

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Guest Pastor Jon Westra

October 29, 2017

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

* Please rise.

***“In a deep, unbounded darkness
long before the first light shone,”***

Prelude: Sylvia Van Zanten

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship: Psalm 72:18-19

¹⁸ Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel,
who alone does marvelous deeds.

¹⁹ Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole
earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

* Opening Hymn: 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, PD.;

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

* Opening Songs of Praise:

Read Colossians 1:15-16

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

“The First Place” LUYH #15:1-2

1. Jesus, the perfect picture of the unseen God.
Maker of things we cannot comprehend.
Wisdom, the earth displays your strength and beauty.
Sovereign, yes, every throne knows you are God.

Refrain

Every inch of this universe belongs to you, O Christ.
For through you and for you it was made.
Your creation endures by the order of your hand.
So you must have in all things the first place.

2. Victor, over sin and death you triumphed.
Firstborn, you’ve shown us life beyond the grave.
Bridegroom, we long for you in expectation.
Jesus, your church rejoices to proclaim.

Refrain X 2

Words and Music: Matthew Westerholm © 1999 Matthew Westerholm;
arr. Greg Scheer © 1999 Matthew Westerholm; CCLI# 678905

“Be Unto Your Name”

1. We are a moment, You are forever,
Lord of the ages, God before time;
We are a vapor, You are eternal,
Love everlasting, reigning on high.

Chorus

*Holy, holy Lord God Almighty,
worthy is the Lamb Who was slain;
Highest praises honor and glory
Be unto Your name, be unto Your name.*

2. We are the broken, You are the healer,
Jesus Redeemer, mighty to save;
You are the love song, we'll sing forever,
Bowing before You, blessing Your name.

Chorus

Chorus - Sing Acapella

*Holy, holy Lord God Almighty,
worthy is the Lamb Who was slain;
Highest praises honor and glory
Be unto Your name, be unto Your name.
Be unto Your name.*

Words & Music: Gary Sadler / Lynn DeShazo; ©1998 Integrity's Hosanna!; All rights reserved. CCLI# 678905

At the conclusion of this song children ages 3-1st grade are dismissed to the Koinonia Room for Children and Worship.

***“You, O God, beyond all merit,
worked a wonder faith makes known:”***

Ministry Update: Mr. Steve Gumaer—Partners Relief and Development

Offering: Denominational Ministry Shares

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #762:1-2 ***“Ancient Words”***

1. Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
they resound with God's own heart,
O let the ancient words impart.
Words of life, words of hope,
give us strength, help us cope.
In this world where'er we roam
ancient words will guide us home.

Chorus

*Ancient words, ever true,
changing me, changing you.
We have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words impart.*

2. Holy words of our faith
handed down to this age,
came to us through sacrifice.
O heed the faithful words of Christ.
Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
they resound with God's own heart.
O let the ancient words impart.

Chorus: Sing acapella

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“In your mercy, in your mercy,”

Scripture Reading: Colossians 1:15-23 (pg. 1165) Read by Wayne Doss

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Soli Deo Gloria”***

Time of Prayer

***“You embraced us as your own
evermore and evermore.”***

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #38:1-4 ***“In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness”***

1. In a deep, unbounded darkness
long before the first light shone,
you, O God, beyond all merit,
worked a wonder faith makes known:
in your mercy, in your mercy,
you embraced us as your own
evermore and evermore.
2. Though our world is ever-changing,
you are constant, firm, and sure,
faithful to your covenant promise.
Trusting you, we live, secure:
singing praises, singing praises,
long as heart and breath endure,
evermore and evermore.
3. Joy transforms our lips to boasting
only in your matchless grace,
sending Christ to dwell among us,
Word made flesh, in time and space:
Friend and Savior, Friend and Savior,
in whose life we glimpse your face
evermore and evermore.
4. God of Hagar, God of Sarah,
God of nomad Abraham;
God of Miriam, God of Moses,
Fiery Pillar, great I AM:
lead us homeward, lead us homeward,
to the love-feast of the Lamb
evermore and evermore. Amen.

Words: based on anonymous Chinese poem, Mary Louise Bringle
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* Benediction

* Parting 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: Andraé Crouch © 1971 Bud John Songs (ASCAP), admin. 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.

Pastor Jon Westra will be proclaiming God's Word to us this morning. We also welcome his wife, **Karen Westra**, who will accompany on the piano.

