

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

October 9, 2016

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

* Please stand if you are able.

“Blessed are they, the lowly ones;”

Prelude: Sylvia Van Zanten

* Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship: Psalm 150:6

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD.

* Opening Hymn: LUYH #575:1,2,4 ***“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”***

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul praise him, for he is your help and salvation!
Come, all who hear; brothers and sisters, draw near.
Join me in glad adoration!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things
is wondrously reigning,
sheltering you under his wings, oh, so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath,
come now with praises before Him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt., P.D.;
Music: (LOBE DEN HERREN): Ernewerten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665;
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* Opening Prayer:

Leader: Our Father, you are in heaven, high and lifted up,
higher than our highest thoughts. Holy is your name;
beside you there is no other! You are God, and you alone!

People: **Receive us into your kingdom—the coming
kingdom —the kingdom of your anointed Son,
Jesus, whose name we bear. Receive us, for
we come to you in his name—we pray in him
and with him. For yours is the kingdom
and the power and the glory, Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

* Opening Song 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

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EMICMGPublishing.com (excl. Europe which is admin. by Kingswaysongs; CCLI #678905)

Read Isaiah 53:2b-3

- ^{2b} He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
- ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows,
and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide
their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

"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

"Meekness and Majesty" Text and Music: Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)
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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.*

"They shall inherit the earth."

Introduction to Disability Awareness Sunday

Offering: General Fund

Offertory: "Worship as One: Disability in Community" Video

Call to Confession:

Leader: In repentance and rest is your salvation,
in quietness and trust is your strength,
but you would have none of it. Yet the Lord
longs to be gracious to you: our God rises to
show you compassion. For the Lord is the God
of justice. Blessed are all who wait for the Lord.

Communal Prayer of Confession:

Leader: God blesses those who are gentle and lowly,
for the whole earth will be their inheritance.

**People: But we have valued toughness over gentleness.
We have too often chosen to be concerned
with ourselves rather than with our brothers
and sisters and neighbors. Like the prodigal
son, we want to satisfy ourselves rather than
our Father.**

Leader: Lord, please show us your mercy.

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us, in the name of
the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and
abounding in steadfast love. Our God does not deal
with us according to our sins, nor repay us according
to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above
the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward those
who fear the Lord; as far as the east is from the west,
so far are our transgressions removed from us.

* Song of Assurance and Preparation: LUYH #117:1,2,3,5 ***"Blest Are They"***

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
they shall be consoled.

Refrain

*Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.*

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones;
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst;
they shall have their fill.

Refrain

3. Blest are they who show mercy;
mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart;
they shall see God.

Refrain

5. Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see.

Refrain

MATTHEW 5:3-12; Words and Music: David Haas (b. 1957), based on Matthew 5:3-12,
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"Rejoice and be glad!"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-5 (pg. 958) Read by Kera Boon

Prayer for Understanding

Message: ***"Blessed Are the Meek"***

Time of Prayer

* Hymn of Application: ***"Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit"*** vs. 1-3

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit;
all God's realm is surely theirs.
Those in mourning will find comfort
as an answer to their prayers.
Meek ones whom this world despises
will inherit everything.
God, your kingdom still surprises;
may we seek the reign you bring.

2. Blessed, too, are those who hunger
and who thirst for what is right.
They will not be prone to wander,
for your will is their delight.
Those who show God's care and mercy
will receive that mercy too.
God, in Christ you show us clearly
of the joy we have in you.

3. Those who share the peace God gives them
will find blessings as God's own.
Those oppressed for faithful living
will call heaven's kingdom Home.
When the world's ways seem distressing
and we feel life's painful sting,
God, remind us of the blessings
of the wondrous life you bring.

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Matthew 5:1-12; Tune: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813; All
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"Yours is the kingdom of God!"

*** Call to Service:**

Leader: Go out as Christ's disciples: active in your
obedience, humble in your habits, modest
in your words, just in your actions, and merciful
in your deeds while you wait patiently and
trust in your faithful God.

People: **Blessed are we when we are meek for we will
inherit the earth. Amen.**

*** Benediction**

*** Doxology: LUYH #946:1-3 *"Go, My Children, With My Blessing"***

1. Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing; you are my own.

2. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

3. Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

*Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda (b. 1919) © 1983 Concordia Publishing House;
Music: Welsh melody (ca.1 794) desc. Hal Hopson (b. 1933 ©1992 GIA Publications, INC. OneLicense.net License #A-711218*

*** Postlude**

Welcome! Sunday worship is the call of God to bring special honor to his name. Give him what he asks through faithful worship. Receive this day also as his gift to you to refresh you for the week ahead. 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.

Sunday School will resume next Sunday, October 16 at 9:30 a.m.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Dear Friends,

Along with the Ten Commandments, the Twenty-third Psalm, the Lord's Prayer, and a few other passages – the Beatitudes of Jesus are generally acknowledged to be among the highest expressions of religious insight and moral inspiration. Together we can affirm them, meditate upon them, and maybe even engrave them on plaques to hang on our walls. Yet, the main question is this: How are we to *live* in response to them? This is the question I hope we will keep in front of us as we study them together throughout the months ahead. May God bless us as we do so!

In His Grace,
Pastor John

September 18: Intro to the Beatitudes

September 25: "Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit"

October 2: Blessed Are Those Who Mourn"

October 9: "Blessed Are the Meek"

October 16: "Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness"

October 23: "Blessed Are the Merciful"

November 6: "Blessed Are the Pure in Heart"

November 13: "Blessed Are the Peacemakers"

November 20: "Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted"

OUR CHURCH EVENTS

Wrong Lid: I have a lid from an oval crockpot in my office. Someone from Faith Community is missing the correct size lid from her oval crockpot. Apparently someone from 1st CRC brought food last Sunday to the combined potluck in an oval crockpot but accidentally picked up the wrong lid. Please let me know if this pertains to you and then we can make arrangements to switch the lids. Thanks for your help.
Contact Sylvia at 336-2405.

Friendship House: 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. There is a need for **3** more people to do desserts and **5** more people to make a casserole. 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, October 12 by 4:00 p.m. Have your casseroles cooked and hot.

The **Youth Group** will meet this evening at 7:45 p.m. in the Youth Group Room. Anyone in high-school is encouraged to come.

The **Council** will meet on Monday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Choir** for the Joint Reformation Day Service will begin with practice on this Monday, October 10 from 7:00 p.m.— 8:00 p.m. Come and join us. Anyone is welcome to come and join us.

The **75th Anniversary Planning Committee** will meet on Tuesday, October 11 7:00 p.m.

The **Cadets** will meet on Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Worship Committee** will meet on October 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Cookies or Bars: We will be having a coffee time following our joint Reformation Service on the evening of October 30. If you are willing to bring 2 –3 dozen cookies or bars, please sign the sheets that are provided in the Fellowship Hall on the coffee table.

ADVANCED NOTICES

The **Evangelism Committee** will meet on Monday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Men's Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, October 19 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, October 19 at **6:30 p.m.** This will be our Theme night.

Golden Hour will meet on Thursday, October 20 at 1:30 p.m. We will study James 1:19-26.

Ladies Craft Night will be held on Friday, October 21 at 6:30 p.m. Bring something to work on and come and go as you please.

Reformation Day Service: Come and bring your family and friends to the Reformation Day Service at the First CRC of Mount Vernon on October 30 at 6:30 p.m. **Reverend Dale Cooper**, former chaplain at Calvin College will proclaim the message. This year we again have the opportunity to participate in a choir which Karen Westra will be directing. Practices will be held at First Christian Reformed Church in Mount Vernon on Mondays. We will meet on October 10, 17, and 24 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. We encourage those who love to sing to come and join us. The evening will be a time of praise and celebration. Mark it on your calendar to come and join us in worship. An offering for *Back to God Ministries International* will be received.

