

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
June 27, 2021

*Please stand in body or in spirit

“Will you let me be your servant,”

Prelude: Jill Klunder

* Welcome

* Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #7 v. 1-4

“Sing Praise to the Lord, You People of Grace”

1. Sing praise to the Lord, you people of grace;
fill heaven with the songs that sound from this place;
since you are God’s servants and meet in his name,
his wonders declare and his glory proclaim.

Refrain

Halle! Hallelujah!
Halle! Halle! Hallelujah!
Halle! Hallelujah!
Halle! Halle! Hallelujah!

2. His greatness exceeds what words can explain,
and his is the power no force can restrain;
with fanfares of horns and crescendos of strings
raise anthems to honor the King of all kings.

Refrain

3. Where music is made, let rhythms abound:
let cymbals and drums add weight to the sound;
with dance that is graceful and words that are clear,
bring joy to the God you adore and revere.

Refrain

4. Yield all that you are to worship the Lord—
see life as a psalm, each moment a chord;
let harmonies flourish and melodies soar—
let all that has breath praise the Lord evermore.

Refrain

Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Halle! Hallelujah!

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* Call to Worship:

Leader: God of grace and God of glory, we lift our hearts to you, whose giving knows no ending.

People: You offer riches we can no more measure than deserve.

Leader: Sun and stars are yours to give.
Heaven and earth are yours.

People: Incarnation, life, teaching, cross, grave, ascension are yours.

Leader: Pentecost, church, and sacraments are yours.
The new heaven and earth are yours to give.

**People: God of grace and God of glory,
we lift our hearts to you,
whose giving knows no ending.**

* 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 Praise: LUYH #876 v. 1-3

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

1. God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door;
gifted by you, we turn to you,
offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful songs shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.
2. Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.
3. Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through powers your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

Words: Robert L. Edwards, 1961, © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin.
Hope Publishing Company; Music: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; alt. acc. © 2006
Augsburg Fortress; CCLI #678905

"Let me be as Christ to you?"

Announcements

We Welcome New Members to Our Church Family

We Celebrate the Baptism of Bailey Kay See

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Ministry Update: One Parish, One Prisoner Video -

<https://undergroundministries.org/opop>

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #755 v. 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.

Words and Music: Keith Getty / Stuart Townend; © 2005 Thankyou Music
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*(At this time children ages 3 – 3rd grade
are excused for Children and Worship)*

“Pray that I may have the grace to”

Scripture Reading: I Peter 4:7-11 (pg. 1203) Read by Shirley Boonstra

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Gifts Graciously Given to Faithfully Serve”***

Time of Prayer

"Let me be your servant too."

*Sung Prayer: LUYH #309 *"The Servant Song"* v. 1-5

All Sing

1. Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

All Sing

2. We are pilgrims on a journey; we are travelers on the road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

Women Sing

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

Men Sing

4. I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

All Sing

5. Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

Words: Richard Gillard (b. 1953) © 1977 Scripture in Song, a div. of Integrity Music/
Maranatha Music, admin. Music Services CCLI #678905

* We Profess Our Faith: Our World Belongs to God

Leader: The Spirit empowers each member
to take part in the ministry of all,
so that hurts are healed and all may rejoice
in the life and growth of the fellowship.

People: **The church is a gathering of forgiven sinners,
called to be holy, dedicated to service.
Saved by the patient grace of God,
we deal patiently with others.
Knowing our own weaknesses and failures,
we bring good news to all sinners
with understanding of their condition,
and with hope in God.**

Leader: The rule of Jesus Christ covers the whole world.

**People: To follow this Lord is to serve him everywhere,
without fitting in, as light in the darkness,
as salt in a spoiling world.**

* Blessing/Benediction:

* Parting Praise: LUYH #877 v. 1-5 *“We Give Thee But Thine Own”*

1. We give thee but thine own, whate’er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord from thee.
2. May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blesseth us, to thee our first fruits give.
3. To comfort and to bless, to find a balm for woe,
to tend the lonely in distress, is angels’ work below.
4. The captive to release, to God the lost to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace— it is a Christ-like thing.
5. And we believe thy Word, though dim our faith may be;
whate’er for thing we do, O Lord, we do it unto thee.

Words: William W. How; Music: Mason and Webb; Public Domain

* Postlude

Welcome to a time of praise and worship of the Lord our God. Let us fill His house with songs of praise and feast upon His word. We especially welcome every visitor today. We are very glad you came. May the peace and joy of the Lord be yours.

| | Today 6/27 | Next week 7/4 |
|-------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Sound: | Mardy Stevens | Tim Hibma |
| Projection: | Tim Hibma | Hannah Van Hofwegen |
| Video | Devin Van Zanten | Brandon Speck |
| Offering: | General Fund | General Fund |

First CRC Announcements

June 27, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Thank you for sharing in the celebration of Andy's life. We truly appreciated all the kind expressions of comfort, cards and hospitality shown to our family during this long difficult time. Andy is now at home with Jesus.

