

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

March 5, 2017

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

“Take, O take me as I am;”

Prelude: Sylvia Van Zanten

Welcome / Announcements

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

**People: We rejoice in our God, who made a way
through the desert of this world.**

Leader: Let us worship God, who has caused streams
of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

**People: We are the people God has formed through Christ;
we worship him, and we rejoice!**

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**People: We praise God for the grace that has saved us.
Alleluia! We rejoice!**

—based on Isaiah 43:19-21

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*** Opening Hymn: LUYH #170:1-5 “Man of Sorrows”**

1. Man of sorrows— what a name
for the Son of God, who came
ruined sinners to reclaim:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!
2. Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
in my place condemned he stood,
sealed my pardon with his blood:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!
3. Guilty, helpless, lost were we;
blameless Lamb of God was he,
sacrificed to set us free:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!
4. He was lifted up to die;
“It is finished” was his cry;
now in heaven exalted high:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!
5. When he comes, our glorious King,
all his ransomed home to bring,
then anew this song we’ll sing:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Words and Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1875, alt., P.D.; CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

* Opening Songs of Praise:

Reading of Isaiah 53:4-5

"I Stand Amazed" LUYH #174:1-3

1. I stand amazed in the presence
of Jesus, the Nazarene,
and wonder how He could love me,
a sinner, condemned, unclean.

Chorus

*How marvelous, how wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous, how wonderful
is my Savior's love for me!*

2. He took my sins and my sorrows;
He made them His very own;
He bore the burden to Calvary
and suffered and died alone.

Chorus

3. When with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see,
'twill be my joy through the ages
to sing of His love for me.

Chorus

Words and Music: Charles H. Gabriel; Public Domain; CCLI# 678905

"Meekness and Majesty" LUYH #157:1-3

1. Meekness and majesty, manhood and Deity
in perfect harmony, the Man who is God.
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility and washes our feet.

Refrain

*Oh, what a mystery-meekness and majesty;
bow down and worship, for this is your God.*

2. Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence,
yet learns obedience to death on a cross,
suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice,
and, as they crucify, prays, "Father, forgive."

Refrain

3. Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,
Love indestructible in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,
lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne.

Refrain

Text and Music: Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) © 1986, Kingsway's Thankyou Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing CCLI# 678905

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

“Summon out what I shall be;”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Song of Response: LUYH #842:1-4 ***“I Am the Bread of Life”***

Worship Team will sing the first verse & chorus.

Congregation joins in on verses 2-4.

1. I am the Bread of life;
they who come to me shall not hunger;
they who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me unless the Father draws them.

Refrain

*And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up,
and I will raise them up on the last day.*

2. The Bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world,
and they who eat of this bread,
they shall live forever, they shall live forever.

Refrain

3. I am the resurrection,
I am the life.
They who believe in me,
even if they die, they shall live forever.

Refrain

4. Yes, Lord, we believe
that you are the Christ,
the Son of God
who has come into the world.

Refrain

Words & Music: Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927), based on John 6:35, 44; 11:25
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God’s Will for Our Lives

Offering: General Fund

Offertory: Danielle Van Zanten

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #755:1-3 ***“Speak, O Lord”***

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
to receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all Your purposes, for Your glory.

2. Teach us Lord full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity,
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
and the earth is filled with Your glory.

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“Set you seal upon my heart”

Scripture Reading: John 11:1-44 (pg. 1063)
Read by Elly Cuperus & Beth Boon

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“The Raising of Lazarus from the Dead”***

Time of Prayer

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #467:1-4

“O Christ, You Wept When Grief Was Raw”

1. O Christ, you wept when grief was raw
and felt for those who mourned their friend;
come close to where we would not be
and hold us, numbed by this life's end.

2. The well-loved voice is silent now,
and we have much we meant to say;
collect our lost and wandering words
and keep them till the endless day.

3. We try to hold what is not here
and fear for what we do not know;
O take our hands in yours, good Lord,
and free us to let our friend go.

4. In all our loneliness and doubt,
through what we cannot realize,
address us from your empty tomb
and tell us that life never dies.

Words: John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958) © 1989, 1996 Wild Goose Resource Group,
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Music *Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature*, ca. 1780; adapt. Edward Miller (1731-1807, 1790, P.D.

“And live in me.”

* Closing Prayer

* Closing Song: LUYH #741 2x ***“Take, O Take Me as I Am”***

Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.

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* Benediction

* Parting Praise: LUYH #741 2x ***“Take, O Take Me as I Am”***

Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.

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* Postlude

Welcome! “Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go,” the psalmist prayed (Psalm 71:3). May we all find that God is a “rock of refuge” where we find help for every hour of need. A hearty welcome to all who have come to worship our Creator. 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.

We warmly welcome **Terry & Joni Beezhold** into our church fellowship! Their membership comes to us from the First Christian Reformed Church in Bellflower, California. May God continue to use and bless them in their ministry here in Mount Vernon.

Evening Worship: We will have our regular evening service today at 6:30 p.m. The movie that was going to be shown this Sunday evening is postponed for now.

