

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

March 19, 2017

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

“Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,”

Prelude: Sylvia van Zanten

Welcome and Announcements

*** Opening Prayer:**

Pastor: Jesus Christ, you come to transfigure us
and renew us in the image of God:

People: shine in our darkness.

Pastor: Jesus Christ, light of our hearts, you know our thirst:

People: lead us to the wellspring of your gospel.

Pastor: Jesus Christ, light of the world, you shine in every human being:

People: enable us to discern your presence in each person.

Pastor: Jesus Christ, friend of the poor:

People: open in us the gates of simplicity so that we can welcome you.

Pastor: Jesus Christ, gentle and humble of heart:

People: renew in us the spirit of childhood.

Pastor: Jesus Christ, you send your church to prepare your path in the world:

People: open for all people the gates of your kingdom. Amen.

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*** Call to Worship: Isaiah 9:2**

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light
has dawned.

*** Opening Hymn: LUYH #667:1-3 “Christ, Whose Glory Fill the Skies”**

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true and only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o’er the shade of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

2. Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee
joyless is the day’s return till thy mercy’s beams I see,
till they inward light impart glad my eyes and warm my heart.

3. Visit, then, this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day!

Words: Charles Wesley, 1740, P.D.; Music: Charles E. Gounod (1818-1893); 1872, P.D.; 678905

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

* Opening Songs of Praise:

Read John 8:12

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

"Here I Am to Worship" LUYH #567:1-2

1. Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore you,
hope of a life spent with you.

Refrain

*Here I am to worship; here I am to bow down;
here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.*

2. King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above.
Humbly you came to the earth you created,
all for love's sake became poor.

Refrain

Bridge

*I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.
I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.*

Refrain

Words and Music: Tim Hughes; acc. Ed Bolduc © 2001 Thankyou Music, admin.
EMICMGPublishing.com (excl. Europe which is admin. by Kingswaysongs; CCLI #678905)

"Shine, Jesus, Shine" P.P. #259:1-3

1. Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth You now bring us,
shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus:

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, River, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

2. Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
from the shadows into Your radiance;
by the blood I may enter Your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

3. As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,
so our faces display Your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirror'd here may our lives tell Your story,
shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

I John 1:7 Graham Kendrick, ©1987 Make Way Music, Ltd. CCLI #678905

During the last verse the children are invited to come forward for the Children's Message.

“Opened my eyes, let me see.”

Children's Message: Led by Marjo Rouw

Song of Assurance: LUYH #125:1-2 ***“Jesus the Lord Said, I Am the Bread”***

1. Jesus the Lord said, “I am the bread;
the bread of life for the world am I.
The bread of life for the world am I;
the bread of life for the world am I.”
Jesus the Lord said, “I am the bread;
the bread of life for the world am I.”
2. Jesus the Lord said, “I am the light;
the one true light of the world am I.
The one true light of the world am I;
the one true light of the world am I.”
Jesus the Lord said, “I am the light;
the one true light of the world am I.”

Words: st. 1-5 anonymous Urdu, tr. C. Dermott Monahan (1906-1957)

© 1969 Christian Conference of Asia, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.; st. 6-7 Bert Polman

b. 1945); based on "I Am" passages in the Gospel of John © 2001 Faith Alive Christian Resources;

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

Offering: General Fund

Offertory: Danielle Van Zanten

* Song of Preparation: ***“The Risen Christ”***

1. O Breath of God, come fill this place,
revive our hearts to know Your grace;
and from our slumber make us rise;
that we may know the risen Christ.
2. O Word of God, so clear and true,
renew our minds to trust in You;
and give to us the Bread of Life;
that we may know the risen Christ.
3. O love of God, so unrestrained,
refresh our souls, in Jesus' name;
let us reflect Your sacrifice;
that we may know the risen Christ.
4. May God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, make us one;

in holiness let us unite;
that we may know the risen Christ.

