



FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

DENVER, COLORADO

Sunday, June 21, 2020

*A Family of God Living Our Faith and Growing by Joyfully surrendering to Jesus, Freely sharing our lives and Humbly embracing the Hurting...
We sense God leading us to: Disciple in place, Stay connected and Act Locally.*

Gathering

*As you gather, take a few moments to still your heart and mind and to sit in silence.
In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.*

Call to Worship: (From Psalm 86)

There is none like You, Lord,
Nor are there any works like Yours.
**All the nations You have made shall come
And bow down to You, O Lord,
And shall glorify Your name.
For You are great and do wondrous things,
You alone are God.**
We will praise You, Lord our God, with all our hearts;
We will glorify Your name forever.
**For great is Your love toward us;
You are a compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.**

Song: [Praise is Rising](#)

Renewal

Call to Prayer:

Jonathan Edwards once said that one of the things that distinguishes the true God from false gods is that the true God hears our prayers. King David would agree! In Psalm 55, he writes, "I call to God, and the Lord saves me. Evening, morning and noon, I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice." Because God has welcomed us into His presence through Jesus' perfect work on the cross, we can share David's confidence as we pray.

Prayers of Intercession and Gratitude: *Use the following prayer to guide you in intercession today. In each section, you may offer silent or spoken prayers of your own in the space marked [silence]. If you are worshipping with others, invite members of your group to respond to the words "Lord, in Your mercy" with the words "hear our prayer."*

Let us pray for the church and for the world.

Grant, almighty God, that all who confess Your name may be united in Your truth, live together in Your love, and reveal Your glory in the world.

[Silence]

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations,
in the way of justice and peace,
that we may honor one another and serve the common good.
[Silence]
Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as Your own creation,
that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others
and to Your honor and glory.
[Silence]
Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless those whose lives are closely linked with ours,
and grant that we may serve Christ in them
and love one another as He loves us.
[Silence]
Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.
Give them courage and hope in their troubles,
and bring them the joy of Your salvation.
[Silence]
Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth,
mercifully accept the prayers of Your people
and strengthen us to do Your will
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

Offering: *We develop our trust in God's ongoing care by making giving a priority in our lives. If you would like to give to the ongoing ministry of First CRC as a part of your worship today, you can do so by mailing a check to First CRC, through the "Church Center" App, or by texting any amount to 84321. Thank you for your ongoing and generous support of First CRC!*

Word

Song: [Speak O Lord](#) (LUYH 755)

Scripture: Read [Genesis 21:8-21](#) before watching today's message.

Message: [Are You Listening?](#)

Reflection: *Take a few minutes to reflect upon today's message using the following questions as your guide.*

- Is there a time when you were surprised to have someone listen to you? Or, a time when you wanted someone to listen but they did not?
- What makes a good listener?
- What is one thing you would like to tell the God who listens?
- How (or to whom) can you give the gift of listening this week?

Prayer: *Take some time to talk to the God who listens. Conclude your prayer with the words from Psalm 86 printed below.*

Hear me, Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.
Hear my prayer, Lord; listen to my cry for mercy.

When I am in distress, I call to You, because You answer me. Amen.

Sending

Song: [The Hope of the Poor \(Psalm 9\)](#)

Blessing:

God will go before you to lead you and guide you,
He will go behind you to protect you and defend you,
He will go beneath you to support you,
He will go beside you to befriend you.
Do not be afraid.
But let the blessings of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit rest upon you always. Do not be afraid, but go in peace to love God and listen to your neighbors.

IN ~ Disciple in Place

From the council - Thank you First CRC!

The First CRC Council would like to express our gratitude to the First CRC Congregation for your generosity during this COVID pandemic. In this time of separation from each other, you have continued to stay connected to our ministries through your offerings online and by mail and as a result, the church is in an excellent financial position to kick off the budgetary year. What's most encouraging to us is that so many of you are continuing to support the church; it's not just a few people, but all of us pitching in. In the last three months, we have had 46 different families contribute by mail and 35 different families contribute online! We are blown away by your support, and look forward to the ways we can continue to worship and serve God together in, through, and long beyond this pandemic.

A team of First CRC members and leaders has been gathered to develop recommendations for group gatherings (i.e., Public Worship). This team is closely following the guidelines as set forth by the state with the strong desire to meet when we as a church family can keep as many of the elements of worship that we cherish about meeting together such as singing, greeting one another and fellowshiping together. The recommendation of this team, which has been approved by the Elders, is that **First Church will not meet corporately before July 12.**

**A Google survey was sent out Friday to capture your thoughts. Please take a few minutes this week to communicate how you are feeling, your ideas on how we can serve one another safely, and what you are thinking as we consider options moving forward.*

We ask for continued prayers for our church leadership. May the Spirit continue to equip them. We pray for connection among our grow groups and members. May the Spirit continue to lead us, and transform us, to love and serve our neighbors.

A Genesis coloring sheet is attached at the top of the *Mail Chimp* to engage our youngsters while we worship online together at home. Mail a copy (or email a scan) of the colored sheet (or a drawing that tells the Scripture story) back to us:

FIRST CRC Staff
1814 South Emerson Street
Denver, CO 80210

Up ~ Stay Connected

In June we target prayer for Persecuted Believers in North Africa, China and Yemen by following the Open Doors USA monthly prayer calendar:

The testimonies are powerful, strengthening our faith and hope in Jesus:
<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/June-PFA.pdf>

June 21-30: Pray for fresh hope, provision, medical attention and protection for women and children whose husbands and fathers are missing from the home due to war and illness. May they know the Lord is near to the broken-hearted.