OUR CHURCH EVENTS

Today, following the morning service, you will have an opportunity to sign up for a casserole, or dessert to bring for the **Friendship House** this week. Servers are also needed. Any monetary donations to help with expenses will be accepted also. Please bring the food to the church kitchen on Wednesday, March 8 by 4:00 p.m. Have your casseroles cooked and hot.

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

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

The **75th Anniversary Committee** will meet on Tuesday, March 7 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 meet on Thursday, March 9 at 1:30 p.m. Study James 5:7-12

Choir will begin practicing next Sunday, **March 12** to sing during the Lent season. Practice will be in the sanctuary following the morning service. If you love to sing, please join us.

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 **Executive Committee** will meet on Monday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m.

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.)

Golden Hour will meet on Thursday, March 16 at 1:30 p.m. Study James 5:13-20.

Ladies Craft Night will be held on Friday, March 17 at 6:30 p.m. Bring something to work on and come and go as you please.

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

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!

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Today, you 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 and place them in the baskets located in the foyer and the Fellowship Hall.

Father, Forgive Them: Studying Jesus' words from the cross is a valuable Lenten tradition for reflection on his ultimate sacrifice. What was Jesus' first word about forgiveness? Who was he forgiving? Join our Groundwork discussion on Luke 23:32-38 to learn about the practice of forgiveness and why it relates to our salvation. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Fear Not: Scooter is Terrene's best speller. But he's got one BIG problem. The big stage and the bright lights terrify him. Can he overcome his fear and take the spelling crown? 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 - "Forty: Devotions for Lent" is available free to all in the CRC through the Digital Library (crcna.org/Library). This devotional explores the biblical motif of "forty" through the stories of Noah, Moses, the exodus, Elijah, and Jonah. All of these narratives foreshadow the gospel—they are reminders of Easter morning in light of the "forties" that have come before.

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

World Renew and Foods Resource Bank (FRB) invite you to join us to learn how you can play a unique role in growing lasting solutions to world hunger! This will be at 7:00 p.m. **on** Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at Sunnyside Christian Reformed Church; 700 North 16th Street, Sunnyside, WA 98944. FRB works in partnership with World Renew and similar organizations to help people living in some of the most remote and vulnerable regions of the world grow their own food. By providing resources, such as training and tools, the development programs FRB supports enable people to experience the dignity of providing for themselves in lasting ways. Join us on April 4 to learn more about how you can play an important role in helping people access the training and resources they need to transform from chronic hunger and poverty to happier, healthier, more productive lives!

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 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

Family Promise is opening a transitional housing unit and are in need of the following items. We are only looking for items that are in good shape and have life left in them. Lamps x 7; Area rugs; pictures; dressers x 4; dinner tables and chairs x 2; coffee pot; toaster; vacuums x 2; TVs x 6; Bunk beds (size twin) x 3; Trundel beds (size twin or full) x 3; Twin and Full Mattresses and some box springs; Sheets and blankets; Lawn mower; Weedeater; Cooking supplies like: spices, flour, sugar, ect.; Food; Laundry detergent. If you don't see the item on here that you would like to donate, we may still need it. Feel free to contact me about items. We are able to do some moving of items if you are not able to bring the item to the day center. We are hoping to start taking guests as of March 15th.

Tony Latham, Executive Director; Family Promise of Skagit Valley

Email: familypromiseskagit@gmail.com

Office #: 360-854-0743 Cell #: 509-951-0619

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUN	4:00 pm	Vida Nueva
	7:45 pm	Youth Group
MON	7:00 pm	Building Committee Meeting
TUES	7:00 pm	75th Anniversary Committee
	7:00 pm	Vida Nueva
WED	6:30 am	Men's Bible Study at Shari's
	2:00 pm	Northwest Hispanic Ministry
	4:00 pm	Friendship House
	7:00 pm	Cadets
THURS	1:30 am	Golden Hour

NURSERY:

Today: Infants & Toddlers

Annette LeClair, DJ Droog, Victoria Heino

Next Week: Infants & Toddlers

Jeannette Folkertsma, Cody Hilsinger, Lexi Blom

GREETERS:

Today:

Rovers: Larry & Margaret Vander Pol

AM: Larry & Maxine Greidanus, Woody & Wendy Heino

Next Week:

Rovers: Greg & Tish Ackermann

AM: Kermit & Julie Houck, Martha Haarsma, Katie Jungquist

USHERS

Today: Henry Hammingh, Kermit Houck, Wiebe Van der Hoek

Next Week: Kendall Van Zanten, Tim Hibma, Henry Van Zanten, Jr.

SOUND SYSTEM

Today: Mardick Stevens

Next Week: Henry Van Zanten, Jr.