Music by Keith Getty; Words by Phil Madeira; © 2003 Thankyou Music
(Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Phil Madeira Music (Admin. by Fun Attic Music, LLC); CCLI #678905

“Beauty that made this heart adore you,”

Scripture Readings: Exodus 13:17-22 (pg. 67); John 8:12-20 (pg. 1059)
Read by Mardick & Jill Stevens

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“I Am – The Light of the World”***

Time of Prayer

“Hope of a life spent with you.”

* Hymn of Application: LYUH #727:1-3 ***“Christian Hearts in Love United”***

1. Christian hearts in love united:
search to know God’s holy will.
Let his love, in us ignited,
more and more our spirits fill.
Christ the head, and we his members—
we reflect the light he is.
Christ the master, we disciples—
he is ours, and we are his.
2. Grant, Lord, that with your direction,
“Love each other” we comply.
Help us live in true affection,
your love to exemplify.
Let our mutual love be glowing
brightly so that all may view
that we, as on one stem growing,
living branches are in you.
3. Come, then, living church of Jesus,
covenant with him anew.
Unto him who conquered for us
may we pledge our service true.
May our lives reflect the brightness
of God’s love in Jesus shown.
To the world we then bear witness:
we belong to God alone.

Words: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1723, tr. composite, P.D.; Music: Moravian Chorale Book manuscript, Herrnhut, 1735, P.D.

* Benediction

* Doxology: LYUH #859:1-4 ***“Be Thou My Vision”***

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.
3. Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only first in my heart,
high king of heaven, my treasure thou art.
4. High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Irish hymn, 8th c; tr. Mary E. Byrne; vers. Eleanor H. Hull,
Music: Irish melody; arr. Jack Schrader; © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. CCLI#678905

* Postlude

Welcome! Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy." Those are the words of the psalmist in Psalm 5:11. Whoever you are, wherever you are from, we welcome you and we invite you to "be glad" with us about God's goodness and mercy. Let us "ever sing for joy" and praise God with profoundly grateful hearts. 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.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We express our sympathy to **Jill Haagsma & family** in the recent passing away of Hank Haagsma on March 11. May God continue to give strength and comfort in the days ahead.

The family of **John Kuipers, Jr.** would like to express their "Thanks" to the MVCRC family for all their prayers, cards and support during John's illness and to the family at his passing.

OUR CHURCH EVENTS

Choir will meet after the service today for practice.

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

The **Men's Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, March 22 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 annual **Pinewood Derby Race** will be held on Wednesday, March 22 (the normal Cadet meeting night). The races will be held at MVC Elementary Gym. Check in will begin at 6:00 p.m. Cars will be weighed and checked in. Pizza will be delivered at 6:30 p.m. and races will begin at 7:00 p.m. Trophies will be awarded for speed and looks. An Open Class race (weights of cars not restricted to 5oz) will follow the Cadet division so bring your fastest and best looking cars to show the boys that the fun continues from generation to generation.

The **Young at Heart** will meet for their monthly lunch at Denny's in Mount Vernon on Thursday, March 23 at 12:30 p.m.

75th Anniversary: If you have any historical photos of First CRC from its beginning in 1942 to the present day, the 75th Anniversary Committee would like to use them during our weekend of celebration on May 12-14, 2017. If you are willing to allow the use of or copies of your photos, please label them with your name and drop them off at the church office or put them mailbox #19 (Greg Boon) before April 1. Examples: Fellowship Hall (first place of worship); building of the church or education wing; society members; organ installation; parsonages, pastors, Bible study groups, church picnics, VBS, GEMS, Cadets, etc. If you know the dates of important events in the life of First CRC, please put that information in mailbox #19 or leave at the church office.

Easter Lilies and Bibles: Once again members are invited to place an Easter lily or a Gideon Bible in memory of a loved one. If you would like to order a lily please call or leave a message for Sylvia at the church office (336-2405) by Monday morning, April 9. Cost for the lily is not known yet. Bibles can be ordered through Tuesday, April 11, and can be purchased for \$5.00. Make checks payable to the First Christian Reformed Church and turn the money into the church office. Lilies may be taken home after the Easter services.

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

Blood Draw: A blood draw will be held on Monday, March 26, from 12:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. (closed from 2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.) at First CRC Church in the Fellowship Hall.