Save the dates! The Lord willing, our church will celebrate its 75th anniversary next May 12-14, 2017. Planning is already under way for a program, church picnic, and celebration Sunday. Please mark your calendars for this exciting weekend! **Important:** There is going to be some cost involved with the celebration, including bringing former pastors here, food, supplies etc. Please consider giving to the "75th Fund" by designating your gifts as such in the offering.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Who Is God? The Bible is about God, but who is God? Join us in studying passages like Revelation 4 and Deuteronomy 6 to answer some basic questions about the person, nature, and character of our almighty God and to discover the biblical foundations for our core Christian beliefs about the God we worship. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Brand New Episode! Pick and Roll - Michael James, basketball's living legend, is coming to town. At a skills contest, will Liz and Spike's friendship be destroyed when the competition gets fierce? Who's better at shooting, at dribbling, and at setting up a Pick and Roll? Subscribe for free at getkidscorner.com. Check out KC's new Mezuzah craft at www.kidscorner.net.

Family Fire is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

The Power of Forgiveness: We've all been hurt by someone. Thankfully there is healing in forgiveness. "The Power of Forgiveness: A Guide to Healing," an e-book from Family Fire, provides you with tools to develop the skill of forgiveness. It's free when you subscribe at familyfire.com/forgiveness.

Hurricane Matthew Response in Haiti: World Renew is responding to heavy destruction from Hurricane Matthew in Haiti on October 4, 2016, after heavy rain, flooding, and mudslides destroyed homes and killed seven people in all. Please give generously to help Haitians affected by Hurricane Matthew at woldrenew.net/donate or call 800-552-7972 to give by credit card. Or designate your check made out to World Renew, with "Hurricane Matthew Haiti" in the memo line, and mail to: World Renew, 1700 28th St., S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49508.

A fundraising event benefitting **Pregnancy Choices** will take place on Thursday, October 20 at the Burlington Christ the King Church (1000 Fountain Street, Burlington). At 6:00 p.m. will be the Youth Focus and the Main Event will be at 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Ryan Bomberger. This is a free event with a dessert buffet. Bring a friend.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUN	4:00 pm	Vida Nueva
	6:30 pm	Evening Worship Service
	7:45 pm	Youth Group
MON	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
TUES	7:00 pm	75th Anniversary Committee
	7:00 pm	Vida Nueva
WED	4:00 pm	Friendship House
	7:00 pm	Cadets
	7:00 pm	Worship Committee

NURSERY:

Today: Infants & Toddlers

Beth Boon, Allie Heino, Kaeli Houck

Next Week: Infants & Toddlers

Betty Postma, Jase Hilsinger, Lexi Blom

GREETERS: Today

Rovers: Greg & Tish Ackermann

AM: Jerry & Marion Ekkelkamp, Les & Joy Faber

Next Week:

Rovers: Rich & Elly Cuperus

AM: Jeannette Folkertsma, Jill Klunder, Grace Feddema, Aileen Meischke

USHERS

Today: Wiebe Van der Hoek, Tim Hibma, Henry Van Zanten, Jr.

Next Week: Henry Hammingh, Tim Van Hofwegen, Kendall Van Zanten

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Today:

Teacher: Wendy Heino

Assistants: Brooke Knoester, Kendall Van Zanten

Next Week:

Teacher: Wendy Heino

Assistants: Monica Droog, Kylie Boon

COFFEE HOSTS

Today: Agnes Bollema, Randy & Peggy Burr, Rich & Elly Cuperus

Next Week:

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

SOUND SYSTEM

Today: Henry Van Zanten, Jr.

Next Week: Tim Hibma

PROJECTION:

Today: Devin Van Zanten

Next Week: Kendall Van Zanten

VIDEO TAPING

Today: Tim Hibma

Next Week: DJ Droog

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: Danielle Van Zanten, Sylvia Van Zanten

Next Week: Betty Postma, Jill Haagsma

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Next Week: Dennis De Kok

Accompanist: Marjo Rouw

OFFERING: Next Week—October 16, 2016

AM: General Fund

PM Offering: Jon & Trista Vander Wal with Wycliffe Bible Translators

6:30 P.M. Worship Service

Pianist: Sylvia Van Zanten

Welcome / Announcements

Prayer for Worship

Opening Songs of Praise: Led by Hank Van Zanten

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" LUYH #1,3,4

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" LUYH #772:1,3,4

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" LUYH #776:1,2,3

Catechism Reading: Lord's Day 4 Q & A 9-11 (pg. 864)