We praise God for answered prayer as **Mary Anne McLaughlin** relocates to an area east of Tacoma, WA to live near two of her daughters.

We pray for provision, protection and peace for Craig and Lisa Lohmann as they travel to be with family.

Please continue to pray for those grieving the loss of loved ones (during times of social distancing), when being held or hugged is so missed.

We pray for summer fun, healthy activities and growing friendships for students and teachers on break.

We thank God for fathers, and pray God's hand of blessing and wisdom upon them as they lead their families through cultural transition with confidence and courage.

Please pray for a wonderful time of adventure and refreshment for Pastor Joel and the Schreurs family while on vacation **June 22-July 5th**.

OUT ~ Act Locally

VIA Summer Opportunity

The **Christian Living Campus** gown-making project has been a great success so far, saving the CLC thousands of dollars and equipping their medical staff with protective gowns to care for their residents. The project continues at Hope Fellowship Church, 2400 S. Ash Street, Denver 80222

Find more details in this link. You can also call Sheri at Volunteers In Action at 720-441-2858 to sign up for a 2 hour slot.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090449a9a722aaf58-ppegownmaking>

Volunteer slots are open for the following dates and times:

Monday, June 22: 9:00am-11:30am

Tuesday, June 23: 6:00pm- 8:30pm

Wednesday, June 24 9:00am- 11:30am

Thursday, June 25 6:00pm-8:30pm

Thank you for considering volunteering for this project!

Sheri DeHaan

Volunteers In Action Volunteer Coordinator

9185 E. Kenyon Ave. #130

Denver, CO 80237

303-713-9144 Office, 720-441-2858 Cell

***Complete VIA Newsletter pdf can be found at the top of today's Mail Chimp.**

Global Ministry Opportunities:

Human Resources - Career at World Renew - World Renew is seeking to hire a Human Resources Associate Director to be based in our Grand Rapids, MI office. The Associate Director will act as the global expert in human resources planning, policy development, and compliance for all employees at World Renew as well as being responsible for the day-to-day human resources operations of US and International employees. If you have an SHRM designation, and experience providing leadership within a non-profit, global, or multinational organization, we would love to hear from you. Please see: <https://worldrenew.net/careers> for more information. The application deadline is **July 6, 2020**.

Disability Concerns Leadership Training Event 2020 –

Join us **August 5th and 6th** for our annual leadership training event. This year we will be hosting it online! The theme for our conference this year is agility. More details to come, and to register: <https://www.crcna.org/disability>

Office Updates:

Key Fobs: The key access system to the main building is functioning. As a back up, or in case of emergency, a hard copy key is available in a lock box outside. Email connections@firstcrcdenver.org for the code and location.

Facilities Projects:

- 1.) The roof replacement project has been completed on the Church, Emerson House and parsonage.
- 2.) Denver backflow prevention and testing has been completed.
- 3.) Routine elevator maintenance was performed in June.
- 4.) Repair to the North steps will begin soon.

Facilities staff is routinely cleaning and disinfecting: offices, bathrooms, kitchen, railings and other high-touch points. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping activity primarily in the Pit Stop.

Reminder: The Covid Guidelines are posted on the access doors of the church and Pit Stop. If you have any questions, email: mrippetoe@firstcrcdenver.org.

The Pit Stop is operational after smoke damage reclamation, including new garage doors. We ask all groups to be sure to lock up after your events (including those side doors), since tools are stored in the Pit Stop.

Summertime: Our staff is working from home and office to be accessible and responsive **Tuesday through Friday 9am-3pm** for non-emergencies. Email is a great way to reach everyone during this time of transitioning guidelines and vacations. When a staff member is unavailable or on vacation, we will put an auto-reply on their email, indicating who to contact in case of Pastoral care or emergency support.

This week: Pastor Joel and Rebecca Schaefer will be on vacation.

Please contact Pastor Bret: bret@firstcrcdenver.org, or your GG Elder.

Kyle Cooper for worship-related items.

Mark Rippetoe: Building Usage, Administrative needs.

From Back to God Ministries International

GROUNDWORK: IS GOD PUNISHING ME? - During times of suffering we long to know why and seek biblical explanations for our experiences. Join Groundwork in studying Job 4-8 to examine and test against scripture our most common questions as we try to explain and understand experiences of suffering. Listen now at <https://groundwork.reframemedia.com/> and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Hollywood - Check out our children's programs at www.kidscorner.net. In this week's episode, "Hollywood," at the school play auditions, Liz acts like he's the star of the show! Will Hollywood Liz have everyone standing in applause or will he bring down the house? Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for future episodes. Download the Kid Corner puzzle and game giveaway Summer Fun Bible Activity Book. <https://kidscorner.net/activities>

Seeking God in Suffering - "Seeking God in Suffering" is a four-week, inspirational devotional series from Today. How do we respond when faced with difficulties? Let stories of grief, healing, and community inspire you to seek God in trials. Subscribe at <https://today.reframemedia.com/> Hard copy *Today* for July/August are available in the entryway to the office.