

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

May 23, 2021 – Pentecost Sunday

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

“Spirit of God, unleashed on earth”

Prelude

Pentecost Video:

*** Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #228 v. 1-3**

“Send Us Your Spirit” v. 1-3

Refrain

*Come, Lord Jesus, send us your Spirit,
renew the face of the earth.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, send us your Spirit,
renew the face of the earth.*

1. Come to us, Spirit of God;
breathe in us now, we sing together.
Spirit of hope and of light, fill our lives;
come to us, Spirit of God.

Refrain

2. Fill us with the fire of your love;
burn in us now; bring us together.
Come to us, dwell in us, change our lives, O Lord;
come to us, Spirit of God.

Refrain

3. Send us the wings of new birth;
fill all the earth with the love you have taught us.
Let all creation now be shaken with love;
come to us, Spirit of God.

Refrain

Words and Music: David Haas (b. 1957) © 1981, 1982, 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.; OneLicense.net License #A-711218

* Welcome

* Call to Worship:

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: This is the day when the Spirit came!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: And again I say -

People: Rejoice!

- Based on Psalm 118:24, Philippians 4:4

* God's Greeting:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: May the love of God the Father,
and the grace of Jesus the Son,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be and abide with us all.

People: Amen!

* Hymn of Response: LUYH #601 v. 1-4

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" v. 1-4

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name!

Let angels prostrate fall.

Bring forth the royal diadem,

and crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the royal diadem,

and crown him Lord of all!

2. O seed of Israel's chosen race

now ransomed from the fall,

hail him who saves you by his grace,

and crown him Lord of all.

Hail him who saves you by his grace,

and crown him Lord of all!

3. Let every tongue and every tribe
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all!

4. Oh, that with all the sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all!

Words: st. 1-3 Edward Perronet, 1780, alt., st. 4 John Rippon, 1787, alt., P.D.;
Music: Oliver Holden, 1793, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

"With rush of wind and roar of flame!"

Announcements

Call to Confession: —based on John 14:15-17, 21, NIV

Prayer of Confession:

Words of Assurance:

"I will take you out of the nations;
I will gather you from all the countries.
I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean.
I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you;
I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a
heart of flesh.
And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my
decrees.
You will be my people, and I will be your God."
Friends in Christ: by the power of the Spirit,
we are united with Christ and given a new spirit.
Live in the joy and peace of that assurance.

—based on Ezekiel 36:24-28, NIV

* Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #746 v.1-3

"Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God" v. 1-3

1. Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause your Word to come alive in me;
give me faith for what I cannot see;
give me passion for your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

2. Holy Spirit, come abide within,
may your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin,
in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace;
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

3. Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
giving life to all that God has made,
show your power once again on earth,
cause your church to hunger for your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;
lead us on the road of sacrifice,
that in unity the face of Christ
may be clear for all the world to see.

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend; ©2006 Thankyou
Music, CCLI# 678905

*(At this time children ages 3 – 3rd grade
are excused for Children and Worship)*

"With tongues of fire saints spread good news;"

Scripture Reading: I Peter 3:8-12

⁸Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. ⁹Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called. ¹⁰For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. ¹¹They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. ¹²For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Prayer of Illumination

Message: *"Attractive Christian Virtues"*

Time of Prayer

"Earth, kindling, blazed its loud acclaim."

Song of Reflection: *"It is Well With My Soul"* - *Sovereign Grace*

* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 53,
Our World Belongs to God st. 56-57

Leader: Q. What do you believe concerning the Holy Spirit?

**People: A. First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son, is eternal God.
Second, that the Spirit is given also to me, so that, through true faith, he makes me share in Christ and all his benefits, comforts me, and will remain with me forever.**

Leader: Our hope for a new a new earth is not tied to what humans can do, For we believe that one day every challenge to God's rule and every resistance to his will shall be crushed.

