

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
May 31, 2026, 10:30 am Service
Pastor John Knoester

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

*"Not forsaken, not alone,
for the Comforter has come"*

Prelude

Welcome

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #553 v. 1-4 *"How Great Thou Art"*

1. O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain

3. But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain

4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

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* Opening Prayer

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Lift up your heads, O you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

People: Who is this King of glory?

Leader: The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.

**People: Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Leader: Who is he, this King of glory?

**People: The LORD Almighty—
he is the King of glory.**

—Psalm 24:7-10, NIV

* Song of Praise: “Ancient of Days” (CityAlight) v. 1-3

1. Though the nations rage Kingdoms rise and fall
There is still one King reigning over all
So I will not fear for this truth remains
That my God is the Ancient of Days.

Chorus:

*None above Him none before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne, it shall remain and ever stand
All the power all the glory I will trust in His name
For my God is the Ancient of days.*

2. Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul
He is here with me I am not alone
O His love is sure and He knows my name
For my God is the Ancient of Days.

Chorus:

None above Him none before Him

All of time in His hands

For His throne, it shall remain and ever stand

All the power all the glory I will trust in His name

For my God is the Ancient of days.

3. Though I may not see what the future brings
I will watch and wait for the Savior king
Then my joy complete standing face to face
In the presence of the Ancient of Days

Chorus

Tag:

For my God is the Ancient of Days

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* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

"And I stand on every promise of Your Word"

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Confession:

Our Lord Jesus said:

"You shall love the Lord your God

with all your heart,

and with all your soul,

and with all your mind.'

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it:

'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

On these two commandments

hang all the law and the prophets."

As God has instructed us in these great commandments,
and because we have not lived in full obedience,
let us now confess our sins to God,
trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord.

—based on Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV

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

Call to Holy Living:

Since you have been raised up to be with Christ,
you must look for the things that are above,
where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.
Let your thoughts be on things above,
not on things that are on the earth,
because you have died,
and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God.
But when Christ is revealed—and he is your life—
you, too, will be revealed with him in glory.

—Colossians 3:1-4, NJB

* Song of Thanksgiving: “*Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor*” v. 1-4

1. Christ the sure and steady anchor
In the fury of the storm
When the winds of doubt blow through me
And my sails have all been torn

Chorus 1

*In the suffering in the sorrow
When my sinking hopes are few
I will hold fast to the anchor
It shall never be removed.*

2. Christ the sure and steady anchor
While the tempest rages on
When temptation claims the battle
And it seems the night has won

Chorus 2

*Deeper still then goes the anchor
Though I justly stand accused
I will hold fast to the anchor
It shall never be removed*

3. Christ the sure and steady anchor
Through the floods of unbelief
Hopeless somehow O my soul now
Lift your eyes to Calvary

Chorus 3

*This my ballast of assurance
See His love forever proved
I will hold fast to the anchor
It shall never be removed*

4. Christ the sure and steady anchor
As we face the wave of death
When these trials give way to glory
And we draw our final breath.

Chorus 4

*We will cross that great horizon
Clouds behind and life secured
And the calm will be the better
For the storms that we endured.*

Chorus 5

*Christ the shore of our salvation
Ever faithful ever true
We will hold fast to the anchor
It shall never be removed.*

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Offering: General Fund

Offertory

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

* Song of Preparation: *"Every Promise of Your Word"* (Getty) v. 1-4

1. From the breaking of the dawn
to the setting of the sun,
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.
Words of power, strong to save,
that will never pass away;
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.
For Your covenant is sure,
and on this I am secure:
I can stand on ev'ry promise from Your word.
2. When I stumble and I sin, condemnation pressing in,
I will stand on every promise of Your word.
You are faithful to forgive,
that in freedom I might live.
So I stand on every promise of Your word.
Guilt to innocence restored;
You remember sins no more.
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
3. When I'm faced with anguished choice,
I will listen for Your voice,
and I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
Through this dark and troubled land,
You will guide me with Your hand,
as I stand on every promise of Your word.
And You've promised to complete
every work begun in me.
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
4. Hope that lifts me from despair;
Love that casts out every fear;
as I stand on every promise of Your word.
Not forsaken, not alone,
for the Comforter has come;
and I stand on every promise of Your word.
Grace sufficient, grace for me,
Grace for all who will believe.
We will stand on every promise of Your word.

