

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

February 26, 2017

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

“Amazing grace – how sweet the sound”

Prelude: Sylvia Van Zanten

Ministry of Music: Sunday School Students

“One Door”

One door and only one and yet its sides are two.
Inside and outside on which side are you?

One door and only one and yet its sides are two,
I'm on the inside on which side are you?

Hal Wright | Karen Mitzo Hilderbrand | Kim Mitzo Thompson
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“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

1. I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus-
No turning back, no turning back.
2. The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me-
No turning back, no turning back.
3. Though none go with me, I still will follow,
Though none go with me, I still will follow
Though none go with me, I still will follow-
No turning back, no turning back.
4. Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
No turning back, no turning back.

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” Words and Music Anonymous

Welcome

*** Call to Worship: Psalm 118:22-24**

*** Opening Hymn: LUYH #538:1-4 *“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”***

1. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
who wert and art and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye made blind by sin Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Sing Acappella

4. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name,
in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Words: Reginald Heber; Music: John B. Dykes;
Descant: David McK. Williams; Public Domain; CCLI# 678905

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

* Opening Songs of Praise:

Reading of Ephesians 1:17-19a

"Open the Eyes of My Heart" LUYH #537

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;
open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see you, I want to see you.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;
open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see you, I want to see you.

To see you high and lifted up,
shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your power and love,
as we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy. I want to see you.

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy. I want to see you.

Words and Music: Paul Baloche © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), admin. EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI #678905

"Behold, What Manner of Love" P.P. #6 (2x)

Behold, what manner of love the Father has given unto us,
Behold, what manner of love the Father has given unto us;
That we should be called the sons of God,
That we should be called the sons of God.

"Behold, What Manner of Love" Patricia Van Tine ©1978 Maranatha! Music CCLI#678905

"Jesus, Name Above All Names" P.P. #200 (2x)

Jesus, name above all names: Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

"Jesus, Name Above All Names" Naida Hearn, © 1974, 1978 Scripture in Song. Admin. by Maranatha! Music CCLI# 678905

*During the singing of the last song, children ages 3-first grade
are dismissed to the Koinonia room for Children & Worship.*

“That saved a wretch like me!”

Announcements

Call to Confession: Psalm 94:9-11a

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: Isaiah 42:5-9

God’s Will for Our Lives: Hebrews 12:1-3

Song of Response: P.P. #177 ***“Make Me a Servant”***

Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
and may the prayer of my heart always be:
make me a servant, make me a servant,
make me a servant today.

“Make Me a Servant” Kelly Williard ©1982 Marantha! Music/Willing Heart Music CCLI# 678905

Offering: General Fund

* Song of Preparation: P.P. #229 ***“Open Our Eyes, Lord”***

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,
open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

“Open Our Eyes” Bob Cull, ©1976 Maranatha! Music CCLI# 678905

“I once was lost but now am found,”

Scripture Reading: John 9:1-38 (pg. 1061) Read by Greg Boon

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind”***

Time of Prayer

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #691:1-5 ***“Amazing Grace”***

1. Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.
2. ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
3. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
’tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Words: st. 1-4 John Newton, 1779, st. 5 A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, P.D.

Music: Virginia Harmony, 1831; adapt. and harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

"Was blind, but now I see."

* Benediction

* Closing Song of Praise: LUYH #956 ***"To God Be the Glory"***

To God be the glory,
to God be the glory,
to God be the glory for the things he has done!
With his blood he has saved me,
with his power he has raised me—
to God be the glory for the things he has done!

Words and Music: André Crouch © 1971 Bud John Songs (ASCAP), admin. at EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI #678905

* Postlude

Welcome to the House of the Lord! We have come to bring our worship to our God. May we do so in our singing, praying, giving, preaching and listening. May God be glorified. After the morning service all are invited to the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

OUR CHURCH EVENTS

Today you will have opportunity to sign up to bring a casserole or dessert for the **Friendship House** on Wednesday, March 8. Servers are also needed. There will be a table in the Fellowship Hall where you can sign up and pick up a recipe. Monetary donations are accepted also. Any questions? Give Glenda Kok a call.

