

The Growing Season  
Christ the King Sunday  
November 21, 2021

**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP**

The Prelude

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

Conrad Kocher, setting by Michael Burkhardt

**WE APPROACH OUR GOD**

The Welcome and Greeting

\*The Call to Worship

Leader: Most gracious God, the words “Jesus is King” come easily to our lips, yet we fail to grasp the significance of what they mean for us.

**People: In this service, help us worship You in Spirit and truth.**

Leader: Give us a vision for how we may live in service to You every day of our lives.

**People: Help us to live with thanksgiving for all that has been given to us through Christ, our Lord.**

**Let us worship and praise God with that truth fresh in our hearts and minds.**

\*The Hymn of Praise

***Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven***

Henry F. Lyte, LAUDA ANIMA, John Goss

The Declaration of the Reign of Christ

from *Our World Belongs to God*

Leader: As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world— which some seek to control, but which others view with despair— we declare with joy and trust:

**People: Our world belongs to God!**

Leader: From the beginning, through all the crises of our times, until His kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever.

**People: Our world belongs to him! God is King! Let the earth be glad!**

Leader: Christ is Victor; His rule has begun.

**People: Hallelujah!**

Leader: The Spirit is at work, renewing the creation.

**People: Praise the Lord!**

Leader: Jesus ascended in triumph to His heavenly throne. There He hears our prayers, pleads our cause before the Father, and rules our world.

**People: Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.**

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. Amen.**

\*The Song of Praise

***Behold Our God***

Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird

The Video

That’s My King

Ryan Baird, Stephen Altrogge

Dr. S.M. Lockridge

\*The Song of Praise

***You Are My King (Amazing Love)***

Billy Foote

The Sacrament of Baptism

The Scriptural Mandate

The Meaning of the Sacrament

The Vows of the Parents

The Vows of the Congregation

\*The Apostles’ Creed

The Baptism

The Blessing

The Congregational Welcome: **The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.**

\*The Song

***O Great God***

Bob Kauffin

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

The Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Lessons  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

2 Samuel 23:1-7, John 18:33-37

The Message "Acknowledging Who's in Charge"

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GOODNESS**

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts  
The Offertory Prayer  
The Offertory Song

***Crown Him***

Jacob Sooter, Stephen McWhirter

The Mission Moment

Jake Bajema

The News of the Church Alive

\*The Benediction

\*The Postlude

*Rejoice, the Lord is King*

John Darwall, arr. Mark Patterson

\*All who are able, please stand

**Worship Leaders:** Preaching – Pastor Bud Pratt; Liturgist – Bob Stelma; Organist – Patty Pratt; Praise Team

**Please follow our church social media pages:**

Instagram: frcgrandville

Facebook: First Reformed Church

**Stewardship Update:**

October 31 Collection Plate	\$ 12,811.00
Online Giving:	\$ 2,332.00
Total Offering:	\$ 15,143.00

Average weekly offering needed to make 2021 budget	\$ 16,975.00
2021 Annual budget	\$882,740.00

**Text to Give** - 616-208-4301

Budget Update as of October 31, 2021	
Offerings received	\$643,496.00
Expenses paid	- \$647,083.00
	(\$ - 3,587.00)

**TODAY'S HAPPENINGS**

**Sunday Children's Programming Schedule:**

**3rd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month:**

Nursery ages - can be dropped off in the nursery when you arrive & picked up after the worship service.

Ages 3 years – Kindergarten can be dropped off in room #113 South when you arrive and picked up after the worship service.

1st Grade-5th Grade can be dropped off in the downstairs Assembly Room AFTER the worship service & picked up at 11:30 am

**Please note:** We are following Grandville Public School Covid guidelines, so masks are required for kids, as well as our volunteers at this time.

**Middle School** (6th - 8th grades) & **High School** (9th - 12th grades) meets in the Youth Lounge following worship. Donuts provided.

