

God's Word Gives Our Lives Direction



701 West Blackburn Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360-336-2405

www.firstcrcmv.com

Pastor John Knoester

Worship Services
10:30 AM & 6:30 PM

Church School: 9:30 AM
September—May

He is
not here,
He has
Risen!
Luke 24:6

April 4, 2021

The Loop System is provided for those using hearing devices by using the telephone mode on your device. This is available beginning in row 5 on either side of the sanctuary.

Dear Friends,

One of the more famous and outspoken disciples of Jesus is that of Simon Peter. Jesus' first words to him were, *"Come, follow me"* (Mark 1:17). His last words to him were, *"You must follow me"* (John 21:22). Peter certainly had many stumbles along the way. Yet, throughout his life, even in spite of his many shortcomings, Peter strived to be obedient to Christ's command. Can the same be said of us? ... May God bless us as we travel with the disciple Peter under the ministry of Jesus throughout this Lenten season.

In His Grace,
Pastor John Knoester

1. March 14 – Matt. 17:1-13, Luke 9:28-36
"Growing with Peter – On the Mountain with Jesus"
2. March 21 – Mark 14:32-42, Matt. 26:36-46
"Growing with Peter – No Longer on the Mountain"
3. March 28 – Matt. 16:13-23, Luke 9:18-22
"Growing with Peter – Bold Confession"
4. April 2 (Good Friday) – John 18:15-18, 25-27, Luke 22:54-62
"Growing with Peter – Fearful Silence"
5. April 4 (Easter) – John 20:1-18, Rev. 22:1-6
"Growing with Peter - Confusion at the Tomb"
6. April 11 or 18 - John 21:1-19
"Growing with Peter - Back in Grace"

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

April 4, 2021 – Easter Sunday

“Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!”

Prelude

Easter Introduction Video

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #182 v. 1-5 *“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”*

- All 1. Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!
All creation, join to say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth, reply: Alleluia!
- All 2. Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won; Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise; Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!
- Women 3. Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Once he died, our souls to save; Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!
- Men 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head; Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise; Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!
- All 5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!
Praise to you by both be given; Alleluia!
Risen Christ, triumphant now; Alleluia!
Every knee to you shall bow. Alleluia!

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt., P.D.; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708, P.D.; CCLI #678905

* Welcome

* Easter Call to Worship:

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Leader: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: He has given us new life and hope.
He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

Leader: God has claimed us as his own.

**People: He has brought us out of darkness.
He has made us light to the world.**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Leader: May His peace and presence be known to you.

People: And also to you.

Leader: Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father
and the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

* Prayer of Adoration

* Opening Song of Praise: LUYH #181 v. 1-3 *"See What a Morning"*

1. See, what a morning, gloriously bright,
with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light,
as the angels announce, "Christ is risen!"
See God's salvation plan,
wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
fulfilled in Christ the Man,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead.
2. See Mary weeping, "Where is he laid?"—
as in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb.
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
it's the Master, the Lord, raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years,
speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
will sound 'til he appears
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead.

3. One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty.
Honor and blessing, glory and praise
to the King crowned with power and authority.
And we are raised with him;
death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered.
And we shall reign with him,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead.

*Words and Music: Keith Getty, Stuart Townend © 2003 Thankyou Music (PRS),
admin. worldwide at EMICMGPublishing.com excluding Europe admin. by
Kingswaysongs; CCLI #678905*

"All creation, join to say: Alleluia!"

Announcements

Call to Confession:

Easter Prayer:

Easter Video – Resurrection

Sung Prayer of Reflection: *"O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer"*
– *Sovereign Grace*

Words of Assurance:

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have died.
For since death came through a human being,
The resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being;
For as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

* Song of Thanksgiving and Preparation: LUYH #186 v.1-3

"Low in the Grave He Lay" v. 1-3

1. Low in the grave he lay—
Jesus, my Savior;
waiting the coming day—
Jesus, my Lord.

Refrain

*Up from the grave he arose,
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes.
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever with his saints to reign!
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

2. Vainly they watch his bed—
Jesus, my Savior;
vainly they seal the dead—
Jesus, my Lord.

Refrain

*Up from the grave he arose,
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes.
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever with his saints to reign!
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

3. Death cannot keep its prey—
Jesus, my Savior;
he tore the bars away—
Jesus, my Lord.

Refrain

Words and Music: Robert Lowry, 1874, alt, P.D.; CCLI #678905

*(Following this hymn children ages 3-3rd grade
are invited to go to Children's Worship)*

"Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia"

Scripture Readings: John 20:1-18 and Revelation 22:1-6

John 20:1-18: ¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ²So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.