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

The **Elders & Deacons** will meet on Monday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m.

The **75th Anniversary Committee** will meet on Tuesday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m.

GEMS will meet on Wednesday, March 1 at 6:30 pm.

Classis Pacific Northwest will meet at First CRC in Mount Vernon on Thursday, March 2 at 9:00 a.m.

The **Nominating Committee** for elders and deacons will be meeting soon. Should you have someone you wish to be nominated for elder or deacon, please put their name in the offering bag, the suggestion box by the council room or give their name to one of the following committee members by **TODAY**: Tim Van Hofwegen, Jack Van Klaveren, Dave Visser, Brian Doss, Henry Hammingh, Brad De Kok. Greg Ackermann and Dave Visser will be retiring as Elders and Randy Burr, Brian Doss, and Fred Folkertsma will be retiring as Deacons.

Survey: A few weeks ago our church was asked to participate in an important denominational survey. Please be assured that the information gathered from you will be kept strictly confidential. More information can be found by copying and pasting this address: https://www.crcna.org/sites/default/files/crcna_survey_flyer.pdf. We encourage you to participate in this survey by copying and pasting to the following link: [crcna.org/survey/7861](https://www.crcna.org/survey/7861). So far, we have had 15 participants do the survey. They would like our church to have at 30. Please take the time and do the survey. Thank you so much in participating.

Vida Nueva is looking for 2 people to help twice a month on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Please call Sylvia (336-2405) at the church office if you are interested.

FAMILY VISITING: The following is the family visiting schedule for **January & February 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.

Elder	Family
Dave V	Elaine Hammingh
Dave V	Jack & Trudy Van Klaveren
Greg A	Dennis & Melba DeKok
Greg A	Alice De Vries
Greg B	Bob & Andy Pippel
Greg B	Bev Van Slageren
Henry H	Corey & Tawnya Eelkema
Henry H	Wilma De Boer
Darrel L	Duane & Trudy Van Dyke
Darrel L	Martha Haarsma
Pastor John	Todd Klunder
Pastor John	Darin & Michelle Kuipers
Dennis D	Daniel & Briana Vander Kooy
Dennis D	Brandon & Julie Speck

ADVANCED NOTICES

The **Building Committee** will meet on Monday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Men's Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30 a.m. at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington. We are studying the book of Revelation. You are welcome to join us.

The **Northwest Hispanic Committee** will meet on Wednesday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m.

The **Cadets** will meet on Wednesday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Golden Hour will not meet on Thursday, **March 2** due to Classis being at First CRC. We will meet again on March 9 at 1:30 p.m. Study James 5:7-12.

A FAMILY SKATING PARTY is being sponsored by the GEMS and Cadet Clubs on Tuesday, March 14 from 6:30 - 8:30 P.M. at Skagit Skate in Burlington. Put it on your calendar and join the fun! Bring the whole family--even babies in strollers can be wheeled around the rink. Invite your friends and neighbors. Everyone is welcome! Enjoy great fellowship, great exercise and great family fun. Come and help support our programs at the same time. (Cost: \$5 for skates; \$6 for inline skates.)

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Donations for Neighbors in Need: Next week, August 3, you will have opportunity again to bring your donations of canned and non-perishable items for the food drive for "Neighbors in Need". Please bring your donations in the morning or evening to the church and place them in the basket located in the foyer and the Fellowship Hall.

From Emptiness to Fullness: Many of us can empathize with the bitter, empty Naomi we meet as the book of Ruth opens. Everything in life seems to have gone wrong. Join us as we study Ruth 4 to see how staying faithful and trusting God's providence can bring us back to fullness, even when it seems impossible. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Tommy Twotoad: There's a new lizard in town, and he asks a lot of questions. Questions. Questions. And more questions. How do Liz and his friends respond? Subscribe for free at getkidscorner.com. As you and your family prepare for Easter, download The Family Lent devotional available at www.kidscorner.net.

Focus on the Cross: "So, what are you giving up for Lent?" Has anybody ever ask you that question? Lent does involve self-denial, but it's much more. It's a season to focus on the hope of Jesus Christ. Receive a free Today Devotional series to help you refresh, refocus, and renew your faith during Lent. Subscribe at todaydevotional.com/lent.

