First Christian Church of Freedom

THE CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE / ESTABLISHED IN 1858



Combining
Traditional & Contemporary Worship

Knute Ogren, Pastor

November 8, 2026

Prelude

Centering

"Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe."

— Abraham Lincoln

Welcome to First Christian

Call to Worship Psalm 70: 4-5

Let all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you.

"God is great!"

Let those who love your salvation
say evermore,

"God is great!"

But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not delay!

"God is great!"

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray: Gracious God,
In all things, you are working. In all situations, you are present. In every moment, you show up with a readiness to act. Give us that same readiness when it comes to seeing you in our lives. Help us to point to your love, your faithfulness, and your goodness so that everyone can see your power and strength. We pray in a spirit of love. Amen.

Announcements

***Hymn:** O God of Vision[1] #288

Reading: Amos 5: 21-24
Read by Marty Perreault

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Read by Nadine Chapman

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Special Music: Keep your Lamps Trimmed and Burnin'[2]

Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women[a] took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil

with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

Wondering

Sermon

***Hymn:** Rejoice, Rejoice Believers Insert

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 Hymn: In Remembrance of Me[3] #403

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:** Be Still, My Soul[4] #566

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.

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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: Marty Perreault and Bev Perry

The altar flowers are given by Carole Ogren, "in honor of my Favorite."

Prayer List

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

Church Contact Information

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Visit freedomchurch.org to read today's Bulletin online.

Weekly Email Newsletter

If you are getting the E-News each Wednesday -- great!

Reading the E-News is essential for ensuring everyone is on the same page with all that is happening at First Christian. If you aren't yet receiving the weekly E-News, you can:

1. Scan this code with your smart phone and fill out the subscription form or:
2. Share your email with the church office using the visitor card in your (or neighboring) pew.

If you go with the second option -- please print carefully so that we get the email right. Thanks!"