Bob Pippel & Family

We would like to thank you as a congregation for the many messages of encouragement, prayers, and cards we've received. We give God thanks for the healing in Beth's recent surgery. ***Greg & Beth Boon & Family***

New Members and Baptism Sunday!

This coming Sunday we have the opportunity to officially welcome and celebrate several new families to our church! At your convenience, please take the time to warmly welcome ***Cody & Angela See*** and their children Mackenzie, Zachary, Bailey Kay, ***Jon & Catherine Vander Kooy*** and their children Caitlyn, Owen, Noah, ***Jason & Shelby Vander Kooy*** and their children (names of their children) and ***Sarah Zastoupil*** and her children Rafe and Natalie into our church fellowship. In addition, we will also have the privilege of witnessing the baptism of ***Bailey Kay***, daughter of Cody and Angela See. May God continue to use and bless them each one of these individuals in their lives and ministry here in Mount Vernon.

The family of ***Wilma Paul*** would like to invite the congregation to enjoy cake and coffee after the service on July 4 to celebrate Wilma's 100th birthday which is July 5.

Sunday service link for June 13, 2021: <https://youtu.be/DGFY-vZsAT8>

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.

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
8. June 27 – “Gifts Graciously Given to Faithfully Serve” – I Peter 4:7-11
9. July 4 – “A Final Word on How to Endure Trials” – I Peter 4:12-19
10. July 11 – “Servant Leadership” – I Peter 5:1-4

Birthdays for June:

Jill Haagsma celebrated her 90th birthday on June 13; ***Adriana Swanson*** celebrated her 93rd birthday on June 12.

Birthdays for July:

Wilma Paul will be celebrating her 100th birthday on July 5; ***Grace Feddema*** will celebrate her 98th birthday on July 6; ***Henry Vander Veen*** will celebrate his 94th on July 23.

Anniversaries for June:

Jack & Trudy Van Klaveren celebrated forty years of marriage on June 5; ***Terry & Joni Beezhold*** will celebrate 35 years of marriage on June 27; ***Dennis & Melba De Kok*** will celebrate 53 years of marriage on June 28.

DATES TO NOTE:

Men's Breakfast Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, June 30, at 7:00 a.m. at Sheri's Restaurant in Burlington. They are studying the book of Acts.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

There is a copy of a recent update ***from Jon & Trista Vander Wal & Family*** up on the Missionary Board! Copies are also available for you to pick up.

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.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

You Belong to Jesus! Act Like It: In 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul writes to believers about sexuality and sexual immorality, accountability in the life of the church, and lawsuits or disagreements among believers. Join Groundwork as we study 1 Corinthians 5-6 to discover why Paul admonished believers to remember their identity as

those baptized in Christ and to act accordingly. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

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.

Created to Create: Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. God created you to be creative like him, so no matter how uncreative you might sometimes feel, you can still go out and make things yourself. God loves to see you doing that! Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

At-home Faith Formation Tip: The Practice of Wonder: Take a strong magnifying glass with you on a walk, and look at how the tiniest details of nature point to the Creator of the universe. You'll be amazed by what you see! (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.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

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

Continue to pray for those recuperating from surgeries and going in for regular cancer treatments.

Continue to pray for those families who have recently lost loved ones.

PRAISE: We rejoice and give thanks to God with Ryanne Vander Pol with being done with her cancer treatments this past week on June 24.

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; **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)

(World Renew: Human trafficking) Every 30 seconds, a child is trafficked. One in seven girls is married before age 15. Over 600 million women live in regions where domestic violence is not illegal. World Renew works to help bring justice where there is inequity, training families of the dangers of child trafficking, and working with government officials to help end these systemic issues. Ask God to bring justice in these areas.

(Resonate: Nova Scotia) Pray for Sam K., a Resonate missionary serving in Halifax, N.S. Because of the pandemic, people were confined to their 18-story apartment complex, which has been the location of Sam's ministry. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue working in this community, and pray that more people will come to know Jesus and grow in relationship with him.

(Faith Formation Ministries: Relationships) We give thanks for God's provision and opportunity to partner with the RCA's Next Generation Engagement on expanding Generation Spark, an intergenerational mentoring initiative. Pray for intergenerational relationships that strengthen the church and lead to long-lasting enrichment in churches and their communities.

(ReFrame: Burkina Faso) Pray for Matthieu in his faith journey. He recently traveled to our French ministry team in Burkina Faso to ask about the Christian faith. A former Muslim, he has been learning through our French radio programs about what it means to follow Christ.

(World Renew: Refugee resettlement) Many of today's 26 million refugees are burdened by hunger and poverty, and the COVID-19 pandemic has made difficult living conditions even harder. Please pray that God will keep these vulnerable families safe, providing food, shelter, and good health. Pray also that government officials will see the importance of allowing refugee travel.

(Resonate: Japan) Less than one percent of Japan's population are professing Christians. Resonate missionaries Ken and Jeannie Lee in Japan ask for prayers that God may "impart grace to his people that will enable them to live out their faith in everyday life." Ask the Holy Spirit to work in and through Christians in Japan to draw many more people into a relationship with Christ.