**Middle School youth group** meets on Sundays from 4:00pm - 5:30pm in the Youth gym. Movie night with popcorn, snacks and pop.

**High School youth group** meets on Sundays from 6:30pm - 8:00pm in the Youth lounge. We will be having Thanksgiving dinner – please bring a dish to pass.

**No Middle School & High School** Bible study and youth group next Sunday, November 28.

#### YOUTH HAPPENINGS

**Young Life** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) – meets Monday, November 22, at 7:27pm at church. Questions? Contact Jeff Watson at [jeffw@firstgrandville.org](mailto:jeffw@firstgrandville.org) or 616-250-7148.

**WyldLife** (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) – meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month in the Family Life Center.

#### Youth Mission Trip fundraisers:

- **Pop can drive** - There will be a labeled trash can in the Youth Lounge all year for you to drop off your empty cans.

#### OTHER HAPPENINGS

**ADVENT FESTIVAL** - We will be having our annual Advent Festival on Sunday, November 28th from 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm. If you are interested in helping in any way - preparing craft supplies before the 28th, helping at a craft station during the event on the 28th, being a part of the live nativity or helping with the meal, please sign up at the sign-up center or let Angie know [angie@firstgrandville.org](mailto:angie@firstgrandville.org).

There will be no **3 year old-Kindergarten or 1st grade-5th grade children's programming** on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25th or Sunday, November 28th. Nursery will be provided on both of those dates.

**Women in the Word** – meets Wednesday mornings at 9:30 in the upstairs adult ed room. Our next meeting will be December 1 and includes pages 197-209 . Questions? Call Marilyn Stelma – 616-450-6008

**Anna Circle** – meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month from 9:30am – 11:00am in the upstairs small adult ed room. We are studying the book *Winning the War in Your Mind*.

**Bells of Joy** – Tuesdays, 6:30pm.

**Chancel Choir** – Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:00pm

**FOCUS** – No FOCUS this week. Enjoy your Thanksgiving!

#### WAYS OF GIVING

Throughout the month of November, we will be collecting non-perishable foods and basic needs items for the **Domestic Crisis Center**. Bring your gifts into the sanctuary beginning November 7 as we fill the front steps with our gratitude to God for his many blessings, culminating on Thanksgiving Day as we worship and give thanks (10:00 AM on Thanksgiving Day). We will also receive these items the next morning (Friday, Nov. 26) from 9-11 AM in the East parking lot. Volunteers will be available to unload your car that morning.

We are also collecting new unopened toys for the **Other Way Christmas Store** (unwrapped with prices still attached). You can find a list of needed items in your mailslot. The Christmas Store makes these gifts available to low income families at greatly reduced prices. There are boxes in the narthex for your toy donations. The toy drive ends on December 5.

**Food Pantry needs** - Pancake mix, syrup, peanut butter, jelly, mac and cheese, crackers. You can place these items in the grocery cart in the Activity Center.

#### Volunteers Needed to Deliver Hope, Love and Weekend Food to Local Children

Many school kids rely on free breakfast and lunch programs but do not have food during the weekend. Our Mission Council is partnering with Hand 2 Hand to help meet this need for approximately 25 students at the Potters House School. We are in need of a lead coordinator (3 hrs per week), a food coordinator (3 hrs per week), packing volunteers (1-2 hrs per month) and delivery drivers (30 minutes per week). If interested, please contact Jeff Muller at 616-889-5187 or [jeff@mullerdesign.net](mailto:jeff@mullerdesign.net). For more information about Hand 2 Hand, please visit [h2hkids.org](http://h2hkids.org)

**Missionary Christmas cards** - Want to send our Missionaries in the field a reminder of our love and appreciation for them this Christmas season? Our Missionaries often tell us how meaningful the Christmas cards are that they receive from First Church every year. There is a list of our missionaries in your mailslot. Please use this to label your cards and place them in the mailbox next to the congregation mailboxes by Wednesday, December 8th.