⁸Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to their homes, ¹¹but Mary stood outside the tomb crying.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹²and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

¹⁴"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

¹⁷Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Revelation 22:1-6: ¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

⁶The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."

Prayer of Illumination:

Message: ***"Growing with Peter – Confusion at the Tomb"***

Time of Prayer

"Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!"

Easter Video: Nicene Creed

* Sung Profession of Faith: LUYH #770 v. 1-4 *"In Christ Alone"*

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on the cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground His body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then, bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am His and He is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no human plan,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'til He returns or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!
"In Christ Alone" Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend,
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permission. CCLI# 678905

* We Profess our Faith

Leader: This is the good news that we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:
Christ died for our sins, was buried,
was raised on the third day,
and appeared first to the women,
then to Peter and the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.

**People: We believe Jesus is the Christ,
the Anointed One of God,
the firstborn of all creation,
the firstborn from the dead,
in whom all things hold together,
in whom the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit.**

Leader: Christ is the head of the body, the church,
and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to
God.

**People: Christ has died! Christ has risen!
Christ will come again!**
– Based on I Corinthians 15:3-7 and Colossians 1:15-20

* Benediction:

* Parting Praise: LUYH #366 v. 1-4 *“My Jesus, I Love Thee*

1. My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
2. I love thee because thou hast first loved me
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
3. I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,
and say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Accapella 4. In mansions of glory and endless delight,
 I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright.
 I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;
 If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
 Words: William R. Featherstone, ca. 1862, P.D.; Music: Adoniram J. Gordon,
 1876, P.D.; CCLI #678905

Postlude

***Please stand in body or in spirit**

Easter Welcome! He is risen! In the mighty name of our living Lord, we welcome you to this Easter service celebration. May you feel Christ's presence. Hear His Word proclaimed and be blessed and renewed. After the worship service, we invite you to join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Easter Lilies & Bibles in the sanctuary were donated by in memory of: Klass & Patricia Van Zanten, John & Helena Haarsma, Wayne Vanderpol, Lyle & Evelyn Vander Pol, Max, Willy and Betty Stevens, Martin & Kay Boon, Hank & Alida Vander Pol, John and Ruth Batts, Edward and Erna Treick, John Klunder & Tess Klunder, Jim Klunder, Greg Klunder, John & Grace Kuipers, Eldon & Fern Wichers, Andy & Gay Folkertsma, Leo Paul, Ted & Hattie TeSelle, Leo & Josina Greidanus, Carmen Sesin, Hank, Stan, Gary & Kendal Haagsma.

	Today	Next week 4/11
Sound:	Tim Hibma	Henry Hammingh
Video:	Hannah Van Hofwegen	Josh Hammingh
Projection:	Brandon Speck	Carson Blom
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Announcements

April 4, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Happy 51st Anniversary to Rich and Elly Cuperus, and Happy 64th Anniversary to Hans and Aileen Meischke!
Happy 97th Birthday to Sally Reehorn on April 27!

We received a very nice letter from Marq and Marlene Gorton recently. It is up on the Missionary Bulletin Board if you'd like to read it.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study will be meeting Weds., April 7 at 7am at Shari's Restaurant. They are studying the book of Acts.

Beth will be out of the office tomorrow, April 5.

Considering congregational singing: As Christians, we want to be a blessing to those around us and also be good citizens. Therefore, we continue to encourage you to wear masks at all times in the church building and especially as we begin to sing together. Our prayer is that God will continue to lead and guide us during this unique and challenging time in the life of our church.

