First Christian Church of Freedom

THE CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE / ESTABLISHED IN 1858

Combining
Traditional & Contemporary Worship

Knute Ogren, Pastor

October 4, 2026

Prelude

Centering

> "Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out, because this is your country. This is your democracy. Make it. Protect it. Pass it on."
>
> —Thurgood Marshall

Welcome to First Christian

Call to Worship Psalm 80

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.

You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.

The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches;

it sent out its branches to the sea
and its shoots to the River.

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray: Gracious God,
You sent Jesus to the world to protect your vineyard and care for your holy people. The way of Jesus is a way that invites others, shares with neighbors, and reconsiders long-held expectations. Jesus calls us to love so that we can honor you. Bless us with listening ears. We pray in a spirit of love. Amen.

Announcements

***Hymn: God Is Here**[1] #280

Reading: Isaiah: 5
Read by Jim Osborne

I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Reading: Philippians 3

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music: A Vineyard Grows[2]

Gospel: Matthew 21: 33-46

"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other

tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls. When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Wondering

Sermon

***Hymn:** The Church's One Foundation[3] #272

Prayers of the People

L: Lord in your mercy
C: hear our prayer

Offering

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Holy Communion
(Please stand)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O God. You created the heavens and the earth. You bring snow and rain to a thirsty world. You give sunlight and time to land so that your creation can eat. Harvests are plenty. Your people are fed. You nourish our bodies so that we can nourish the world with your mercy, justice, peace, and love. Your Spirit enters all spaces and places, equipping people with courage and strength. Your awesome power humbles the whole of creation, yet you meet us where we are with delicate tenderness. With all the saints who have come before, we praise you.
On the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, broke it, gave it to His disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to all to drink saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

In this meal, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

This is a holy feast for all people. If you wish to participate, you are invited! This is the Lord's Table. All are welcome.
The congregation comes forward to receive the gifts.
At First Christian, we have bread and we have gluten free crackers. In the cups, we have grape juice.
For those not wishing to receive communion today, an invitation of a blessing is offered. To the pastor, say, "Blessing." Adults accompanying children forward can assist the pastor with direction so that all are included in the manner in which each one wishes.
Come forward using the main aisle. Receive the bread (or blessing) from the pastor and eat it. Continuing to the deacon, receive the grape juice and drink it. Return to your seat using the side aisle, placing your cup in the basket on the front pew.

Communion Music: Come, Share the Lord[4] #408

Post-Communion Prayer:

Let us pray,
You fill us with gifts of love. You offer forgiveness. You give grace and goodness. You grant your mercy and compassion. Send us forth from this place with hearts for service and care. May people in this community be shaped by our desire to love and to serve. We pray in a spirit of love. Amen.

***Hymn:** God Dismiss Us With Your Blessing #439

Benediction *Traditional Irish Blessing*[5]

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
May the rains fall softly on your fields, and until we meet again,
May you keep safe in the gentle, loving arms of God.

Postlude

*Please stand, as you are able.

Visitors

We welcome your presence with us for worship this morning. Please sign the guestbook at the back of the church, and join us for coffee after the service in the Davidson Room.

Pastoral Visits

Should you want a pastoral visit or communion, please speak to Pastor Knute or one of the deacons. Also, if you notice that someone hasn't been in church for several weeks, please mention it to a deacon or the Pastor.

Deacons

Judy Blake, Ellie Bossdorf, Carol McIntire, Jim Osborne, Dianne Park, Marty Perreault, David Wilcox and Libby Wilcox, Martha Blaser, Eve Klotz and Bev Perry

Today in Church

Head Usher:	Mark McKinley
Coffee Hour:	Eve Klotz and Knute Ogren

The altar flowers are given by Eve Klotz in thanks for all God's Blessings.

This Week in Church

Tuesday	Choir Rehearsal	7 PM
Wednesday	Ladies Guild	9 AM - 2 PM
Thursday	Deacons Meeting	10 AM
Thursday	Italian Dinner	5 PM Takeout, 6 PM Dinner
Saturday	Food Pantry	10 AM
Sunday	Worship Service	10 AM

Name Tags

"What is in a name?
A name enhances social interaction by enabling, identification, fostering respect, and building rapport."

Coming Up

OCT 8 —Italian Dinner 2.0: Enjoy a mesmerizing feast put together by Glenn Kemper as a fundraiser for the church. There is a fixed ticket price, but we have some tickets set aside for those who will pay what they can. The most important thing is everyone sharing in a great meal together. 6 PM Dinner. 5 PM Takeout.

OCT 11 — "Here and Now" campaign response: This year's response goal (for support of the church in 2027) is 100 units. If we hear from 100 people/couples /families by OCT 11, we will reach our goal. In the coming weeks, you will hear about campaign details and will learn how to participate. Be thinking about how you can help in 2027 … $2 per week, $18 per week, $51 per week, $112 per week — there's an amount that works for everyone. Be on the lookout!

Prayer List

Family of Kathy Avery
Ellie Bossdorf
Nancy Bossi
John Bourque
Family of Sandy Boyle
Susan Brown
Family of Dorothy Brooks
Cecilia Costa
Family of Bill Elliott
Nancy Essex
Anna Hlushuk
Susan Jancetic
Grace Kull
Family of Melissa Maas
Family of Jean Marshall
Bob McKenny
David Meserve
Matthew Meserve
John Moceri
Gale Morris
Chuck Morrison
Kelley O'Connell
Wendell Packard
Marc Perreault
Bob Phinney
Henry Rodriguez
Nancy Sarden
Alan Scales
Family of Bob Smart
Dan Spear
Ellie Stokes
Jim Tracey
Robin Tyner
Family of Caitlin Veglia
Barbara Veglia
Libby Wilcox
Marjorie Works
My Grandchild

Our country's military personnel and their families, first responders and all those who serve the public good.

To ensure your prayer request is added to the list, please write down the information and place it in the offering plate or on the administrative assistant's desk. Also, please let us know if you wish to have a name removed from the list.

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