

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church

Pastor John Knoester

April 23, 2017

GEMS Sunday

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

*** Please stand if you are able.**

“O love of God, how rich and pure!”

Prelude: Jill Klunder

Welcome/Announcements

*** Call to Worship: Psalm 108:1-5**

Leader: My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul.

People: Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.

Leader: I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations. I will sing of you among the peoples.

People: For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

Leader: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,

All: And let your glory be over all the earth.

*** Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #604:1-3 *“To God Be the Glory”***

1. To God be the glory, great things he has done;
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he has done.*

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

3. Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875, alt., P.D.; Music: William H. Doane, 1875, P.H.;
CCLI #678905

*** God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other**

* Opening Songs of Praise:

Reading of Romans 8:38-39

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“The Love of God” vs. 1-3

1. The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell; It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell; The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win; His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.

Refrain

*O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
the saints' and angels' song!*

2. When years of time shall pass away, and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall, when men, who here refuse to pray, on rocks and hills and mountains call, God's love so sure shall still endure, all measureless and strong; redeeming grace to Adam's race— the saints' and angels' song.

Refrain

3. Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made, were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade, to write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry; nor could the scroll contain the whole, tho' stretched from sky to sky.

Refrain

“The Love of God”; Text & Music: Frederick M. Lehman ©1917. Renewed 1945 by Nazarene Publish House. All rights reserved. Used by Permission: CCLI# 678905

“Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus” LUYH #796:1-3

1. Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free! Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me! Underneath me, all around me, is the current of thy love— leading onward, leading homeward, to thy glorious rest above!

2. Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus—spread his praise from shore to shore!
How he loves us, ever loves us, changes never, nevermore!
How he watches o’er his loved ones, died to call them all his own;
how for them he’s interceding, watching o’er them from the throne!
3. Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best!
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest!
Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus—'tis a heaven of heavens to me;
and it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee!

Words: Samuel Trevor Francis, ca. 1890, alt., P.D.; Music: Ebenezer; Thomas J. Williams, 1890, P.D.; CCLI #678905

“How measureless and strong!”

GEM’S Report: Marjo Rouw

GEM’S Slide Show

GEM’s Litany: *“Love Overflows”*

Leader: True love has one source—God. It’s who He is;
it’s what He does. God’s love overflows!

GEMS: *Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so!*

People: **We are thankful that God’s goodness and love follow us—they chase after, pursue, hound, and woo us all the days of our lives! Psalm 23:6**

Leader: Can you think of anything the world needs more than God’s love? Relationships are strained and broken. Words can cause damage and harm. And that’s the stuff close to home. Beyond our clubs and communities it’s more of the same.

ALL: **Everyone needs God’s love!**

Leader: And when we accept God’s pursuing love, it changes us. Receiving His love makes our love increase and overflow, too.

GEMS: *May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else just as ours does for you . (1 Thessalonians 3:12)*

People: **Jesus said: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself” . Matthew 22:37-38**

ALL: **Jesus said the greatest thing we can do is love God and love people—family, friends, and everyone else. From the overflow of His love, we love!**

GEM’S Theme Song: *“Your Love Never Fails”*

1. Higher than the mountains that I face.
Stronger than the power of the grave.
Constant in the trial and the change.
One thing remains. One thing remains.

Chorus

*Your love never fails, it never gives up,
it never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up,
it never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up,
it never runs out on me. Your love, Your love.*

2. On and on and on and on it goes.
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.
And I never, ever, have to be afraid.
One thing remains. One thing remains.

Chorus

*Your love never fails, it never gives up,
it never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up,
it never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up,
it never runs out on me. Your love, Your love.*

Your love never fails,
It never gives up, it never runs out on me.