In His Grace, The Elders of First CRC

Dear Friends,

One of the more famous and outspoken disciples of Jesus is that of Simon Peter. Jesus' first words to him were, "*Come, follow me*" (Mark 1:17). His last words to him were, "*You must follow me*" (John 21:22). Peter certainly had many stumbles along the way. Yet, throughout his life, even in spite of his many shortcomings, Peter strived to be obedient to Christ's command. Can the same be said of us? ... May God bless us as we travel with the disciple Peter under the ministry of Jesus throughout this Lenten season.

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The elders met by Zoom and with the spike of cases and the recent announcement of more restrictions we will be adding the link to the past week’s service to the bulletin announcements and as well to the announcements sent by email each week. **Last week’s Sunday service link:** The link to watch last week’s Sunday service online is as follows: Last Sunday’s Service: <https://youtu.be/cBk2Zn4tKYU>

To further aid simplifying giving when we can’t all be at church, First CRC now provides options to give your tithes and offerings electronically. This means you are now able to donate using a credit or debit card, as well as give directly from a bank account. Check the church’s website: <http://www.firstcrcmv.com> for more information on these and other giving options.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

New copies of Today’s Christian Living are available on the shelf in the hallway.

Melissa Stewart, the Office Administrator with **Youth Dynamics** located in Burlington, WA is currently hiring for a part-time Office Assistant position. We were hoping you may know of someone who is passionate about sharing Jesus with youth and supporting our team in the PNW. Please find attached the job description. Although the hours are listed from Monday-Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm there may be some flexibility to work around schedules. Please direct any interested candidates to apply on our website at the following location: <https://yd.org/join-our-team/full-time-staff/>

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

GROUNDWORK: IT IS FINISHED - It's easy to assume that when Jesus declares "It is finished," he means his suffering is finished. Join our Groundwork conversation on John 19:28-30 as we discuss why this is really a cry of accomplishment; his work done, he is victorious, and the triumph we proclaim at Easter is just the beginning. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

THE UNBELIEVABLE GIFT - Happy Easter! Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. We have eternal life through Jesus! This is the unbelievable gift God gave us. Are we excited to tell people about this gift? Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

Spread the Good News this Easter! - He is risen! As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, say a special prayer for those joining your congregation for the first time today. Many Resonate Global Mission church planters and missionaries are working to reach this special audience and right now you can also make a special gift to help. Any amount you give at www.resonateglobalmission.org/EasterGift will be doubled!

Join Us On the Road to Witness - Are you ready to reimagine evangelism and discipleship in a world changed by COVID? Do you feel the need to reignite your congregation's passion for mission? Are you passionate about sharing your faith? Then Resonate Global Mission's Global Mission Summit is for you! Join us Thursday, May 13, 2021 — Saturday, May 15, 2021 for this VIRTUAL conference. It's free to attend. Learn more and register at www.ResonateGlobalMission.org/Glocal

EASTER VICTORY FROM SHAMEFUL DEFEAT? - Join CRC campus ministers Rick Mast (University of Alberta) and Mike Wagenman (Western University) for a timely discussion for the post-Easter season: what can we as Western Christians learn from the long history of theological reflection in the East? There are not only racial and economic divisions in our world that we're addressing in this year's online book club - but also our divisions as Christians. Join us on Sunday, April 25 (8pm ET | 7pm CT | 6pm MT | 5pm PT) as we engage

Dr. James Payton's new book, *The Victory of the Cross: Salvation in Eastern Orthodoxy*. Payton taught church history for many years at Redeemer University (Ontario) and will share some of the insights he's drawn from a long study of Eastern Christianity. Register at www.WesternCampusMinistry.ca!

At-Home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Celebrating: Today we celebrate an event that changed everything: the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! As you celebrate Easter with family and friends, read 1 Peter 1:3-9 together, and invite people of all ages around your table to share how you experience the "living hope" that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection offers. And in this pandemic year, express your gratitude for the way God's love has carried us through these very difficult times. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.)