**Family at Home Christmas Cards** - Sharing the joy of Christmas with our Family at Home members is a gift you can give them by sending a card. Knowing their church family remembers them during this season is truly a gift. Simply write the member's name on the envelope. You can find a list of the Family at Home members in your mailslot. Maybe add a personal note to your card and sign your name. These cards can be dropped in the basket in the Activity Center.

### **FIRST REFORMED CHURCH PRAYERS & CONCERNS**

For prayer updates during the week, please call the **Prayer Line** – 534-0113

#### **We extend prayers of healing & comfort for:**

- **Chuck Duimstra and his family**, as he faces ongoing and declining health issues.
- **BJ Veneklasen**, being treated for leukemia.
- **Sarah Farney**, having surgery for subglottic stenosis on December 3 at the University of Michigan.
- **Sheri Cook** (Brian Cook's mom), under the care of hospice in the final stages of liver failure.
- Pray for anyone affected in any way by **the Corona virus**.
- **Continued prayers for: Ron Cook, Kay Mekkes, Roy DeJonge, Don Alderink, Karin Dykstra, Curt Stoel, Erica Obi, Jakob Kempema,**

#### **Please keep all our military troops in your prayers, especially:**

- **Dustin Lambries, Jeremy Stegehuis, Jeff Shuck & Tony Shuck** (Betty Isenga's grandsons), **Edward Peter Tolhurst** (Pat Bird's nephew), **Ben Westrick**

#### **Please keep in your hearts and minds:**

- Our **Family at Home members** – Eloise Anderson, Judy Baartman, Crystal Baum, Norma Boss, Ron & Dorothy Cook, Helen Dertien, Karin Dykstra, Arlene Jacobitz, Ev Lindhout, Pat Marcusse, Kay Mekkes, Bob & Lois Morehouse, Janet Pofahl, Evelyn Watson, Mary Zomerlei

**November FAH birthdays:** 11-27 – Helen Dertien, Sunset Manor, 725 Baldwin #2046, Jenison 49428  
11-29 – Pat Marcusse, Lakeside Vista, 340 W. 40<sup>th</sup> St., Holland 49423

In case of an emergency and no one is at church you may call Pastors Bud Pratt - 708-302-5645,  
Matt Cook - 616-893-4189 or consistory vice president Bob Stelma - 616-822-3859, or any of the other elders.

THANK YOU...

...for your prayers, cards, concern and kindness during Nancy's recent bout with pneumonia. **Clark & Nancy Matthews**  
...for you calls, prayers, and concern during Bob's hospitalization and rehab with pneumonia. **Bob & Carol Verburg**

## **2021 Thanksgiving Offering**

First Reformed Church's Mission Council has selected nine organizations to support. We strive to provide a balance between local and world mission projects with a total goal of \$20,000. We ask that you prayerfully consider your support of these organizations, with a gift of any amount, during the Thursday, November 25 Thanksgiving offering. Thanksgiving gifts will be accepted until the end of the year.

### **First Reformed Youth Mission Fund**

First Reformed Church high schoolers are planning to travel to the Dominican Republic. During this mission trip, students will experience growth in their faith and develop a sense of purpose to further God's Kingdom. The Thanksgiving money collected will go toward offsetting travel expenses for students and leaders. Students will be living at the local Young Life Camp. In addition, high school students are planning several fundraisers and look forward to the participation of the congregation in these efforts, too.

### **First Reformed Church Adult Mission Trip Fund**

First Reformed Church established an adult trip fund to encourage and help support adult mission experiences. Each participant is required to pay for part of the cost of the trip as well as take part in fundraisers organized by those going on the mission. For many years now, adults, teenagers, and children from First Reformed Church felt called into the mission field, and ventured into such places such as Prague, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Kentucky, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Mission events include teaching English, building and repairing homes, leading Bible school, witnessing, working at camps, and reconstruction projects, to name a few. A wide variety of skills and abilities are utilized. With additional trips in the future, our offering will help fund these opportunities.

