

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
May 17, 2026, 10:30am Service
Pastor John Knoester

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

"Christ is calling, find refreshing"

Prelude

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #776 v. 1-4**
"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.
3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

4. That Word above all earthly powers—
no thanks to them—abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!

Words: based on Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852,
P.D. CCLI #678905

* Opening Prayer

* Call to Worship:

Leader: In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home
on earth.

People: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Leader: Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.

**People: He journeys with the rejected
and welcomes the weary.**

Leader: Come now, all who thirst,

People: and drink the water of life.

Leader: Come now, all who hunger,

People: and be filled with good things.

Leader: Come now, all who seek,

People: and be warmed by the fire of love.

* Song of Praise: "*Living Waters*" v. 1-3

1. Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Tired and broken, peace unspoken,
Come and drink these living waters.
2. Christ is calling, find refreshing
at the cross of living waters.
Lay your life down, all the old gone,
rise up in these living waters.

Chorus

*There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore,
praise the Lord of living waters.*

3. Spirit moving, mercy washing;
healing in these living waters
Lead your children to the shoreline,
life is in these living waters.

Chorus

4. Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Love, forgiveness, vast and boundless,
Christ, He is our living waters.

Chorus

Ending

There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore,
praise the Lord of living waters.

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MusicServices.org and elsewhere by SongSolutions.org); CCLI #678905

- * God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

"At the cross of living waters"

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Confession:

When we gather to praise God,
we remember that we are people
who have preferred our wills to his.
Accepting his power to become new persons in Christ,
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Sung Confession: P.P. #246 v. 1-3 *"As the Deer"*

1. As the deer panteth for the water,
so my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship Thee.

Chorus:

*You alone are my Strength, my Shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship Thee.*

2. You're my friend and You are my brother
even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other,
so much more than anything.

Chorus

3. I want You more than gold or silver,
only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver,
and the apple of my eye.

Chorus

"As the Deer" Psalm 42:1 Martin Nystrom, ©1984 Maranatha! Music CCLI# 678905

Words of Assurance:

Hear the good news of the gospel:
God, who is rich in mercy,
out of the great love with which he loved us
even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ—
by grace you have been saved—
and raised us up with him and seated us with him
in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
so that in the ages to come he might show
the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
In Christ, by God's grace, we are saved.
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

—based on Ephesians 2:4-7, NRSV

Call to Holy Living:

For through the law I died to the law
so that I might live for God.

I have been crucified with Christ
and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave himself for me. - Galatians 2:19-20

* Song of Thanksgiving: *"Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me" v. 1-4*

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me
2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me
3. No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Ending

When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me
Yet not I but through Christ in me

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Offering: 1st: General Fund; 2nd: Youth Group

Offertory

*(Following the conclusion of the offering children ages 3-3rd grade
are dismissed for Children and Worship)*

* Song of Preparation: "Christ Our Wisdom" v. 1-4

1. Christ our wisdom we are humbled
When You hide Your ways from us
You have purposes unnumbered
Each one good and glorious
Help us trust when we grow weary
Free us from our anxious thoughts
Give us grace to see more clearly
You are God and we are not
2. Christ our wisdom be our gladness
When we fail to understand
You ordain all joy and sadness
To fulfill Your perfect plan
Help us know You rule with power
Over every raging flood
In our most uncertain hour
You are God and we are loved

3. Christ our wisdom we will follow
Though the way ahead is veiled
As we journey through the shadows
Grant us faith where sight has failed
Help us cling to Your commandments
Strengthened by Your faithful Word
We will never be abandoned
You are God and we are Yours
4. Christ our wisdom we adore You
For the beauty of the cross
Once in foolishness we scorned You
But Your blood has ransomed us
Help us sing the endless mercies
Of Your humble heart to save
Christ our wisdom Christ our glory
You are God forever praised

Tag

Help us sing the endless mercies
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“Lay your life down, all the old gone”

Scripture Reading: Revelation 22:16-17

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“The Water of Life”***

Time of Prayer

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #424 v. 1-4 *“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”*

1. Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high;
hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

2. Other refuge have I none;
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head
with the shadow of thy wing.
3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
more than all in thee I find:
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name;
I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am,
thou art full of truth and grace.
4. Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art;
freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), P.D. CCLI #678905

"Rise up in these living waters"

* We Confess our Faith: *"Our Song of Hope - Jesus Christ,
our Only Hope"*

Leader: Our only hope is Jesus Christ.

After we refused to live in the image of God,
he was born of the virgin Mary,
sharing our genes and our instincts,
entering our culture, speaking our language,
fulfilling the law of our God.

**People: Being united to Christ's humanity,
we know ourselves when we rest in him.**

Leader: Jesus Christ is the hope of God's world.
In his death, the justice of God is established;
forgiveness of sin is proclaimed.

**People: On the day of his resurrection, the tomb was empty;
his disciples saw him; death was defeated;
new life had come.
God's purpose for the world was sealed.**

Leader: Our ascended Lord gives hope for two ages.
In the age to come, Christ is the judge,
rejecting unrighteousness,
isolating God's enemies to hell,
blessing the new creation in Christ.