Livestreamed Organ Concert - Calvin University Organ Instructor Rhonda Sider Edgington will be playing an organ concert livestreamed from the University Chapel on Friday, April 9 at 7:30pm. This concert will be a celebration of the music of American composer and organist Margaret Sandresky, born 100 years ago, on April 27, 1921. From hymn settings to variations sets to her Five Sacred Dances, Sandresky's works will show off the many colors of the Dobson pipe organ in Calvin's chapel, and introduce listeners to an original American voice (who is still active and composing at 100 years of age!). Join the livestream at vimeo.com/event/684136



How can
we
PRAY
for you?

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 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

NEW REQUESTS:

The graveside service for Chris van der Wekken will take place on **Monday, April 5 at 11 AM** at Hawthorne Funeral Home and Memorial Park. This will be followed by a **memorial service at First Christian Reformed Church at 1 PM**. Congregational members and friends are invited to attend either one, or both, of these services.

A couple of notes regarding the services during this unique season. There will be congregational singing at the memorial service, but we kindly request that both spacing guidelines and mask-wearing are adhered to throughout. In addition, there will not be any lunch served on-site between the two services, but we hope to be able to provide a small snack and refreshments following the memorial service.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please continue to pray **for Adelaida Vega**. Adelaida is taking some new medication pills with hope that they can control the cancer in days to come. Please continue to pray for her and her family.

Continue to pray for **Ryanne Vander Pol** as she continues with her IV therapy and some radiation treatments.

Praise and thanksgiving! **Jerry Ekkelkamp** has been released from the hospital to Birchview Memory Care center in Sedro-Woolley. **Jerry and Marion** are settling in well in at Birchview.

SHUT INS:

Nell Annema and Jerry & Marion Ekkelkamp at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley; and **Mary Koopmans** at Where the Heart is in Burlington; **Case Lanting** at Olympic Place in Arlington, WA; **Wilma Paul** at Life Care Center in Sedro-Woolley; **Andy Pippel, Adrianna Swanson, and Lona Vander Griend** at Home Place in Burlington; **Sally Reehoorn** at Creekside in Burlington; **Bev Van Slageren** at family in Grandview, WA.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

April 4, 2021 - (Resonate Global Mission: Easter) We serve the risen Lord! Pray for Resonate missionaries, church planters, campus ministers, and other ministry leaders throughout the world who are spreading the good news of the gospel. Ask the Holy Spirit to open doors for conversations about Christ. Pray that people's hearts will be softened to the message of the gospel.

April 3, 2021 - (ReFrame Ministries: Today devotions) Eddie, a Today reader who is currently in prison, asks for prayers for his family: "Pray for my two-year-old son and my wife. Pray for strength and assurance and that they will continue striving each day during life's challenges."

April 2, 2021 - (Communications: Good Friday) As we reflect today on Christ's death and await the celebration of his resurrection, pray that we will see and lament the brokenness of this world while also awaiting the full light of Jesus' sure victory over all sin and death.

April 1, 2021 - (Women's Leadership Development: Peace and grace) Pray for women leaders affected by the pandemic. Unemployment caused by the pandemic has disproportionately affected women, who typically carry the majority of work in the home, including childcare. Pray for peace in the midst of chaos, relational support in the midst of social distancing, and grace for healthy family living.

March 31, 2021 - (Resonate: Refugees worldwide) Pray that newly arriving refugees will be able to find homes and jobs in their new homelands. Further, many people fleeing their countries have never had the opportunity to hear the gospel. Pray that making a new start in a new land will also lead to new life in Christ.

March 30, 2021 - (ReFrame: Easter Baptism preparations) Easter is the most popular day around the world for celebrating baptisms. Pray for our listeners and viewers considering to take this important step in faith this Easter.

March 29, 2021 - (World Renew: Gender justice) During the pandemic, gender-based violence (GBV), domestic violence, and child marriages have increased. In Nigeria the government declared a state of emergency against GBV. In Bangladesh there was a rise in child marriages. Globally there were more reported cases of domestic violence. Please pray for peace and justice for all who have been affected by these abusive situations.