Words and Music: Jeremy Riddle / Brian Johnson / Christa Black Gifford ;
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o/b/o Vineyard Music USA) (ASCAP) Bethel Music Publishing (ASCAP) /Christajoy Music Publishing (BMI); CCLI #678905

*Following the conclusion of the GEMS theme song children ages 3-1st grade
are dismissed to the Koinonia room for Children and Worship)*

Offering: General Fund

Second AM Offering: GEMS

Offertory: Julissa Oostra & Rayahna Oostra

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #685:1-3

"I Sought the Lord, and Afterward I Knew"

1. I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew
he moved my soul to seek him, seeking me;
it was not I that found, O Savior true;
no, I was found, was found of thee.
It was not I that found, O Savior true;
no, I was found, was found, of thee.
2. Thou didst reach forth thy hand and mine enfold;
I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea;
'twas not so much that I on thee took hold,
as thou, dear Lord, took hold on me.
'Twas not so much that I on thee took hold,
as thou, dear Lord, took hold on me.
3. I find, I walk, I love; but, oh, the whole
of love is but my answer, Lord, to thee!
For thou wert long beforehand with my soul;
always, always thou lovedst me.
For thou wert long beforehand with my soul;
always, always thou lovedst me.

Words: anonymous, 1878, P.D.; Music: Jean Sibelius (1865-1957), P.D. in the U.S. and Canada,
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“It shall forevermore endure-”

Scripture Readings: Read by a GEMS Student(s)
I Thessalonians 3:11-13 (pg. 1179)
Ephesians 3:14-21 (pg. 1158)

Message: ***“Love Overflows”***

Time of Prayer

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #695:1-4 ***“And Can It Be”***

1. And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Savior’s blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain—
for me, who caused his bitter death?
Amazing love! How can it be
that you, my Lord, should die for me?

Refrain

*Amazing love! How can it be
that you, my Lord, should die for me?*

2. He left his Father’s throne above—
so free, so infinite his grace—
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam’s helpless race!
What mercy this, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me!

Refrain

3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature’s night.
Your sunrise turned that night to day;
I woke—the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, your voice I knew;
I rose, went out, and followed you.

Refrain

4. No condemnation now I dread,
for Christ, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Refrain

Words: Charles Wesley, 1738, alt., P.D.; Music: Thomas Campbell, 1825, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

“The saints’ and angels song.”

* God’s Blessing

* Closing Song of Praise: LUYH #302:1-2 ***“Hear Our Praises”***

1. May our homes be filled with dancing,
may our streets be filled with joy.
May injustice bow to Jesus as the people turn and pray.

Refrain

*From the mountain to the valley,
hear our praises rise to you.
From the heavens to the nations,
hear our singing fill the air.*

2. May your light shine in the darkness
as we walk before the cross.
May your glory fill the whole earth
as the water over the seas.

Refrain x2

Words and Music: Reuben Morgan © 1998 Hillsong Publishing (APRA),
admin. US & Canada at EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI# 678905

* Postlude

Welcome! This is the day that the Lord has made. Worship is our opportunity to be glad and rejoice in the Lord's house on the Lord's Day. We come as the children of God, knowing that we are welcomed here where all are meant to be one in the Lord. Let us lay down our burdens and rejoice in the Lord for the Lord is good, the Source of love. After joining us in worship, join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

A video called "**The Disturbances**" will be shown this evening at 6:30 p.m. This is a documentary about the genocide in Nigeria 1966 and how this affected the missionaries living in the country at that time.

OUR CHURH FAMILY

You are invited to celebrate 60 years of marriage with **Hans & Aileen Meischke** on Saturday, April 29, from 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. at the Heather Village Community Center. No gifts please.

Dear Congregation,

Words cannot express the gratitude we feel, or how meaningful your support has been through my diagnosis and now treatment. Thank you for your prayers, words of encouragement and offers of help.

We are so glad to be a part of this family of God.

Sincerely,

Annette LeClair and Family

OUR CHURCH EVENTS

Choir will meet for practice today following the morning service.

The **Youth Group** will meet this evening at 7:45 p.m. in the Youth Group Room.

On Monday, April 24 the **Elders and Deacons** will meet at 7:00 p.m.

The **Cadets** will meet on Wednesday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. for a Nerf Battle and Ice Cream celebration.