**People: In this age, the Holy Spirit is with us,
calling nations to follow God's path,
uniting people through Christ in love.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Hymn of Praise: LUYH #378 v. 1-4 *"Lord of All Hopefulness"*

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Words: Jan Struther (1901-1953) from *Enlarged Songs of Praise*, 1931, used by permission of Oxford University Press; Music: Irish; harm. Hymnal, 1982 ©Church Pension Group/Church Publishing, Inc.; OneLicense.net License #A-711218

* 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: May 17	Next Week: May 24
Sound:	Mardy S.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Emily VH	Tim H.
Video:	Isaac D.	Maddie D.
Offering:	1st: General Fund; 2nd: Youth Group	General Fund

First CRC
Bulletin Announcements
May 17, 2026

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Tomorrow Night at 7pm we will be having our Congregational Meeting here in the sanctuary. If you are not able to come, please fill out your absentee ballot and have it to the office before the meeting begins.

Upcoming Profession of Faiths: Recently the council had the privilege of hearing the individual testimonies of faith of *Emmalyn Stevens, James Vogel, Justus Visser, and Evan Visser*. What a joy to hear the stories of how God has been moving in each one of their lives! We look forward to celebrating their public professions of faith with the entire congregation on Pentecost Sunday, May 24. In the meantime, please commit to praying for each one of these individuals as they prepare for this important milestone in their faith journey.

This morning's 2nd offering will be for the Youth Group to help fund their summer trip to Anaheim, CA.

Summer Ministry Update: Many years ago the council of First CRC established a sabbatical policy for their pastor. Generally speaking this sabbatical takes place after every seven years of ministry. This coming summer Pastor John will be taking his second sabbatical and he and his family will be out of town between June 9 - August 24. During this time our former pastor - Rev. Michael Kooy - will be ministering to us throughout the months of June and July. Our new ministry associate - Pastor Jacob Pottebaum - is currently trying to finalize lodging arrangements and hopes to arrive in town around July 1. The current plan is for him to have a few weeks to get settled in, meet the congregation (eg. dessert nights), and then take over the preaching responsibilities during the month of August. More details will be communicated at the congregational meeting, but please don't hesitate to reach out to an elder if you have any questions.

There is a new sign-up sheet for volunteers to pick up and bring **Joy Faber** home from church each Sunday starting in the month of June. Please sign up if you can to do this blessing for Joy.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study meets every other Tuesday morning and is currently working through the books of Samuel. **They will be next meeting on Tuesday, May 26, at 7:00 am at IHOP.**

Worship Service YouTube Links:

PM, May 10 Service: <https://youtube.com/live/93rsVEu0ZrE?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.

The GriefShare Support Group at Faith Community Fellowship has begun, but the lessons are not cumulative so participants can join at any time. Come any Tuesday from now through May 19 from 6 to 8 PM.

Congratulations to our 2026 Graduates from College, High School and Middle School! If we have missed anyone from this list, please let Beth know.

Our Graduates:

College: Devin Van Zanten, Dordt College

High School: Justus Visser, Owen VanderKooy,
Landon Blanken, Adriana Speck, Henry Faber

Eighth Grade: Nolen Blanken, Emily Van Hofwegen, Ella Van Hofwegen, Riley VanderVeen

Eternal Glory

Dear Friends,

Throughout Advent we spent time reflecting on both the first and second coming of Jesus Christ. In the months to come I'd like us to think more deeply on the final judgement, the renewal and restoration of all creation, and the establishment of God's eternal kingdom and what that means for us as believers. Revelation 21-22 directly points us to the One who is the God of truth, the God of life, and the God of justice. The God who is currently in the process of making all things new! We will use the weeks before Lent to study Rev. 21 and then the weeks after to study Rev. 22. May God indeed lead and guide us as we engage in this study together. In His Grace, Pastor John

4. May 17 – *"The Water of Life"* (Rev. 22:16-17)

5. May 31 – *"Coming Soon!"* (Rev. 22:17-21)

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts: Today, May 17: Randy & Peggy B., Keith & Jean R.

Next Week, May 24: Henry & Pam VZ, Dave & Nancy V.

Worship Team: Today: May 17: Kevin K., Eliot B., Ella VH, Jennaya B.
Next Week, May 24: TBD

Nursery: Today: May 17: Glenda K. & Nellie VDH
Next Week, May 24: Jennie VDV & Lexi VDP

Children in Worship: Today: May 17: Jennie & Riley VV
Next Week, May 24: Jodi VDP, Tess VDH

Volunteers to Pick up and Drive Home Joy Faber:

Today, May 17: Melba DK

Next week, May 24: Keith & Jean R.

Family Visiting June 14:

5:45 pm: Ryanne VDP, Terry & Mandi D., Bob DG

7:00 pm: Karen S., Henry & Jayne H., Kermit & Julie H.

8:15 pm: Wayne & Rhea D., Micah & Jennie VDV, Marjo R.