Available Free in the Digital Library - "The Day of Christ's Return: What the Bible Teaches, What You Need to Know" is available free to all in the CRC through the Digital Library (crcna.org/Library). In this book, Andrew Kuyvenhoven sorts out fact from fiction, offering a Reformed perspective on the rapture, the millennium, dispensationalism, the antichrist, the tribulation, and more.

Tom Green, Trainer/Coach with **Organic Outreach International**, will be presenting a one day workshop helping local churches catch the vision of how Organic Outreach can be implemented in a church wide strategy. Participants will leave with clear steps to begin raising the outreach influence in their church to impact their community with Christ's love. This will take place on Saturday, March 11 from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. at Faith Community Church at 10220 238th St. SW, Edmonds, WA. For tickets and more information visit: tinyurl.com/organicoutreach or call 206-542-8883.

Do you feel stuck in unhealthy behaviors you find difficult to give up? Or love someone who's stuck? Join Alan and Amy Muia at Crossroads Covenant Church on Saturday March 25 for the Recovery for Everyone one-day seminar. Sponsored by New Earth Recovery. For more information visit www.NERecovery.org

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.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUN	4:00 pm	Vida Nueva
	7:45 pm	Youth Group
MON	7:00 pm	Elders & Deacons Meet
TUES	7:00 pm	75th Anniversary Committee
	7:00 pm	Vida Nueva
WED	6:30 pm	GEMS
THURS	9:00 am	Classis Pacific Northwest

NURSERY:

Today: Infants & Toddlers

Wendy Heino, Allie Heino, Devin Van Zanten

Next Week: Infants & Toddlers

Annette LeClair, DJ Droog, Victoria Heino

GREETERS:

Today:

Rovers: Keith & Jean Rasmussen

AM: Jeannette Folkertsma, Jill Klunder, Steve & Teci Greydanus

Next Week:

Rovers: Larry & Margaret Vander Pol

AM: Larry & Maxine Greidanus, Woody & Wendy Heino

USHERS

Today: Tim Van Hofwegen, Darin Kuipers, Larry Greidanus

Next Week: Henry Hammingh, Kermit Houck, Wiebe Van der Hoek

SOUND SYSTEM

Today: Kendall Van Zanten

Next Week: Mardick Stevens

PROJECTION

Today: Tim Hibma

Next Week: Nathan Van Beek

VIDEO TAPING

Today: DJ Droog

Next Week: Tim Hibma

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Today:

Teacher: Heather Van Hofwegen

Assistants: Johnna Van der Hoek, Carson Blom

Next Week:

Teacher: Heather Van Hofwegen

Assistants: Julie Speck, Kendall Van Zanten

LIBRARY:

Today: Elly Cuperus

Next Week: Melba De Kok

COFFEE HOSTS

Today: Marinus & Jill Rouw, Minne & Trudy Van der Hoek, Larry & Margaret Vander Pol

Cookies: Jayne Hammingh, Sunee Lagerwey, Juli Oostra

Next Week: Henry & Anjean Vander Veen, Bryan & Deanna Van Beek, Jack & Trudy Van Klaveren

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: Marjean De Groot, Alice De Vries

Next Week: Jayne Hammingh, Jack Hammingh

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Next Week: Tim Van Hofwegen

Accompanist: Shirley Boonstra

OFFERING: March 5, 2017

AM: General Fund

PM: Tierra Nueva

6:30 P.M. Worship Service

Pianist: Sylvia Van Zanten

Welcome/Announcements

Prayer for Worship

Opening Songs of Praise: Led by Henry Kuipers

"Precious Lord Take My Hand" LUYH #465:1,3

"Not What My Hands Have Done" LUYH #624:1,3

"Nearer, Still Nearer " LUYH #659:1,4

Catechism Reading: Lord's Day 18 Q&A 46-48

Q. 46 What do you mean by saying, "He ascended to heaven"?

A. **That Christ, while his disciples watched, was lifted up from the earth to heaven¹ and will be there for our good² until he comes again to judge the living and the dead.³**