Q. 9 But doesn't God do us an injustice by requiring in his law what we are unable to do?

A. **No, God created human beings with the ability to keep the law.¹ They, however, tempted by the devil,² in reckless disobedience,³ robbed themselves and all their descendants of these gifts.⁴**

¹ Gen. 1:31; Eph. 4:24; ² Gen. 3:13; John 8:44; ³ Gen. 3:6;

⁴ Rom. 5:12, 18, 19

Q. 10 Does God permit such disobedience and rebellion to go unpunished?

A. **Certainly not. He is terribly angry about the sin we are born with as well as the sins we personally commit.**

As a just judge, he punishes them both and in eternity,¹

He has declared: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to everything written in the Book of the Law."²

¹ Ex. 34:7; Ps. 5:4-6; Nah. 1:2; Rom. 1:18; Eph. 5:6; Heb. 9:27;

² Gal. 3:10; Deut. 27:26

Q. 11 But isn't God also merciful?

A. **God is certainly merciful,¹ but he is also just.² His justice demands that sin, committed against his supreme majesty, be punished with the supreme penalty— eternal punishment of body and soul.³**

¹ Ex. 34:6-7; Ps. 103:8-9; ² Ex. 34:7; Deut. 7:9-11; Ps. 5:4-6;

Heb. 10:30-31; ³ Matt. 25:35-46

Scripture Readings: Various Texts

Message: **"Is It Really Fair?"**

Time of Prayer

Offering: John & Trista Vander Wal with Wycliffe Bible Translators

Song of Application: LUYH #538:1,3,4 **"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"**

* 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@firstcrmv.com by Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

NEW CONCERN:

We express our Christian sympathy to **Mardick & Jill Stevens & Family** in the recent passing away of Jill's Aunt Donna. May God be close to them at this time.

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 Mira Vista, and **Rena Wester** at the Lynden Manor.

PRAISES:

Congratulations to **Bob & Andy Pippel** who celebrated their 35th wedding on October 2. May God continue to bless them with many more years together.

OTHER CONCERNS:

Back to God Ministries International: Japan - Pray for BTGMI Japanese ministry leader Rev. Masao Yamashita and director Rev. Kurt Selles as they meet with the General Assembly of the Reformed Church in Japan (RCJ). After many years of conversation, the RCJ will vote to officially partner with the CRC's BTGMI media ministry in order to strengthen Christian broadcast and discipleship ministry in Japan.

Safe Church Ministry: Awareness - October is domestic violence awareness month in Canada and the United States. Safe Church helps to bring this often-hidden problem into the light, increasing understanding and fostering a compassionate response. Pray for all who have experienced abuse in the home at the hands of persons they love. Pray that our congregations may be safe places where healing begins.

ServiceLink: Living stones - Volunteers feel most valued and appreciated when they can see how their efforts contribute to an overall mission and goals. Pray for and encourage volunteers from your church, that they may know the importance of being living stones in the building of God's spiritual house.

Urban Aboriginal Ministries: Awareness - The Canadian Aboriginal Ministries Committee continues to raise awareness for the need for reconciliation in Canada between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Pray that people will take advantage of resources available and that the CRC will continue to be a leader among churches in calling the government to honor treaties.

Christian Reformed World Missions: Nicaragua - This month Josh and Joni Garcia are moving from Nicaragua to the United States, transitioning out of ministry in Nicaragua after 23 years for Josh and 12 years for Joni. Praise God for the 35 years of combined service that Josh and Joni represent. Pray that they will have a smooth transition to life in the United States.

World Renew: Disaster Response Services - Torrential rains hit areas of Louisiana and caused massive flooding. Many of the communities hit by the storms were also affected by flooding earlier this year. Thousands of homes have been damaged, and many people are in need of assistance. Please pray for DRS staff and volunteers as they travel to these areas to support communities in need.

Christian Reformed Home Missions: Re-Starts - Pray for established churches who strive to make healthy changes as their community changes. Pray for leaders as they choose to re-start and revitalize their mission work in the communities where God has placed them.