First Christian Church of Freedom

THE CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE / ESTABLISHED IN 1858



***Combining***
***Traditional & Contemporary Worship***

*Knute Ogren, Pastor*

*November 22, 2026*

**Prelude**

**Centering**

"No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world."

~ Robin Williams

**Welcome to First Christian**

**Call to Worship** Psalm 95: 1-7a

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
**let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
**let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

For the Lord is a great God
**and a great King above all gods.**

In his hand are the depths of the earth;
**the heights of the mountains are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it,
**and the dry land, which his hands have formed.**

O come, let us worship and bow down;
**let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

For he is our God,
**and we are the people of his pasture**
**and the sheep of his hand.**

**Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray: Gracious God,
**You are our God. There is nothing in the world that matters more to us than knowing your love and care. Give us the words we need to share your love. Help us to invite others to experience your goodness. Plant joy in our hearts and do your work in the world. We pray in a spirit of love. Amen.**

**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**

**Announcements**

***Hymn:** Crown Him with Many Crowns #234

**Reading:** Ezekiel 34: 11-16; 20-24
*Read by Gail Spicer*

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will

feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

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

**Reading:** Ephesians 1: 15-23

*Read by Donna Tung*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated

him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

**Special Music:** We See Christ[1]

**Gospel**: Matthew 25: 31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw

you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

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

**Wondering — Got Sneakers?**

**Sermon**

***Hymn:** Come Now, You Blessed[2] 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.**

***Hymn:** Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun #95

**Benediction** *Traditional Irish Blessing*[3]

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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**Coming up:**

**Freedom Rings in the Holidays — NOV 21 all day**
**Freedom Turkey Trot — NOV 26 at 7:30 AM**
**Budget Forum — NOV 29 at 11:15 AM**
**Annual Meeting — DEC 6 at 11:15 AM**
**Jolly Holly Day in Freedom Village — DEC 12 all day**



## 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:** Gail Spicer

The altar flowers are given by Anne Furtado, in thanks for all God's Blessings.

## Prayer List

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

## Church Contact Information

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