This evening, at 6:30 p.m. is the **Reformation Day Service** at the First CRC of Mount Vernon. Meet with members from area CRC's to praise God in song and the ministry of the Word, led by Reverend Ken Koeman, former pastor of Sonlight Community CRC in Lynden, Washington. An offering for **Geoff & Ashley Van Dragt** (*Graduate Christian Fellowship at University of Washington*) will be received. Coffee and refreshments will be served following the service.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to **Darin & Michelle Kuipers** who were blessed with a baby boy, Jameson Vega Kuipers, on October 22. May God bless them as a family.

Welcome Baby Basket! Let's welcome little **Jameson Kuipers** to our church family! There is a tub in the annex ready to be filled. Any kind of baby/mommy item would be perfect; bibs, blankets, toys, books, burp clothes, diapers, baby food, lotions, clothes, cards, or gift cards. The gift does not have to be wrapped and it is up to you whether you choose to put your name on the gift or give anonymously. Have fun!

At its last **Council meeting** the Council approved the release of membership of Andy and Lori Bollema and also approved the transfer of membership of Michael and Kelli Boerkoel to Providence CRC in Holland, Michigan.

FAMILY VISITING: The following is the family visiting schedule for **October—December 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.

OCTOBER — DECEMBER 2017 FAMILY VISITS	
Elder	Family
Dave V	Minne & Trudy Van der Hoek
Dave V	Marinus & Jill Rouw
Greg A	Jeff & Monica Droog
Greg A	Grace Faber
Greg B	Hilsinger, Nick & Kristi
Greg B	Jerry & Marion Ekkelkamp
Henry H	Greg & Beth Boon
Henry H	Mardick & Jill Stevens
Darrel L	Randy & Juli Oostra
Darrel L	Henry & Sharon Kuipers
Pastor John	Jill Haagsma
Pastor John	Larry & Maxine Greidanus
Dennis D	Steve & Katie Jungquist
Dennis D	Chris Van Sweden

OUR CHURCH EVENTS

Dear Friends in Christ,

What is the Church? What is its purpose? Why does it exist? How is it supposed to function? These and many more are just a few of the questions Paul addresses in his letter to the church in Ephesus. In fact, we can almost call the book of Ephesians 'a miniature doctrine of the Church!'

Like every other book of the Bible – Paul's letter is not just for the recipients of his letter 2000 years ago, but also for us here today. The same struggles and issues the church in Ephesus faced are still prevalent in our world today. The following is a tentative schedule of our series for the weeks ahead. As always, you are encouraged to read and study the text beforehand.

May God continue to bless and build His Church!

In Christ,

Pastor John

September 24: Spiritual Blessings in Christ – Ephesians 1:1-8
October 1: Safe in God's Plan – Ephesians 1:8-11
October 8: God's Possession - Ephesians 1:11-16
October 15:(Communion) Living In Awe and Wonder–Ephesians 1:15-23
October 22: Alive With Christ – Ephesians 2:1-10
November 5: Breaking the Dividing Wall – Ephesians 2:11-18
November 12: Unity in Christ – Ephesians 2:19-22
November 19: A Foretaste of What is to Come – Ephesians 3:1-13
November 26: Rooted and Established in Love – Ephesians 3:14-21

Today you will have opportunity to sign up to bring a casserole or dessert for the **Friendship House** on Wednesday, November 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.

Choir will meet for rehearsal after the morning service.

Youth Group will meet this evening at 7:45 p.m. This is for all high school students. They meet in the Youth Group room in the Education Wing.

The **Men's Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, November 1 at 6:30 a.m. at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington. We are studying the book of Revelation. You are welcome to join us.

Golden Hour will meet on Wednesday, November 1 at 1:30 p.m. We meet in the Koinonia Room and will study Micah 4:6-5:5.

GEMS will meet on Wednesday, November 1 at 6:30 p.m. Girls in grades 2-8th are invited to attend.

Minutes from October 12, 2017 of **Pacific Northwest Classis** is available for you to pick up from the walkway shelf.

The November / December issue of the devotional **Today** on the shelves by mailboxes and on the walkway shelf. The Large print **Today** have not arrived yet. Hopefully they will be here during the week.

ADVANCED NOTICES

The **Worship Committee** will meet on Monday, November 6 at **6:45 p.m.** Note the time.