### **Kalamazoo Young Life – Ryan Nienhuis**

Ryan Nienhuis is the area director for Young Life Kalamazoo and has been working in youth ministry for the past 22 years. He oversees active ministries in the greater Kalamazoo area and Young Lives (a ministry to teen moms). Young Life has a significant presence in the college community. The Young Life College ministry is in its eighth year on the campus of Western Michigan University (WMU) and continues to have more than 50 college students who meet each week. Through the work of Ryan and his team, there is an opportunity for students to gather, hear the gospel, and grow in their faith. Funds are used to continue reaching students for Christ through the growth of the Young Life College ministry. In addition to students gathering on the campus of WMU, this ministry serves as a pipeline for Young Life volunteer leaders in one of seven local high school and middle school ministries in the Kalamazoo area.

### **Young Life – Jake Bajema**

Jake Bajema is the Kentwood Area Director for Young Life. In this role, he oversees Kentwood's potential 5 Young Life programs and also ministers to the Young Life communities of South Christian, Davenport University, and Grandville Wyldlife. Jake helps oversee volunteer leaders, brings hundreds of kids to camps each year, and helps lead one of the largest Young Life areas in the state. He sees his role as an opportunity to invite kids into a deeper relationship or first-time relationship with Christ, both individually and as a community. Jake has a heart for every kid who hears the gospel for the first time or in a new way at Young Life.

### **Missionary Special Needs Fund**

This fund supports one-time needs of missionaries who have an unexpected situation or loss that is not covered by their monthly support funds. In the past, for example, this fund has provided for a replacement van when a family's van suddenly broke down, replacement of urgent necessities following damage after a natural disaster, such as a flashflood, among other things.

### **Pregnancy Resource Center**

The Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) is a Christ-centered, nonprofit, life-affirming ministry serving the local Greater Grand Rapids community. PRC educates people on the options available within an unplanned pregnancy. Through spiritual counsel centered on the belief that all people matter to God, PRC enables people to choose life for their unborn children and healthy lifestyles for themselves through their Willing to Wait™ sexual risk avoidance education, medical services, and family support services. PRC is thankful for the local churches that come alongside their life-affirming ministry. For more information visit: [www.prcforlife.org](http://www.prcforlife.org).

### **Haiti Earthquake Relief**

Political violence, the pandemic, and a 7.2 magnitude earthquake has brought the country of Haiti into a state of desperation. First Reformed Church's missionary there, Gladys Thomas, has been continuing her work with the US. Foundation for the Children of Haiti, but the earthquake has made this work both physically and emotionally draining. She recently visited a community in the south of Haiti, where she met many people who need aid. She plans to return with food and building materials for this community, and our support will help cover some of the costs for this food and shelter.

### **WMU/CRU – Jordan and Ashley Matthews**

College is an important stage for growing in one's relationship with Christ, and yet it can be one of the scariest times to share our beliefs with new people and in a new environment. That is why Jordan Matthews, the grandson of Clark and Nancy Matthews, and his wife, Ashley, are currently serving full time with CRU of Western Michigan University. In this role, they help students take their next step in their faith journey during this important phase of life. CRU (previously called Campus Crusade for Christ) also offers a spiritual resource to the whole campus community, mentoring, and teaching.

### **70x7 -- Prison Ministry**

When men and women leave prison, they often have nowhere to turn. For many, their family or other support systems have given up on them, and their criminal records make finding a job especially difficult. All of these factors make it easy for people to end up back in prison shortly after leaving. In West Michigan, 70x7 brings hope to these individuals by coming alongside them in the reentry process--providing community, employment success, and a deepening relationship with God. The 70x7 program has a 96% success rate, with about 4% of program participants returning to prison compared to 29.8% for the state of Michigan and 50% nationally. Our support for this program will help provide spiritual support, job training, counseling, and accountability for people leaving prisons in West Michigan.