy S.	Henry H.
Projection:	Tim H.	Beth B.
Video:	Isaac D.	Franchesca B.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin

Announcements

February 22, 2026

*The Deadline for Announcements this next week is **Thursday, 9:00 a.m.***

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Choir starts this morning after church! It's a special day as choir begins a new season! Anyone who would like to lift up their voices and sing praises to our Lord is warmly welcomed to come! Any questions ask Joni Beezhold.

Women's Bible Study: We will be studying the book of Ruth with Kelly Minter. Our next meeting will be **March 1, at 6:30pm.**

In the fellowship hall there is a sign up sheet for transportation for Joy Faber to get to and from church from Mountain Glen Retirement. Please sign up today!

Worship Service YouTube Links:

AM, February 15 Service: https://youtube.com/live/POJUT4u_5Ko?feature=share

First CRC's Worship Services are now being livestreamed! Go to our YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/@1stcrcmv841>
You will see the option for the worship service Livestream there.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study meets every other Tuesday morning and is currently working through the books of Samuel. **They will be meeting next Tuesday, March 3, at 7:00 am at IHOP.**

Sunday Worship Volunteer Schedule: Every Sunday there are multiple volunteers who help lead our weekly worship service. We are so grateful for our musicians, our vocalists, our tech volunteers (sound, projection, video) and our readers. Many of them have been serving for years (and even decades!) and we are so grateful. The Worship Committee is also always on the lookout for new 'volunteers' to add to our team. In the coming weeks, a new 6 month schedule will be created and we would love to add a few additional names to the list.

(Note: We especially love training up our young people!). Thus, if you are interested in joining the team - please reach out to Beth or Pastor John no later than Sunday, March 22 as we hope to have that new schedule in your mailbox by Easter (Apr. 5). Additionally, if you are a current team member who needs to 'step away' for a season - please let us know that as well. Thank you!

At the end of his gospel, John makes clear his purpose for writing: *"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."* Throughout the season of Lent we are going to take a closer look at some of the specific claims Jesus makes about Himself during his ministry here on earth. These declarations are commonly known as the *"I Am"* statements and reveal to us not only his divine identity, but also His mission. If believing in Jesus is the way to *'life'* – then it's important to know who we believe in and what He says about Himself. Listed below is a tentative schedule for our study. May God bless us as we engage in this Lenten journey together!

In His Grace, - Pastor John Knoester

1. Feb. 15 – *"I Am the Bread of Life"*
2. Feb. 22 – *"I Am the Light of the World"*
3. Mar. 1 – *"I Am the Good Shepherd"*
4. Mar. 8 – *"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"*
5. Mar. 15 – *"I Am the Way and the Truth and the Life"*
6. Mar. 29 – *"I Am the True Vine"*
7. Apr. 3 – *"I Am a King"*
8. April 5 – *"I Am Returning to My Father"*
9. April 12 – *"I Am Sending You"*

Help and Encouragement After the Death of a Loved One: A GriefShare support group will be starting on Tuesday, February 24, at Faith Community Fellowship. This 13-week GriefShare session will provide understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe environment to navigate the challenges of the grief journey. The meetings are scheduled from 6:00-8:00 pm and will be held in the educational building next to the church. Please contact Dave (872-203-0481) or Nancy Visser (360-770-9645) for more information or to sign up for the group.

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts: This Week, Feb. 22: Eliot & Sue B., Rich & Elly C.
Next Week, March 1: Dick & Linda G., Mardy & Kristi S.

Worship Team: Today: Feb. 22: Henry & Pam VZ, Franchesca, Emma S.
Next Week, March 1: Men's Group

Nursery: Feb. 22: Brooke K., Riley VDV
Next Week, March 1: Jennie VDV, Myra VDB

Children in Worship: Feb. 22: Jenny VDV, Lauren VDB
Next Week, March 1: Julie S., Adriana S.

Volunteers to Pick up and Drive Home Joy Faber:

This week, Feb. 22: Julia Walker
Next week, Mar. 1: Adam Faber

Family Visiting: March 8:

5:45 pm: Martha H., Andy & Alice Y., Tim Hibma

7:00pm: Jill H., Joe LeClair, Rich K.