The **Young at Heart** will meet for lunch on Thursday, April 27 at 12:30 p.m. at Denny's in Mount Vernon.

The Board of **Northwest Hispanic Ministry** invites you to a free dinner and a time to rejoice as Joe Strong shares how God is changing lives and building His kingdom here in Western Washington. Our banquet locations and times are Friday, **April 28th** at 6:00 p.m. First Christian Reformed Church, 701 W. Blackburn Rd., Mt. Vernon and Saturday, April 29th at 5:30 p.m. at Third Christian Reformed Church in Lynden. Reserve the date and plan to attend. Bring a friend. You will not be disappointed.

Hymnspiration: Next Sunday, April 30, at 4:00 p.m., our church will be hosting a "Hymnspiration". This will be an evening of singing Hymns for all ages. Plan to come for an evening of Praise and Worship with family and friends! Everyone is welcome!

Worship Team: A schedule will be put together soon for the Worship Team for months of May – August. If any children or adults would like to take part and be on a Worship Team, please let Sylvia know by Monday, April 24. Worship Teams practice on the Sunday morning they are scheduled to sing at 9:30 a.m. Call 336-2405 or e-mail secretary@firstcrcmv.com

FAMILY VISITING: The following is the family visiting schedule for **March & April 2017**. If your family is included in the list, please expect a call from the listed Elder to arrange the day and time for the visit. If you have questions about the schedule please call the listed Elder or call Henry Hammingh at 360-424-3019.

MARCH - APRIL 2017 FAMILY VISITS	
Elder	Family
Dave V	Jim & Michele Feddema
Dave V	Marge Eskes
Greg A	Keith & Jean Rasmussen
Greg A	Case Lanting
Greg B	Kevin & Glenda Kok
Greg B	Marjean De Groot
Henry H	Kermit & Julie Houck
Henry H	Hans & Aileen Meischke
Darrel L	Dave Visser
Darrel L	Hank & Anjean Vander Veen
Pastor John	Shirley Boonstra
Pastor John	Michelle De Kok
Dennis D	Jill Klunder
Dennis D	Sally Reehoorn

ADVANCED NOTICES

The **Evangelism** Committee will meet on Monday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Men's Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, May 3 at 6:30 a.m. at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington. We are studying the book of Revelation. You are welcome to join us.

GEMS will meet on Wednesday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m. This will be the Mother/Daughter Event and final meeting for the season.

Golden Hour will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 4. Bring a salad and share your favorite verse or passage in the Bible. This will be our last meeting for the season.

May 7 Worship Services: On Sunday morning, May 7 we have the privilege of welcoming Steve Gumear, the cofounder of Partners Relief and Development, who will be sharing with us their current work with vulnerable people groups (internally displaced, refugees, etc.) in countries such as Iraq, Syria, and Myanmar. Steve is currently in Mosul, Iraq, but will be in the Mount Vernon area visiting friends the weekend of the 7th. ... The May 7 evening service will be a special prayer service. During this service we will pray specifically for some of our loved ones who are currently battling cancer as well as for many other important cares and concerns in our community, country, and world. Please mark your calendars accordingly!

Mark your calendars! The dates and times are set for our 75th anniversary weekend, May 12-14, 2017. We plan to begin the festivities Friday the 12th at 7:00 p.m. with a program. Our former pastors will be sharing memories, along with singing and special music. There will be a time of fellowship afterwards. Saturday afternoon starting around 3:00 p.m. we will have a soup and buns picnic in the Commons at MVC. We will start with games, a time of fellowship, and then start eating about 5:00 p.m. There will be an open mic where anyone who wants to share a story can do so. If

anyone has family or knows former members that would like to come, please have them rsvp with Sylvia. On Sunday, the 14th, at 10:30 a.m. we will have a celebration worship service with our former pastors involved. There will be cake served following the service. If anyone has questions, you may contact Greg Boon or Melba DeKok.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

What Is Sheol? Where do we go when we die? Have God's people always believed in heaven and hell? Join Groundwork as we study Job 7 and Psalm 16 to explore our beliefs about life after death by reflecting on Old Testament beliefs about "Sheol" and how the reality of Jesus Christ emboldens our hope for more. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Future Forecast: In this brand new episode a storm is brewing because Spike is worried about his future. It's up to Liz to show Spike that God has got him covered and that everything looks bright. Start the conversation with "Power Tools: Taking a Stand Against Bullying", a free resource at www.kidscorner.net.