**People: Then his kingdom shall come fully,
And our Lord shall rule forever.**

Leader: We long for that day when Jesus will return
as triumphant King, When the dead will be raised,
And all people will stand before his judgment.

**People: We face that day with fear,
For the Judge is our Savior.
Our daily lives of service aim for the moment
when the Son will present his people
to the Father.
Then God will be shown to be true, holy,
and gracious.**

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #256 v. 1-4

They'll know We are Christians"

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our
land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's
pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us all one.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Words: Peter Scholtes (b. 1938) © 1966, 1967 F.E.L. Church Publications, Ltd.,
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* God's Blessing:

* Parting Praise: LUYH #237 v. 1-3

"Spirit of God, Unleashed on Earth"

1. Spirit of God, unleashed on earth
with rush of wind and roar of flame!
With tongues of fire saints spread good news;
earth, kindling, blazed its loud acclaim.
2. You came in power, the church was born;
O Holy Spirit, come again!
From living waters raise new saints,
let new tongues hail the risen Lord.
3. With burning words of victory won
inspire our hearts grown cold with fear,
revive in us baptismal grace,
and fan our smoldering lives to flame.

Words: John W. Arthur, 1972, alt. © John W. Arthur, used by permission of
Mary Arthur; Music: T. Williams' *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789,

P.D. CCLI #678905

Postlude

Pentecost Welcome! When God poured out his Spirit on the apostles,
He empowered them to bring into being the Church, the worldwide
body of his Son. This church is one member, one living cell, of the
Body of Christ. We invite you to participate in its life, in our life.

	<i>Today 5/23</i>	<i>Next Week 5/30</i>
Sound:	Mardy Stevens	Henry Van Zanten
Projection:	Tim Hibma	Devin Van Zanten
Video	Devin Van Zanten	Tim Hibma
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Announcements

May 23, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our annual **Congregational Meeting** will be held **Tomorrow, May 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** Our annual church budget will be presented for approval and informational reports from various church committees will be presented. The Council presents the following nominees for office:

Elder: Dick Gudmunson, Bob Pippel, Tim Van Hofwegen (1 yr)

Deacon: Fred Folkertsma, Henry Van Zanten Sr.

In addition, the church has received a request from Mount Vernon Christian School to potentially use the church building during the 2021-2022 school year and possibly for years to come. Mr. Jeff Droog, Superintendent of MVC, will be present with us that evening to further explain MVC's needs and to answer any questions congregational members might have. If you have any questions about the agenda or any of the items on the agenda, please contact your district Elder prior to the Congregational Meeting. Absentee ballots can be placed in Beth's mailbox by her office door.

REGARDING OUR CURRENT MASK MANDATE STATUS:

The Elders met this week to discuss the current recommended guidelines and requirements for Faith-based organizations.

After much discussion the following decisions were made:

1. We will not segregate congregational members by vaccination status, as we are one church family.
2. We have striven to comply to the spirit of the government guidelines, and we believe we should continue for the next several weeks, as we understand there are still those who wish to receive the vaccine or have their second dose and have not yet had that opportunity.
3. We request that First CRC congregational members continue to wear masks until the state restrictions are lifted – this may take place before the end of June.

These decisions were not taken lightly, but they were wrestled with – the desire to pursue unity and care for one another is utmost.

In the meantime, please continue to keep in prayer those who are suffering with the virus and its effects. While many places in the world are now doing quite well – there are also many places that are not. In our own setting it certainly appears like we are nearing the end of the current restrictions.

Therefore, in light of God's great mercy lavished on us - let's continue to strive to live grace-filled lives towards one another in the weeks that lie ahead.

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FUND UPDATE:

Pledges are now being accepted for 2021-2022 school year. The cost of the ministry for the entire 2021-2022 school year of \$105,656.45 is to be pledged by May 31, 2021. Thank you to those that already have submitted their pledges.