Our **Church Potluck** will be held on Sunday, April 6, after the morning service. Please bring a 9x13 inch hot dish (enough to feed 12-15), and salad or dessert. Table service is provided as well as juice and coffee.

Save the Date: Our Good Friday Service will be held on April 14 at 7:00 p.m.

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.

HYMN SING: COMING SOON - Sunday, April 30, at 4:00, 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!

Save the Date: Mariner's Game on June 23.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

With Me in Paradise: Jesus speaks his third word from the cross to the man we usually call the penitent thief, who died on a cross next to Jesus. Join our Groundwork conversation on Luke 23:32-43 to discover how Jesus defines salvation in its simplest terms and the promise Jesus is ready to give us, if we make our request. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Follow My Gecko: The Social Media buzz is hitting Terrene! And everyone is on board...except Lucille. She doesn't see the point, until she meets the creator. Subscribe for free at getkidscorner.com. Find more great resources for kids and parents at kidscorner.net. This month's offer includes an Easter story puppet show craft.

Available Free in the **Digital Library** - "The Heidelberg Catechism, 450th Anniversary Edition" is available free to all in the CRC through the Digital Library (crcna.org/Library). This edition offers a fresh and accurate translation of the historic confession that has become an anchor for faith for generations of Christians.

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

Mount Vernon Christian School Preschool & Kindergarten Night, Tuesday, March 21, 2017 6:30-8:00 PM. Join us as we open our doors for a preview of our Preschool and Kindergarten programs. Prospective families are invited to see all that Mount Vernon Christian School has to offer. Please RSVP by Friday, March 17 by either calling the office at 360-424-9157 or emailing Beth at bjones@mountvernonchristian.org

Open House & Campus Tour, Wednesday, March 22, 2017 10:00-11:30 am or 1:00-2:30 pm. Mount Vernon Christian School invites prospective families and students to tour our facilities on a regular school day to see firsthand all that MVC has to offer. You will have the opportunity to meet students and teachers, ask questions and grow in your understanding of MVCS. Please RSVP by either calling the office at 360-424-9157 or emailing Beth at bjones@mountvernonchristian.org

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

SUN	11:45 am	Choir Practice
	4:00 pm	Vida Nueva
	7:45 pm	Youth Group
TUES	7:00 pm	Vida Nueva
WED	6:30 am	Men's Bible Study at Shari's
	6:00 pm	Cadet Pinewood Car Derby at MVCS
THURS	12:30 pm	Young at Heart Lunch at Denny's

Today: Infants & Toddlers

Julie Houck, Emma Droog, Kaeli Houck

Next Week: Infants & Toddlers

Juli Oostra, Jase Hilsinger, Rayahna Oostra

GREETERS:

Today:

Rovers: Rich & Elly Cuperus

AM: Clarence & Eleanor Klunder, John & Dena Klunder

Next Week:

Rovers: Dennis & Melba De Kok

AM: Rich Knight, Kevin & Glenda Kok

USHERS

Today: Darin Kuipers, Wiebe Van der Hoek, Larry Greidanus

Next Week: Tim Van Hofwegen, Kermit Houck, Henry Hammingh

SOUND SYSTEM

Today: Tim Hibma

Next Week: Kendall Van Zanten

PROJECTION

Today: Kendall Van Zanten

Next Week: Devin Van Zanten

VIDEO TAPING

Today: DJ Droog

Next Week: Tim Hibma

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Today:

Teacher: Marjo Rouw

Assistants: Brooke Knoester, Cody Hilsinger

Next Week:

Teacher: Sue Blom

Assistants: Beth Boon, Josh Hammingh

LIBRARY:

Today: Jean Rasmussen

Next Week: Michelle De Kok

COFFEE HOSTS

Today: Greg & Tish Ackermann, Dennis & Melba De Kok, Michelle De Kok

Next Week: Hank & Sylvia Van Zanten, Alice De Vries, Wayne & Rhea Doss

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: Betty Postma & Jill Haagsma

Next Week: Marjean De Groot, Alice De Vries

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Next Week: Kayla Van Hofwegen