*"Grace sufficient grace for me,
Grace for all who will believe"*

Scripture Reading: Revelation 22:18-21

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Coming Soon!"***

Time of Prayer

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #427 v. 1-5 *"How Firm a Foundation"*

1. How firm a foundation you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
3. "When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,
for I will be with you in trouble to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.
4. "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace all-sufficient shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.
5. "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"

Words: Isaiah 43:1-5; J. Rippon's *Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt., P.D.; Music: J. Funk's *A Compilation of Genuine Church Music*, 1832; harm. Dale Grotenhuis (1931-2012), 1985, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources; CCLI #678905

"We will stand on every promise of Your Word"

* We Confess our Faith: *"Our World Belongs to God"* – st. 56, 58

Leader: Our hope for a new earth is not tied to
what humans can do, for we believe that one day
every challenge to God's rule and every resistance
to his will shall be crushed.

**People: Then his kingdom shall come fully,
and our Lord shall rule forever!**

Leader: With the whole creation
we wait for the purifying fire of judgment.
For then we will see the Lord face to face.
He will heal our hurts, end our wars,
and make the crooked straight.
Then we will join in the new song
to the Lamb without blemish
who made us a kingdom and priests.

**People: God will be all in all,
righteousness and peace will flourish,
everything will be made new,
and every eye will see at last
that our world belongs to God!
Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus!**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Hymn of Praise: Parting Praise: *"All Glory Be to Christ"* v. 1-3
Soloist

1. Should nothing of our efforts stand,
no legacy survive;
unless the Lord does raise the house,
in vain its builders strive.
To you who boast tomorrow's gain,
tell me what is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn;
all glory be to Christ.

Chorus

*All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
all glory be to Christ!*

2. His will be done, His kingdom come,
on earth as is above,
who is Himself our daily bread;
praise Him, the Lord of love.
Let living water satisfy
the thirsty without price;
we'll take a cup of kindness yet;
all glory be to Christ.

Chorus

3. When on the day the great I Am,
the faithful and the true,
the Lamb who was for sinners slain,
is making all things new.
Behold our God shall live with us
and be our steadfast light.
And we shall e're his people be;
all glory be to Christ.

Chorus

Chorus: Sing acapella

Words and Arrangement by Dustin Kensrue; Music: Traditional Scottish Folk Tune
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* Postlude

Welcome! The psalmist prayed: "Restore us, O Lord God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved" (Psalm 80:19). May all who have come to worship find restoration, inner peace and spiritual strength. 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: May 31	Next Week: June 7
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry H.
Projection:	Isaac D.	Beth B.
Video:	France B.	Isaac D.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

May 31, 2026

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

“Pray Us on Our Way Sendoff”! The Youth Group leaves on their mission trip on Saturday, June 20 at 8:30am from our parking lot. We would love to have a group of people there at 8:00am to give them a cheerful, prayerful sendoff! We know it's early – pajamas optional!

The Men's Breakfast Bible Study group has decided to take a break for the summer. Thank you to all who participated this past year for the fellowship that we enjoyed!

Attention all First CRC Regular Attenders! Church Committees Update: Sometime in the month of July the Executive Committee will be meeting to update/approve our current church committee lists. When it comes to the various committees for our church family we do our best to recruit, but often it's more expedient simply to assign. Here's how you can help us in advance: If there is a specific church committee that you would like to serve on - please let Beth know no later than Sunday, June 28. In addition, if you would like to be removed from a current committee that you are serving on please let her know that as well. If we don't hear from you - we don't know. When it comes to committee assignments we promise to do our best to match one's gifts accordingly. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve!

Congregational Meeting Update: At our Monday, May 18 congregational meeting the proposed budget was passed and the following individuals were selected as new deacons and elders: Rich Knight (Deacon), Bryan Van Beek (Deacon), Greg Boon (Elder), and Kevin Kok (Elder). These individuals will be installed on Sunday, June 7. Following the congregational meeting the various elders were selected to serve in the following roles: Greg Ackermann (President), Greg Boon (Elder Vicar), Henry Hammingh (Elder Clerk), and Adam Faber. (Records

Clerk). Deacon assignments are as follows: Brad De Kok (Deacon President), Mardy Stevens (Treasurer), Jack Van Klaveren (Secretary), Bryan Van Beek (Benevolent Fund), Rich Knight (Deacon Vicar), and Spencer Donaldson (Helping Hands). A special thank you to all congregational members who were present and/or participated via absentee ballot.