¹ Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:9-11

² Rom. 8:34; Eph. 4:8-10; Heb. 7:23-25; 9:24

³ Acts 1:11

Q. 47 But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as he promised us?¹

A. **Christ is truly human and truly God. In his human nature Christ is not now on earth;² but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit he is never absent from us for a moment.³**

¹ Matt. 28:20

² Acts 1:9-11; 3:19-21

³ Matt. 28:18-20; John 14:16-19

Q. 48 If his humanity is not present wherever his divinity is, then aren't the two natures of Christ separated from each other?

A. **Certainly not. Since divinity is not limited and is present everywhere,¹ it is evident that Christ's divinity is surely beyond the bounds of the humanity he has been taken on, but at the same time his divinity is in and remains personally united to his humanity.²**

¹ Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 7:48-49 (Isa. 66:1)

² John 1:14; 3:13; Col. 2:9

Scripture Readings: Various Texts

Message: ***"The Uniting of Heaven and Earth"***

Time of Prayer

Offering: Partners Relief & Development

Song of Application: LUYH #899:1-3 ***"Seek Ye First"***

* 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.

NEW CONCERNS:

Please pray for **Annette LeClair** who was recently diagnosed with cancer. There are a lot of unanswered questions right now, but Annette will be undergoing many more tests in the days and weeks to come so that the doctors can better determine the specific type of cancer and the best way to go about treating it. In the meantime, please pray for the entire LeClair family as they anxiously await the results and begin making preparations for the treatment plan.

Aileen Meischke recently fell and has a cracked rib and bruised hip. Pray for complete healing for her.

We express our sympathy to **Henry & Sharon Kuipers and Family** in the recent passing away of Henry's brother, John Kuipers. Pray for God's peace in this time of loss. A service will be held on Saturday, March 4 at 1:00 pm at the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, 1511 E. Broadway, Mount Vernon, across from the hospital.

SHUT INS:

Nell Annema at Creekside in Burlington, **Grace Faber** at home in Mount Vernon; **Helena Kuiper** at Mira Vista in Mount Vernon; **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.

OTHER CONCERNS:

Urban Aboriginal Ministries: Sharing - New initiatives to foster Christian leadership development are happening within the Urban Aboriginal Ministries of the CRC. These are necessary so that the gospel may be shared in a manner that is culturally relevant, celebrating the gifts our Creator God has given to First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples. Pray that people will learn and grow in a way that will enable many to know and celebrate the life and love of Jesus, our Savior.

Christian Reformed Home Missions: Board meetings - We praise God for the time and energy put in by our board members throughout the year. Several boards meet in February, so please pray for them as they serve our agencies.

Christian Reformed World Missions: West Africa - Nomadic herders in West Africa want control of some lands traditionally owned and held by farmers. Authorities have often seemed slow to defend lives and to restore security for rebuilding in these grieving, farm-based communities. Pray for restraint and for the healing of this violent conflict in West Africa.

Centre for Public Dialogue: Love and justice - "Justice is what love looks like in public" (Cornel West). Lord, inspire us to greater love for all your children. Draw us close to your heart and teach us your ways. We can love only because of the love you first lavish on us, your children.

Back to God Ministries International: North America - Praise God that the Today devotions are making an impact on the lives of inmates. Emory, a reader in jail, writes, "I share Today with five other men in our prayer group. We even have talks about what we have read. It's not only a blessing for me; it's helping others also." Pray that these men will continue to grow in faith.

Safe Church Ministry: Transitions - Pray for safe church teams as we transition into a new year. Pray that we may fill a vacant staff position for a new Safe Church Associate quickly and transition into fruitful work, focusing on safe church team development across North America.

World Renew: Honduras - World Renew is working with the Association for a More Just Society and Christian Reformed World Missions to teach young people values and vocational skills; it is motivating young people to raise their voices in

advocacy in their communities. Young people from four communities in Tegucigalpa have been able to hold marches for peace and campaigns for reforestation, for the protection of animals, and against domestic violence. Praise God!