TODAY:

Sunday, February 22:

9:30am Children and Adult Sunday School

10:30am Worship Service

Choir Practice

6:15pm Youth Group

THIS WEEK:

Weds., Feb. 25, 7:00-9:00pm: Cadets

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sun., March 1: Church Potluck

Sun., March 1, 6:30pm: Ladies Bible Study

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

Dr. Alan Strange, President of Mid-America Reformed Seminary, will be offering a free evening class series in March of this year on *The Christian and Politics*, held Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 PM (CT). He will address important questions about Christian political engagement, the spirituality of the church, Christian nationalism, and our callings as both church members and citizens. You may attend in person (registration is still open) or watch via livestream on our Facebook and YouTube feeds (no registration required for livestreaming!). Please mark your calendars for Thursday evenings in March! Visit our website at www.midamerica.edu for more information and in-person registration details.

CRC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kids Corner Devotions: Faithfulness: Never Give Up - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Faithfulness: Never Give Up," at www.kidscorner.net. God is always with us and shows us what true loyalty looks like, no matter what we face. Discover how his never-ending love can help us become faithful, kind, and trustworthy friends to others! Prepare for Easter with all the great content at kidscorner.net, like Kids Corner's Lent Devotional.

Focus on the Cross - Lent is a season to focus on the hope of Jesus Christ. Receive a free Today devotional email series to help you refresh, refocus, and renew your faith during Lent. Or download the ebook! Subscribe at todaydevotional.com/lent.

Groundwork: In the Garden of Gethsemane: Jesus Prays, Judas Betrays, and Jesus is Arrested. - As Lent begins, let's prepare our hearts in this season by following Jesus to Golgotha and studying the biblical events that comprise the traditional stations of the cross. Join Groundwork as we begin our journey by studying Matthew 26:31-56 to reflect on what happened to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and consider the effects of his prayer, betrayal, and arrest for Jesus and for us. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Today is the first Sunday of Lent. The forty days of Lent bring to mind the forty years of Israel's sojourn in the wilderness and the forty days of fasting that preceded Jesus' public ministry. During Lent, Christians around the world reflect on the weight of sin, the cost of salvation, and the love that motivated Jesus' earthly sojourn and sacrificial death. This year during Lent, find an object that reminds you of the wilderness (like a small stone or a container of sand) and place it in plain sight. Whenever you see it, pause and remember the depth of Jesus' love and how far he went to rescue you from sin and death. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive



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 continue to pray for Jill Haagsma's son, **Harvey**, who is in rehabilitation for his hip surgery.

Jill Haagsma and Jim Honeyford are both at Life Care Center, starting rehabilitation after their hip surgeries. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they go through the hard work to get back on their feet!

Sally Rehorn is in the hospital with viral pneumonia. Please pray for swift healing, that she may return home soon.

Dena Klunder is back in Mount Vernon at Mira Vista. Please pray for complete healing in the time to come, and for John and the rest of the family as they journey beside her.

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)

Monday February 16 - from: Church Renewal: Connections

Pray for the global church and for international church planting. Pray for our Resonate missionaries, World Renew representatives, and the many organizations they partner with throughout the world. May the Word of God go forth, may people come to know Christ, and may congregations be established worldwide.

Tuesday February 17 - from: Thrive: Gathering

Please pray for the Shepherding Churches Gathering taking place in Malibu, Calif., Feb. 17-19. Pray that Thrive staff may provide a wise and compassionate presence and that attendees may be supported, refreshed, and encouraged.

Wednesday February 18 - from: CRC Communications: Ash Wednesday
Pray for God's mercy and guidance in a world experiencing lots of uncertainty, fear, and anger. As we begin the 40-day journey of Lent, may the Holy Spirit help us remember that God is in control and that we can trust in him.

Thursday February 19 - from: ReFrame: India
Please pray for Pankaj, a community development worker who is deeply dedicated in his faith in Christ. He is 90 percent physically challenged and was fully dependent on his mother, who passed away recently, leaving him in urgent need of full-time care. May God provide for his needs and surround him with support during this difficult season.

Friday February 20 - from: World Renew: World Day of Social Justice
Pray to the God of justice and peace for communities harmed by discrimination, violence, and exclusion. Please ask that our peacebuilding, trauma healing, and gender justice work may be strengthened and blessed. Ask God to empower churches and local leaders as they protect people who are vulnerable and seek shalom for all.

Saturday February 21 - from: Resonate: Campus ministry
Thank God with us for calling David Sheldon to serve as the new full-time campus pastor at Campus Edge Graduate Christian Fellowship, your partner campus ministry at Michigan State University. Pray that God will bless him in offering pastoral care, mentoring, and spiritual formation to graduate students.

Sunday February 22 - from: Indigenous Family Centre: First Sunday of Lent, Justice and Hope Sunday
Indigenous Family Centre is ever grateful for the support it receives. Please pray for healing and safety in all areas of our community members' lives. Pray that the city of Winnipeg may become a place that genuinely helps its citizens in areas of housing and well-being.