Accompanist: Marjo Rouw

OFFERING: March 26, 2017

AM: General Fund

PM: Tierra Nueva

6:30 P.M. Worship Service

Pianist: Danielle Van Zanten

Welcome/Announcements

Prayer for Worship

Opening Songs of Praise: Led by Greg Boon

"Hours and Days and Years and Ages" LUYH #401:1,3,4

"He Leadeth Me" LUYH #440:1-4

"How Vast the Benefits Divine" LUYH #688:1,3

Catechism Reading: Lord's Day 19 Q&A 52

Q. 52 How does Christ's return "to judge the living and the dead" comfort you?

A. **In all my distress and persecution I turn my eyes to
the heavens and confidently await as judge
the very One who has already stood trial in my place
before God and so has removed the whole curse from me.¹
All his enemies and mine he will condemn to everlasting punishment:
but me and all his chosen ones
he will take along with him into the joy and the glory of heaven.²**

¹ Luke 21:28; Rom. 8:22-25; Phil. 3:20-21; Tit. 2:13-14

² Matt. 25:31-46; 2 Thess. 1:6-10

Scripture Readings: Various Texts

Message: **"Judgement Day"**

Time of Prayer

Offering: Tierra Nueva

Song of Application: LUYH #227:1-4 **"He Is Lord"**

* 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 CONCERN:

Our Christian sympathy is extended to **Jill Haagsma & Family** in the passing away of Hank Haagsma. May God give them strength for each new day.

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Annette LeClair has been diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer. Please pray for the entire family as they will have many important decisions to make throughout the time ahead.

Betty Postma has been diagnosed with lymphoma and will meet with the oncologist this week to determine the course of treatment. Continue to pray for healing.

Helena Kuiper moved back to Creekside this past week. May God continue to be with Helena.

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.

OTHER CONCERNS:

Continue to pray for **Marlene De Groot** as she continues to be in the hospital fighting her aggressive cancer. Pray that Marlene and family members experience God's presence close beside them.

Back to God Ministries International: Brazil - Pray for continued effective outreach in sharing the gospel through social media outlets. Thank God that nearly 450,000 Facebook followers in Brazil have access to devotional messages, videos, and spiritual guidance through our Portuguese ministry. Pray that as hearts are touched, faith will be strengthened and many will come to know Christ as Savior.

World Renew: Tanzania - In Tanzanian schools there is a high dropout rate among teenage girls, especially in rural areas. To support these girls, World Renew has partnered with the Africa Inland Church Tanzania to provide classes in tailoring. For Magreth, the training has been life changing; she now has her own shop and can provide for her children what she never had: an education! Praise God!

Christian Reformed Home Missions: Campus ministry - Please pray for staff, students, and faculty at U.S. colleges and universities who are adversely affected by the recent U.S. travel ban. Pray that our campus ministries can be places of peace, serving as sanctuary communities that welcome all. May the love of Christ shine through our campus ministries and provide hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty.

Candidacy Committee: Preparing and waiting - Continue to pray for individuals preparing for ordained pastoral ministry, specifically for the 42 persons working through the final steps toward synodical approval as candidates in June. Pray also for the many candidates waiting for a call to serve. Their biographical information is available on the Candidacy page of the denominational website (crcna.org).

Back to God Ministries International: Alberta - Praise God that our Kids Corner program is helping children develop a heart for outreach. Young Rachel wrote to the producers, eager to learn if one of the audio drama characters will become a Christ-follower. Pray that God will continue to touch Rachel's heart as she shares the good news of Jesus with her friends.

Christian Reformed World Missions: Nicaragua - Several CRWM missionaries serve at Nicaragua Christian Academy, a school for children of missionaries as well as local children. Pray that students at NCA will feel the love of Christ reflected in their teachers. Pray that they will continue to grow in their understanding of the Christian faith through their experiences and interactions at the school.

Christian Reformed Home Missions: Zuni (N.Mex.) Christian School - Praise God for calling Tim Becksvoort from Bellflower, Calif., to become the next Zuni Christian Mission School principal starting in August 2017. Tim and his wife, Michelle, and their three children will be coming to Zuni this summer.