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.

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 University

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

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

Worship Service YouTube Links:

PM, May 24 Service: <https://youtube.com/live/a-gd30fMH64?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.

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

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

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts: Today, May 31: Greg & Tish A., Greg & Beth B.
Next Week, June 7: Simon LC, Kevin & Glenda K.

Worship Team: Today: May 31: Men's Group
Next Week, June 7: Henry & Pam VZ, Mandi D., Emma S.

Nursery: Today: May 31: Tessa S, Myra VDB
Next Week, June 7: Mandi & Maddie D.

Children in Worship: Today: May 31: Julie S., Toby VDB
Next Week, June 7: Heather VH, Lexi VDP

Volunteers to Pick up and Drive Home Joy Faber:
Today, May 31: Julie W.
Next week, June 7: Judy V.

Family Visiting June 14:

5:45 pm: Rynne 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 VDP, Marjo R.

TODAY:**Sunday, May 31:**

10:30am Worship Service

No Youth Group

UPCOMING EVENTS:**June 7:** Elder and Deacon Installation/Communion**June 9:** Pastor John and family leave on sabbatical**Sat., June 20, 8:00am:** Youth Group "Pray Us on Our Way" Sendoff**July 5:** Church Potluck**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:

You Are Doing More Than You Know! Thank you! The collective ministry of the Christian Reformed Church in North America is flourishing thanks to your generous ministry shares gifts. Together, we are training church planters, equipping leaders, and strengthening local congregations like ours. We are sharing Christ's love and expanding discipleship here and around the world. Learn more at crcna.org/ministryshares.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Today we celebrate Trinity Sunday. One week after Pentecost, we turn our attention to the continuing work of the triune God in our world: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This week spend some time reading the story of Jesus' baptism in Matthew 3:13-17, observing how Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are portrayed in that passage. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive



Next Week is Communion Sunday!

*God meets us in the sacraments,
holy acts that call for our response...
In the supper our Lord offers
the bread and cup to believers to
guarantee our share in his
death and resurrection,
and unite us to him and to each other.*

*We take this food gladly,
announcing as we eat
that Jesus is our life
and that He shall come again
to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.*

From: *Our World Belongs to God* (PH – pg. 1031)

*Come share the fellowship
of the forgiven!*



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 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. Brad will be visiting his parents for a few days soon.

We praise God that **Randy Burr's** stent procedure went very well yesterday! Lord willing, the valve replacement surgery will take place in late June. Randy and Peggy give thanks to God for His guiding care. Please continue to keep the entire Burr family in your prayers throughout the weeks ahead.

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 25 - Church Renewal: Missions

Churches around the world are sending missionaries to North America to reach people groups here. Pray that we may welcome these fellow believers from around the world, partner with them to reach the various ethnic groups in our communities, and see the mission of God in this world flourish.

Tuesday May 26 - ReFrame: Burkina Faso

Belem Boureima, a displaced community health worker and new listener to our radio program in Goursi, shared that a recent broadcast helped to strengthen his faith. Pray that his faith will continue to grow and that he will be encouraged and sustained during this season of displacement.

Wednesday May 27 - Redeemer University: Students and programs

Ask God to continue leading our students and to provide us with the resources to prepare students to reflect the love of Christ in every career and calling. Pray also for guidance in our new master's level programming so that a greater audience may access integrated Christian higher education.

Thursday May 28 - Justice Ministries: Canadian National Gathering

Pray for the Canadian National Gathering as it begins today, and for leaders guiding the ministry streams and conversation. May participants find a transformative time of connection, belonging, and discernment.

Friday May 29 - Resonate: Church planters

Several church planters in Canada and the United States are working with Resonate, classes, and established churches to plant new faith communities with and for diaspora communities. Ask God to guide each one of these leaders and to provide for their needs as they continue to build relationships with people in their communities.

Saturday May 30 - World Renew: Lebanon

We continue to offer food, mattresses, and other essentials through our local partner in Lebanon to displaced families there. Our partner told us: "It's hard to explain, but it seems people are hopeless and depressed to the extent that they have no more emotions." Pray for God's presence and comfort as the church continues to reach out with tangible expressions of Christ's love.

Sunday May 31 - Thrive: Trinity Sunday

On this Trinity Sunday, we pray that each person may know how "wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge" (Eph. 3:18-19).