



FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

DENVER, COLORADO

Sunday, June 28, 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.*

*Welcome to worship! If you are new to First Church, thank you for joining us!
We would love to connect with you more. Please text "visitors" to 94000 so we can know how to get in touch.*

*For a playlist of the song videos for today's service, please click [here](#).
Please note that today's sermon is on Vimeo instead of Youtube, so you'll need to click the link in the worship order to access it.
If you are worshipping with others today, we urge you to share leadership by taking turns reading written prayers and texts out loud. If you are alone, we encourage you to read prayers, scripture texts, and declarations aloud as a reminder of your connection with the body of Christ. Suggested instructions for worship are written in italics. Readings for your group's leader are in normal font. Shared parts are printed in **bold**. May God fill you with joy and hope as you worship him today!*

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: As we worship today, we have the opportunity to set aside the many distractions of this world, and re-center our hearts and minds on our faithful God. Politicians, news agencies, advertisements, and our own desires and fears are all competing for our attention and our trust. Psalm 146 reminds us that our only true hope is in the Lord our God. If we put our trust in him, he will provide abundantly and care for all of our needs. Wherever we are, we join together now to declare the good news and hope we have in the Lord our God!

Song: [Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah!](#) LUYH 518

Renewal

Call to Confession: *Romans 6:15-18*

Our God is good and loving, but following Him is not always easy. Sometimes obeying His direction for our lives can be very hard. In these difficult times, we are often tempted to return to the ways of this world which appear to be easier. In Romans 6, Paul urges his readers to remain committed to God:

Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Prayer of Confession: *from Litanies and Other Prayers for the Revised Common Lectionary, Phyllis Cole and Everett Tilson.*

God has baptized us into Christ Jesus that we might walk in newness of life.
Yet we are daily tempted to tread the old paths
From this temptation, dear Lord, deliver us.
The grace of God increases in proportion to our sin.
So we are tempted to enlarge our transgressions that grace might abound.
From this temptation, dear Lord, deliver us.
We were not worthy of the love with which God in Christ redeemed us from sin.
Yet we are sorely tempted to reserve our love only for those who deserve it.
From this temptation, dear Lord, deliver us.
Jesus' victory over sin cost him shame, suffering, and a cross.
Yet we are tempted to think that his followers can lead a risk-free life.
From this temptation, dear Lord, deliver us.
The cross was the cost of his obedience to God.
Yet we are tempted to let him bear the cross alone, and let the rest of the world go free.
From this temptation, dear Lord, deliver us.
Give us the grace, dear Lord, to embrace the way of the cross even as we praise the Lord of the cross.
Amen.

Song of Assurance: [Your Grace Is Enough](#)

Offering: *One way we trust our faithful God is by giving our offerings to support the ministry he is doing in our community and around the world. 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!*

We are grateful to Rev. Craig Broek for providing our message for today! Craig leads a local ministry called "The Table", which forms relationships and cultivates faith in the community by growing and sharing food. You can learn more about their ministry [here](#).

Word

Scripture: Read [Genesis 22:1-14](#) before watching today's message.

Message: "[Surprise!](#)"

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

- Reflect on a time that you felt your faith was being tested. How did you respond?
- In times of testing, what have you learned about God? What did you learn about yourself?
- What might God be inviting you to put on the altar as a sacrifice?

Prayer: *In a moment of silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God. When the time is appropriate, conclude with this prayer:*

We withhold nothing from you, O Lord. Bless us on this journey of faith. Lead us, provide for us, and walk with us. Mold us into the image and way of Jesus, the perfect sacrifice for all. Amen.

Sending

Sending Song: [I Will Follow](#)

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 serve your neighbors.

IN ~ Disciple in Place

From the council – Congregational Vote

The Council of First CRC reports the following confirmations resulting from the June 2020 congregational vote. Thank you to the 97 members who submitted votes electronically or via paper ballot to church. Elder and Deacon nominations pass with majority, Kyle Van Anandel as Treasurer passes unanimously, General Fund budget passes with only 4 "no" votes, and CEAF support passes with only 6 "no" votes. Again, thank you to our outgoing Council members who have faithfully served for many years: Chris Lighthiser, Anne Buteyn, Cal Van Heukelem, James Timmer and Aaron Buys. We welcome fully and prayerfully support our new Council members for three year terms: Kyle Van Anandel, Milt Lanser, William Jensen, Davinia Lyons and Jill Newcombe. Council transition will take place during the month of July.

**A Google survey was sent out last Friday to capture your thoughts. Please take a few minutes this weekend 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 to the email 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:

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Up ~ Stay Connected

In July we target prayer for believers in India, Laos, Malaysia, Central Asia and the Middle East 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/2020/06/July-2020-PFA.pdf>

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.

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

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. <https://www.crcna.org/disability>

Office Updates:

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 be on vacation. Please contact Pastor Bret: bret@firstcrcdenver.org, or your GG Elder. Kyle Cooper for worship-related items.

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.

Check out the children's programs at <https://kidscorner.reframemedia.com/>.

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.