A reminder to those that still owe pledges for 2020-2021 school year, please submit them by May 31, 2021. The total amount that was pledged for the 2020-2021 school year was \$107,089.45.

In order for the Christian Education Fund to continue we need to fulfill our pledges for both school years. If you have any questions regarding your pledges or would like to pledge an amount, please contact Katie Jungquist at 428-3818 or sarco@fidalgo.net.

Third Time's the Charm! A Big Congratulations to our graduates! Danielle Van Zanten is graduating from Dordt University, **Juliana LeClair** graduating from WSU, and **Lexi Blom** graduating from Colorado Christian University. In fact, the Bloms are celebrating a trifecta of graduations this year, with Lexi, **Carson** from MVCHS and **Trevor** from 8th grade! **Josh Hammingh** is also graduating from MVCHS next month with Carson. **Jordan Feddema and Kayla Van Hofwegen** also graduate from 8th grade.

A Note from Beth: You may have noticed my office hours have been a bit off since my surgery – unfortunately they will likely remain that way for the next couple weeks leading up to a second surgery possibly on June 11 and afterwards. Sylvia Van Zanten has graciously volunteered to fill in for me when needed. Thank you for your patience during this time!

Dates to Note:

Men's Breakfast Bible Study will be meeting Weds., June 2, at 7am at Shari's Restaurant. They are studying the book of Acts.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Save the date! **Tomorrow, May 24 at 7pm** is our Congregational Meeting. Meeting packets will be arriving shortly in your home mailboxes!

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Dear Friends,

Around the world today many Christians still endure severe persecution. Here in the United States we are fortunate that physical persecution is rare. However, many of us are familiar with cultural pressure and/or oppression.

In the book of I Peter, the apostle Peter reminds us that Christians are *aliens* and *exiles* in an often-hostile empire. Yet, at the same time, we are also chosen by God and equipped by Jesus' work 'for' us and 'in' us to live faithfully in our dual identity.

In the weeks to come we will explore how the work of Christ enables us to live with hope, joy, and faithfulness in an often antagonistic world. Peter reminds us that the kind of life that pleases God is one that includes respect for authorities (even when they are unjust!); godly behavior in the home; and by God's grace – good deeds, courage, and a firm faith in the midst of life's trials.

Listed below is the tentative order of our study. More will be added in the weeks to come. May God bless us as we journey through I Peter together.

In His Grace, Pastor John

1. April 25 – “*Living Hope*” – I Peter 1:1-12
2. May 2 – “*Craving Spiritual Milk*” – I Peter 1:22-2:10
3. May 9 – “*Strangers in the World*” – I Peter 2:11-17
4. May 16 – “*Unjust Suffering – Christ and Us*” – I Peter 2:18-25
5. May 23 – “*Attractive Christian Virtues*” – I Peter 3:8-12
6. May 30 – “*Godly Fear*” - I Peter 3:13-22
7. June 6 – “*A Passage for Graduates*” – I Peter 4:1-6

Last week's Sunday service link: The link to watch last week's Sunday service online is as follows: <https://youtu.be/OfTg2Rk7a7o>

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.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY: “Underground Ministries” is a local ministry that seeks to support those coming out of prison as they reenter into society. Part of their ministry model is to match one prisoner with a core group of 5-7 members of a local church to walk alongside and support them upon their release from prison. The relationship itself already begins approximately 12-18 months before the inmate is released by way of letters, emails, and Zoom meetings. The hope is that the relationship will then continue well after the release date itself. The Evangelism Committee has recently received the blessing from council to become a “One Parish/One Prisoner” support team

and to also begin to gather a 'core group' of First CRC members who are feeling led by God to play an active role in this ministry. Thus, if you sense God calling you to this role, or would like to know more about it – please contact Darrel Lagerwey or Pastor John in the weeks ahead.