TODAY:

Sunday, May 10:

9:30 Sunday School Sunday School (Last one of the season)

10:30am Worship Service

No Youth Group

THIS WEEK:

Mon., May 18, 7pm: Congregational Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 9: Pastor John (and family) leave on Sabbatical

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

Cascade Family Bible Camp – July 9-13 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. Register today: <https://cascadefamilybiblecamp.org>

CRC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thank You for Supporting Moms and Babies - Thank you for your generous gifts for babies and mothers worldwide through World Renew on Mother's Day. Your support for our health initiatives during the first 1,000 days will change countless lives for generations. You're helping give babies a healthy start so they can grow up strong and flourish with their God-given purpose. To learn more, visit worldrenew.net/first1000days

Kids Corner Devotions: The Promised Gift: Pentecost - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "The Promised Gift: Pentecost" at www.kidscorner.net. When Jesus was about to return to heaven to be

with his Father, he reminded his disciples of the gift his Father had promised them. Did you know that the same gift is promised to you as well? God sends his Holy Spirit to everyone who believes in Jesus. It's an old promise that is still good for you today! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible Story coloring pages available on the KC activities page.

Groundwork: Humanity Falls - Just after the story of creation, the Bible tells us the story of humanity's fall. Join Groundwork as we study Genesis 2-3, Romans 5:12, Romans 8:20-22, and Romans 3:9-23 to examine the second major theme of the Bible, the Christian doctrine of the fall. This theme emphasizes the catastrophic impact of sin on humanity and creation, and clearly articulates our universal need for a Savior in Jesus Christ. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Giving Real Estate to Your Favorite Ministry - Many people are able to give more than they ever thought possible by giving a vacation home, rental property, farmland or other real estate to CRC Ministries. It's a smart way to redirect property you no longer need for the benefit of God's Kingdom. Learn more at crcna.org/heritagefund or call Josh Remer, CRCNA Planned Giving Advisor at 616-223-5885.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Research has shown that taking slow, deep breaths when we are stressed is good for our mental health. As you recognize Mental Health Awareness Month, try using breath prayers as a way to slow down and focus your mind on God. Choose a prayer from the options below, then breathe in and out, repeating the phrases as you breathe. As you breathe in silently, pray: "Not my will." As you breathe out, pray: "Your will be done." Breathe in: "I am not alone." Breathe out: "You are here." Breathe in: "You are the potter." Breathe out: "I am the clay" 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:

Continue to pray for **Mardick Stevens**, who has his gall bladder out last week. Pray that he is able to feel the Lord's healing.

Please continue to pray for **Pastor Brad Diekema and his family**, as his father has been diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Please keep Brad's father and the rest of the family in your prayers as they absorb the weight of this diagnosis and what lies ahead.

Please pray for **Randy Burr**, as he is having issues with a heart valve. The doctors are performing tests to see what sort of treatment will be needed. Please pray for wisdom and grace for whatever the next steps may be.

Please continue to pray for **Jim Honeyford's** hip rehabilitation.

Please continue to pray for **Dena Klunder**, who is now at Josephine in Stanwood (Room #512) for rehabilitation. Please pray that God will bestow grace, strength and courage for Dena and the family.

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 May 11 - Church Renewal: Faithfulness

Our world often defines success as big, shiny, and new. God calls us to faithful obedience. Pray for faithfulness in our churches, though their work at times may be a struggle. Ask for wisdom in discerning and following their calling, even when that may become difficult.

Tuesday May 12 - Calvin Theological Seminary: Graduates

Nearly 100 students will be graduating this month, including over 30 in our Spanish-language program. Rejoice with our graduates and their families, and with the churches and others who have supported them. Pray for them as they transition to ministry positions, further studies, or in other directions as God leads them.

Wednesday May 13 - *Resonate: Japan*

Give thanks for the 20 Bible study groups that our missionaries Jeong and Misook Gho work with in Japan. "We trained most of these leaders and support them in many ways even now... Please pray for these leaders as they work faithfully for evangelism and reconciliation," ask the Ghos.

Thursday May 14 - *ReFrame: Ascension Day*

As we reflect on and celebrate our risen, ascended Savior, let's pray for Greg and his wife, Pam, who have asked for prayer as they enter a difficult season. Pam's multiple sclerosis is advancing and bringing significant pain, and she is going into palliative care. May the Lord fill her with comfort and assurance, and may God supply strength and wisdom for Greg as he cares for her.

Friday May 15 - *Thrive: Displaced people*

Please pray for refugees and displaced people worldwide, that they may find safety and peace. Pray also for host nations that have openly received thousands of refugees; may God give them compassion and logistical wisdom in caring for vulnerable individuals and families.

Saturday May 16 - *World Renew: Savings groups*

Part of our work involves empowering communities to create their own financial solutions. By establishing small-scale savings groups, community members can save money together and access loans to pay for essentials like health care, school fees, or starting a business. Pray for renewed hope as participants strive to build up their families and communities.

Sunday May 17 - *ReFrame: India*

Pray for Pastor Radhay and Pastor Abhishek as they share messages about the true shepherd and his faithfulness. May they remain steadfast in their walk with Christ and be strengthened as they encourage others to trust in the Lord, who guides and protects his people.