Available Free in the Digital Library: "Earthwise: A Guide to Hopeful Creation Care" is available free to all in the CRC through the Digital Library (crcna.org/Library). In this book, creation care scientist Calvin B. DeWitt shows how we can regain a joyful, positive attitude about working together for good and living in harmony with creation.

Run for Your Mum a 5K fun run and 2K walk will take place on May 13, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at Bakerview Park, Mount Vernon, WA. This is benefitting Pregnancy Choices. Call 360-428-4777 to register or go to: www.RunForYourMum.com

Love INC: On Friday, May 19, 2017 Love INC will have their Annual Banquet. If you are interested in attending, or would like to host a table, please contact the LOVE INC office at 360-419-7061 or call Sylvia at the church office (336-2405).

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you need or want some new Tupperware? Do you want to help fight social injustices like human trafficking but don't know how to help? If you said yes to either of these questions, this is the chance for you. Help fight human trafficking by purchasing Tupperware and have 40% of the earnings go to International Justice Mission. International Justice Mission is a faith based organization that helps fight human trafficking by rescuing people who are caught up in it. So take a peek and see if there is anything that you want, or purchase a gift for someone else. Tupperware is a great gift for newlyweds or for people going to college who need items for themselves. Just follow this link and check out the selection of items available. A \$50 order gives \$20 to IJM. The deadline is May 1. If you have any questions send an email to Kendall Van Zanten at kvanzanten2018@mvcstudt.org and I will try to get back to you as soon as possible. The link-> <http://www.tupperware.com/?undraiser=58f592402ea186cd2deeb527>

A.L.T.A. Dessert Theatre is presenting ***You Can't Take It with You*** on May 5,6,11,12,13 at 7:00 p.m. Matinees are at 2:30 p.m. on May 7 & 14 at Alger Community Church, 1475 Silver Run Lane, Bellingham (Alger) WA.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUN	11:45 pm	Choir Practice
	4:00 pm	Vida Nueva
	7:45 pm	Youth Group
MON	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
TUES	7:00 pm	Vida Nueva
WED	7:00 pm	Cadets
THURS	12:30 pm	Young at Heart Lunch at Denny's
FRI	6:00 pm	Northwest Hispanic Ministry Dinner

NURSERY:

Today: Infants & Toddlers

Michele Feddema, Rylee Kuipers, Hannah Van Hofwegen

Next Week: Infants & Toddlers

Jill Klunder, Carson Blom, Danielle Van Zanten

GREETERS:**Today:**

Rovers: Rich & Elly Cuperus

AM: GEMS

Next Week:

Rovers: Dennis & Melba De Kok

AM: Mardick & Jill Stevens, Minne & Trudy Van der Hoek

USHERS

Today: Henry Hammingh, Tim Hibma, Wiebe Van der Hoek

Next Week: Henry Van Zanten, Jr., Kendall Van Zanten, Larry Greidanus

SOUND SYSTEM

Today: Mardick Stevens

Next Week: Kendall Van Zanten **Hymnspiration:** Tim Hibma

PROJECTION

Today: Kendall Van Zanten

Next Week: Tim Hibma **Hymnspiration:** Kendall Van Zanten

VIDEO TAPING

Today: Tim Hibma

Next Week: Mike Hibma

CHILDREN & WORSHIP**Today:**

Teacher: Heather Van Hofwegen

Assistants: Johnna Van der Hoek, Devin Van Zanten

Next Week:

Teacher: Michele Feddema

Assistants: Julie Speck, Jack Hammingh

LIBRARY:

Today: Jean Rasmussen

Next Week: Michelle De Kok

COFFEE HOSTS

Today: John & Dena Klunder, Kevin & Glenda Kok, Darin & Michelle Kuipers

Next Week: Joe & Annette LeClair, Aileen Meischke, Robert & Andy Pippel

Cookies: Kylie Boon, Shirley Boonstra, Brooke Knoester

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: Alice De Vries, Marjean De Groot

Next Week: Vida Nueva

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Next Week: None

OFFERING: April 30, 2017

AM: Denominational Ministry Shares

6:30 P.M. Worship Service

Pianist

Welcome/Announcements

Prayer for Worship

Videos – *“The Disturbances”*

Time of Discussion

Offering: Pregnancy Choices

* God’s Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #965 *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*



People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Call the church office at (336-2405) or e-mail: secretary@firstcrcmv.com by Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Continue to pray for **Annette LeClair** as she is dealing with cancer. Pray for healing for Annette and strength for each day. Pray that the treatments will be effective.

Betty Postma started her chemotherapy this past Thursday. She is still very weak and struggling with shortness of breath. Please continue to keep Betty in your prayers in the days and weeks ahead.

Continue to pray for those who have recently lost a loved one.

SHUT INS:

Nell Annema at Creekside in Burlington, **Grace Faber** at home in Mount Vernon; **Helena Kuiper** at Creekside in Burlington; **Mary Koopmans** at home in Mount Vernon; **Adrianna Swanson** at Creekside in Burlington; **Bev Van Slageren** at home in Clear Lake, **Duane Van Dyke** at Where the Heart Is in Burlington, **Chris Van Sweden** at Country Meadows in Sedro-Woolley, and **Rena Wester** at the Lynden Manor.

PRAISE:

Hans & Aileen Meischke will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this Wednesday, April 26. We thank God for providing them with 60 years together. Congratulations.

OTHER CONCERNS:

Please pray for **Marty Paul**, Wilma Paul's son, as he has recently been diagnosed with stage 4 melanoma. Marty and his wife Jenny live in southern California and are waiting for final lab results to find out if there are any treatment options available. Your prayers for their family are also appreciated. Thank you."

World Renew: Mozambique - Mozambique's annual population growth rate of 2.5 percent is straining the country's food resources. With help from the Canadian government, World Renew is implementing a five-year program to enhance food security, stimulate sustainable economic growth, and build community capacity. Please pray for positive results through this program.

Urban Aboriginal Ministries: Indigenous children - The number of Indigenous children in foster care continues to climb. Please pray that healthy families may have enough support so that children can stay in their birth homes. Pray also for good foster homes that will honor Indigenous children's heritage and raise them with love and care.

World Renew: Senegal - We give thanks for 107 youth who have participated in vocational training through the Adolescent Health and Rights Program in Senegal. Young girls have learned new skills in tailoring, hair styling, nursing, and catering. With these skills they can find good jobs and earn an income to help support their families. Praise God for their growth!

Christian Reformed Home Missions: North Oshawa church plant, Seattle, Wash. - Pastor Jana Koh challenges believers to do something experimental in the name of Jesus Christ, especially in new churches or new initiatives in churches—experimentation is important as a means of discipleship. As followers of Christ, may we all step out into our neighborhoods and communities to serve as well.

Back to God Ministries International: Haiti - Praise God that more than 450 Bible study correspondence booklets have been distributed to participants in Haiti. Pray that the Haitian volunteers who read and evaluate the lessons will be an encouragement to all who are seeking to know God and his Word.

Christian Reformed World Missions: Nicaragua - Missionaries Joni and Jessie Rodriguez are connecting Christian business people in Nicaragua with small and midsize businesses enrolled in the Kingdom Business Program. Pray that through their efforts, we will help Indigenous people develop strategic alliances to sell their products and services, learn how to compete in national and global markets, and create accounting systems to grow and track their success.

Safe Church Ministry: Circle of Grace - April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month in the United States. Pray that our congregations may acknowledge the serious problem of child abuse and become part of the solution to end it. Pray that more congregations will implement the Circle of Grace program, which helps children and youth become active participants in creating a safe environment for themselves and others.