The **Evangelism Committee** will meet on Monday, November 6 at **8:00 p.m.** Note the time.

The **Cadets** will be sponsoring a **Pancake Dinner Night** on Wednesday, November 8 from 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. This is a fund-raiser. So come out and support the Cadets.

Small Group Ministry will meet at the home of the Knoester's on Friday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m.

"I Am Jane Doe" (a documentary film) will be shown at the church on Saturday November 11 from 6:30 to 8:30pm? If anyone has any questions or would like to sign up to come watch it, please contact me at 360-941-5921 or brookeanneknoester@hotmail.com. The epic battle that several American mothers are waging on behalf of their middle-school daughters, victims of sex trafficking on Backpage.com, the adult classifieds section that for years was part of the iconic Village Voice. Narrated by Academy Award-nominee Jessica Chastain and directed by award-winning filmmaker Mary Mazzio, the documentary follows the journey of these young girls and their mothers in real time as they run headlong into a collision course not only with Backpage but with judges, powerful corporations, special interest groups, and an outdated internet freedom law that has been interpreted by federal judges to protect websites from any responsibility for hosting ads which sell underage girls. The film is a gut-wrenching human story and fresh look at a social and legal issue that affects every community in America.

Our **Thanksgiving Eve Service** will be held on Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Save the Date: On Tuesday, November 28 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a **Christmas Carol Celebration** at First Christian Reformed Church. This event benefits **New Earth Recovery**, a Christian ministry bringing healing to those struggling with drug and alcohol addiction in the Skagit Valley. A freewill offering will be received. Light refreshments will be served. Bring your loved ones to kick off the Christmas season with an old-fashioned carol sing!

Ladies Night Out will be held on Wednesday, November 29 at 7:00 p.m. at Haggen's cafe in Mount Vernon.

Potluck & Caroling: Our next church potluck will be held at **5:45 p.m.** on Sunday, **December 3**. Following the potluck we will go Christmas caroling at Heather Village and then come back and enjoy hot chocolate and goodies. We hope to see you there!

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Next week, November 5, 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.

Glory to God Alone: It feels good to be praised and acknowledged for what we do. Yet scripture tells us to give God all the glory. Join Groundwork as we discuss Colossians 3:5-10, Psalm 115:1, and Deuteronomy 8:10-18 to determine what it means to give God all the glory and how we can practically commit ourselves to this important Reformation theme. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Nerbles and Noobles: Listen to the new episodes this month! Space Troopers Liz Laserlight and Spike Starrunner have 17 minutes to save the planet Zot from destruction. Can their words and actions convince the Noobles and the Nerbles not to use their secret weapons? Subscribe for free at getkidscorner.com. Free Giveaway: Kids Corner's "Know Your Bible Activity Book, Part 1!" Have fun as you learn about God's big story!

Mount Vernon Christian School is hosting its annual HARVEST DINNER on November 3rd from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. (**senior citizen early bird meal starts at 4:30 p.m.**) in the school's gym, 820 West Blackburn Road in Mount Vernon. Come enjoy a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and support the school! Ticket cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children (K-6th grade). Tickets may be purchased at the door. Questions? Please call the Mount Vernon Christian School office at 360-424-9157 or drop by MVCS at 820 West Blackburn Road in Mount Vernon.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUN 11:45 am Choir Practice
6:30 pm Reformation Day Service
7:45 pm Youth Group
MON 7:00 pm Deacons' Meeting
TUES 7:00 pm Vida Nueva
WED 6:30 am Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant
1:30 pm Golden Hour
6:30 pm GEMS

NURSERY

Today: AM Infants & Toddlers

Johnna Van der Hoek, Carson Blom, Emma Droog

PM Service: Michele Feddema

Next Week: AM Infants & Toddlers

Michele Feddema, Jordan Feddema, Jase Hilsinger

GREETERS

Today - AM Rovers: Keith & Jean Rasmussen

AM: Henry & Sharon Kuipers, Joe & Annette LeClair

PM Roving: Larry & Margaret Vander Pol

Next Week - AM Rovers: Greg & Tish Ackermann

AM: Aileen Meischke, Betty Postma, Marinus & Jill Rouw

USHERS

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

Next Week: Kermit Houck, Henry Van Zanten, Jr., Tim Van Hofwegen

SOUND SYSTEM

Today AM: Mardick Stevens

PM: Tim Hibma

Next Week AM: Kendall Van Zanten

PROJECTION

Today AM: Nathan Van Beek

PM: Josh Hammingh

Next Week AM: Josh Hammingh

VIDEO TAPING

Today AM: Mike Hibma

Next Week AM: Tim Hibma, Carson Blom

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Today AM:

Teacher: Heather Van Hofwegen

Assistants: Brooke Knoester, Devin Van Zanten

Next Week AM:

Teacher: Heather Van Hofwegen

Assistants: Beth Boon, Josie Droog

LIBRARY:

Today AM: Elly Cuperus

Next Week AM: Joy Faber

COFFEE HOSTS

Today AM: Mardick & Jill Stevens, Bryan & Deanna Van Beek, Jack & Trudy Van Klaveren

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

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: Vida Nueva

Next Week: Devin Van Zanten, Sylvia Van Zanten

TRANSPORTATION CARE TEAM

Next Week: Dennis & Melba De Kok

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Next Week: Melba De Kok

Accompanist: Sylvia Van Zanten

OFFERING: November 5 , 2017

AM: General Fund

PM: Classis Pacific Northwest



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: Congratulations to **Darin & Michelle Kuipers** in the birth of Jameson Vega Kuipers who was born on October 22. Shortly after being born he was taken to Children's Hospital due to breathing complications. He has been there all week and they hope to return home soon. Please pray for Michelle, Darin, and the entire family in these days to come.

CONTINUING CONCERNS: **Adrianna Swanson** returned back to her home at Creekside after her recent fall. Pray for a complete recovery for Adrianna.

Hans Meischke will have surgery for colon cancer on November 13. Pray for Hans and Aileen at this time and may they experience God's peace at this time.

Pray for **Annette LeClair** as she continues with treatments. Please continue to keep Annette and her entire family in your prayers.

SHUT INS:

Nell Annema at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley, **Marge Eskes** at home in Mount Vernon, **Grace Faber** at home in Mount Vernon; **Mary Koopmans** at Where the Heart Is in Burlington; **Wilma Paul** at Mountain Glen Retirement Center 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 keep **Emily Curry** and her family in yours prayers. Emily is very tired but has been at school this week and plans to be there next week. She will start her 3rd round of chemo on November 6.

World Renew: Syria - The ongoing civil war in Syria has displaced 65 million people. Imal and her seven children have been living in Lebanon as refugees for three years. With the war going on for six years now, please ask God to put hope into the hearts of Syrian refugees and bring an end to the conflict.

Resonate Global Mission: Western University, London, Ont .- Pray for wisdom for Mike Wagenman as he leads a variety of campus ministries at Western University, including a weekly discussion group on the basics of Christianity. May these discussions provide opportunities for Mike to disciple, mentor, and care for students, whatever their understanding of the Christian faith might be.

Calvin Theological Seminary: Hispanic ministry - Pray for our new cohorts of Hispanic Ministry students. We have over 80 students in our Spanish-language courses meeting on Monday and Tuesday evenings for a certificate in Hispanic ministry and a certificate in marriage and family ministry.

Back to God Ministries International: Indonesia - Our Indonesian ministry has a unique opportunity for children's outreach. Many local schools have invited our ministry partners to come in and teach "religion" and distribute our biblical devotional booklets for school-age young people. Pray that this ministry will plant God's Word deep in these children's hearts.

Resonate Global Mission: Nepal - Kiran (name changed) is a vibrant and sincere lover of Jesus who started a Christian fellowship in a remote village of Nepal. Pray for him to continue to develop as a leader and as he works on translating worship songs into his own language. Ask God also to lead others like Kiran to begin Christian fellowships in other Nepalese villages.

GEMS Girls Clubs: Girls everywhere - GEMS is a global ministry active in 15 countries. Please pray that girls everywhere may know the truth of who they are and whose they are. Pray also for new global partners to help us minister around the world, to bring girls everywhere into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus.

World Renew: Southern Asia and Africa - Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sierra Leone are currently in crisis from flooding and mudslides. Nearly a million people have been displaced because of this disaster. Through partner organizations, World Renew is responding to severely affected families in these areas. Please ask God to provide shelter and comfort to the displaced and resources for all who are responding.