PROJECTION

Today: Nathan Van Beek

Next Week: Josh Hammingh

VIDEO TAPING

Today: Tim Hibma

Next Week: Mike Hibma

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Today:

Teacher: Heather Van Hofwegen

Assistants: Julie Speck, Kendall Van Zanten

Next Week:

Teacher: Julie Houck

Assistants: Briana Vander Kooy, Kera Boon

LIBRARY:

Today: Melba De Kok

Next Week: Joy Faber

COFFEE HOSTS

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

Next Week: Agnes Bollema, Randy & Peggy Burr, Rich & Elly Cuperus

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: Jayne Hammingh, Jack Hammingh

Next Week: Danielle Van Zanten, Sylvia Van Zanten

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Next Week: Hank Van Zanten

Accompanist: Sylvia Van Zanten

OFFERING: March 12, 2017

AM: General Fund

PM: Tierra Nueva

6:30 P.M. Worship Service

Pianist: Shirley Boonstra

Welcome/Announcements

Prayer for Worship

Opening Songs of Praise: Led by Tim Van Hofwegen

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" LUYH #348:1,3

"Speak, O Lord" LUYH # 755:1-3

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

Catechism Reading: Lord's Day 18 Q&A 49

Q. 49 How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us?

**A. First, he pleads our cause in heaven
in the presence of his Father.¹**

**Second, we have our own flesh in heaven—
a guarantee that Christ our head
will take us, his members, to himself in heaven.²**

**Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a further
guarantee.³ By the Spirit's power we make the goals
of our lives, not earthly things, but the things above where Christ is,
sitting at God's right hand.⁴**

¹ Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1

² John 14:2; 17:24; Eph. 2:4-6

³ John 14:16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5

⁴ Col. 3:1-4

Scripture Readings: Various Texts

Message: **"The Benefits of Christ's Ascension"**

Time of Prayer

Offering: Tierra Nueva

Song of Application: LUYH #682:1-3 *"Before the Throne of God Above"*

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #965 *"Praise God"*



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:

Helena Kuipers has been at St. Joseph's Hospital in Bellingham since Tuesday with a blocked hiatal hernia. She has been undergoing several procedures to drain the excess fluid. Pray for healing and that she may return to her home soon.

Betty Postma was at Skagit Valley Hospital this week due to severe fatigue and shortness of breath. It appears that she has excess fluid in her lungs as well as a blood clot in both her lungs and in one of her legs. Pray that the doctors will be able to determine what exactly is going on and the best course of treatment for the days ahead.

Please pray for **Annette LeClair** who was recently diagnosed with cancer. Annette had a PET scan this past Thursday and is waiting for the results of that to determine the type of cancer and what the treatment plan will be. In the meantime, please pray for the entire LeClair family as they await the results.

Hank Haagsma was admitted to Skagit Valley Hospital this past week due to a very swollen and infected leg. Please pray for full healing and the ability to return home soon.

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

Jerry Ekkelkamp was in the hospital recently due to a bad case of pneumonia. We give thanks to God that he was able to return home.

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:

The family requests continued fervent prayer for **Marlene De Groot** as she is currently hospitalized with extreme pain in her lower back/hips/legs. They have determined that this is caused by tumors invading the back bone, causing fractures and resulting splinters that are penetrating the spinal cord. A CT scan showed that the cancer has advanced and is very aggressive. They have stopped treatments and are keeping Marlene as comfortable as possible. Pray that Marlene and family members experience God's presence close beside them.

World Renew: Disaster Response Services DRS - Please keep DRS volunteers in prayer as they work to clean up homes in North Carolina that were damaged after massive flooding from Hurricane Matthew. Volunteers are mucking out homes, removing debris, and more, helping survivors to move forward in the process of rebuilding what was lost.

Christian Reformed Home Missions: Global Coffee Break: When Sooyoungro Presbyterian Church in Busan, Korea, discovered the effectiveness of Coffee Break groups for global missions, they decided to have all of their missionaries trained in Coffee Break. Praise God for this extraordinary expansion of ministry.

Back to God Ministries International: Niger - Praise God! A former Muslim in Niger has shared that he gave his life to Christ after listening to our French radio broadcasts. He is beginning to attend a local worship group. Pray for his continued growth in faith, asking that God will open doors for many more Muslims to come to faith in Christ.

Youth Unlimited: Leadership, staff, and SERVE - At Youth Unlimited's annual Leadership Summit, March 3-4, the planning teams for our 30 SERVE sites will gather to plan, train, network, and worship together. Currently 1,350 participants have signed up for SERVE opportunities this summer; please join us in asking God to prepare the leaders and students for these experiences, and to send another 200-250 more! Please also ask that our staff, now based in both the U.S. and Canada, may be enriched in their work together in the coming year.

Safe Church Ministry: Equipping event - Church leaders and safe church team members from several different classes will gather to learn and network together on March 4 in Waterloo, Ont. Pray that this event will provide practical ideas and tools to help make our congregations safer and welcoming for all people.

Christian Reformed Home Missions: Mission Montreal - Mission Montreal is a partnership between Christian Direction, Home Missions, World Missions, Diaconal Ministries Canada, First CRC Montreal, and Classis Eastern Canada. Montreal, the largest city in Quebec, has a rapidly growing population of immigrants, providing many opportunities for Christians to be good neighbors. Pray for this diverse ministry.