DEAR FAITHFUL PARTNERS OF PREGNANCY CHOICES: Our last day in our current building will be May 31st. Our new location is less than three blocks from Planned Parenthood at 110 N.15th Street in Mount Vernon. Since our new building is not ready, we have made some adjustments in the delivery of our services. , Pregnancy Choices is changing its name to ***C.A.R.E. Medical Center***. New services will include STI testing and treatment for both men and women as well as the Abortion Pill Reversal for women who have taken RU486 also known as the Abortion Pill. We will continue to keep ***Pregnancy Choices*** as our registered name through the IRS but DBA ***C.A.R.E. Medical Center***.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOD CREATED US - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. We are created in God's image. What does that mean? How can we think and act like God? How does this change how we look at other people? Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

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.

GROUNDWORK: GROW AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST - God provides his grace and the Holy Spirit for our discipleship journey. Join Groundwork as we study Ephesians 4:7-15, Colossians 2:6-22, and Hebrews 6:1-12 to find out what maturing disciples of Jesus understand and recognize the signs of dynamic discipleship in your own life. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Prayer: Families, check out the free downloadable resource 5 Ways to Pray with Kids—tinyurl.com/5WaysPray. Here's one of those ways to pray: Have each person create a shape that represents what they'd like to pray about. Lego bricks, play dough, or pipe cleaners work well! Then pray about those things together. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.)



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:

As you already know, **Dena Klunder** tested positive for COVID a few weeks ago. Thankfully, she has now recovered and is doing well. We praise God for His healing in her life. Unfortunately, **John** has now also tested positive and the symptoms are concerning. The good news is that he did not have to spend the night in the hospital, but he is being closely watched/monitored at home. ... Please pray that John will experience complete recovering in the days and weeks to come. Pray too for God's peace to be present in the midst of many uncertainties.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please pray **for Adelaida Vega**. The new chemo pills that Adelaida was taking had the opposite effect of what was hoped so she is taking another chemo medication, again given through a port. We're hoping that this will help her shrink down her cancer. Our family is thankful for all the prayers from all of you.

Continue to pray for **Les Faber**, while he is fighting cancer, **Rhea Doss** and **Beth Boon**, who are recovering from surgery, and **Dena Klunder**, who is recovering from COVID.

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

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 **Clarence 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)

May 23, 2021 - (Resonate: Pentecost) In Acts 1:8 Jesus says, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth.” As we celebrate Pentecost today, let us thank the Holy Spirit for working in and through ministry leaders to bring people into relationship with Christ and transform communities.

May 21, 2021 - (Centre for Public Dialogue: Reconciliation) In 2016 the CRC in Canada affirmed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation. This legislation could be implemented through Bill C-15. Please pray for the ongoing advocacy work of CRC members alongside the Centre for Public Dialogue and for the passage of this bill.

May 20, 2021 - (World Renew: Nicaragua) Jobs are very difficult to find in Nicaragua, and basic food costs are rising. But one of the most successful programs this year has been community savings groups. Please pray for all the families in these groups, and ask God to continue sending rain for crops and to provide people with the strength to continue trusting in him.

May 19, 2021 - (Safe Church: Webinar impact) This month we launch our 2021 webinar series, beginning with a conversation on biblical perspectives on human dignity. May this conversation encourage people to understand their inherent worth in God’s eyes and encourage us to see others as God sees them. May we understand how valuable we are in God’s sight.

May 18, 2021 - (Resonate: Lithuania) Give thanks for the ways God is working through Resonate missionaries who serve at LCC International University in Lithuania. While studying at this school, many students have come to know Jesus and have grown as disciples. Please ask the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of students who are seeking faith.

May 17, 2021 - (Chaplaincy and Care: Trainers) Several of our chaplains are supervised pastoral educators, who, in addition to the pastoral ministry they provide, also train pastors, students, and lay leaders to reach their full potential and equip them with vital spiritual

care skills. Please pray for institutional support for these roles and for wisdom and self-care for these specially trained educators.