

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
July 25, 2021

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

*“Our Lord is great: he calls by name
and counts the stars of night;”*

Prelude

*** Welcome/Announcements**

*** Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #511 v. 1-3**

“Amid the Thronging Worshipers”

1. Amid the thronging worshipers
the Lord, our God, I bless;
before his people gathered here
his name will I confess.
Come, praise him, all who fear the Lord,
the children of his grace;
with reverence sound his glories forth
and bow before his face.
2. The burden of the sorrowful
the Lord will not despise;
he has not turned from those who mourn,
he listens to their cries.
His goodness makes me join the throng
where saints his praise proclaim,
and there will I fulfill my vows
with those who fear his name.
3. He feeds with good the humble soul
and satisfies the meek,
and they shall live and praise the Lord
who for his mercy seek.
The ends of all the earth will hear,
the nations seek the Lord;
they worship him, the King of kings,
in earth and heaven adored.

Psalm 22; Words: Psalter, 1912, P.D.; Music: Laura A. Tate, 1912, P.D.;
CCLI# 678905

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving.
Make music upon the harp.
How good it is to celebrate God's presence
and sing praise throughout each day!

**People: "How good it is to sing praise
and give honor to our God!"**

Leader: Our God rebuilds the people of earth.
The wandering ones are gathered together,
the brokenhearted are healed, the hungry are fed,
the prisoners are freed, the blind are given sight,
the lonely are befriended.

**People: How good it is to sing praise
and give honor to our God!**

- Based on Psalm 147

* 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 #549 v. 1-3

"O Praise the Lord, for It Is Good"

1. O praise the LORD, for it is good
to sing unto our God;
'tis right and pleasant for God's saints
to tell his praise abroad.
The LORD our God builds up the church,
finds those who draw apart;
God binds their wounds and gently leads;
he heals the broken heart.

2. Our Lord is great: he calls by name
and counts the stars of night;
God's wisdom is unsearchable,
and wondrous is his might.
The LORD upholds the poor and meek
but brings the wicked low;
sing praise to God who sends the rain,
whose care the cattle know.

3. No human might, no earthly pride
delights the LORD above;
in those who fear him God delights,
in those who trust his love.
O Zion, praise the LORD your God,
his wondrous love confess;
God is your glory and your strength,
he will your children bless.

PSALM 147; Words: *Psalter*, 1912, alt., P.D.; Music: John H. Stockton, 1874, P.D.
CCLI #678905

*"God's wisdom is unsearchable,
and wondrous is his might."*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

People: **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

Leader: For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

People: **Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

Sung Prayer: LUYH #622 v. 1-2 *“God, Be Merciful to Me”*

1. God, be merciful to me,
on your grace I rest my plea;
Wash me, make me pure within;
cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

Refrain

*God, be merciful to me,
on your grace I rest my plea.*

2. My transgressions I confess;
grief and guilt my soul oppress.
I have sinned against your grace
and provoked you to your face.

Refrain

Prayer of Confession:

Leader: You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**People: Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

**People: Do not cast me from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

- Based on Psalm 51:1-4, 6, 9-11, NRSV

Sung Prayer: LUYH #622 v. 3-4 *“God, Be Merciful to Me”*

3. I am evil, born in sin;
you desire truth within.
Make me pure, your mercy show;
wash me whiter than the snow.

Refrain

*God, be merciful to me,
on your grace I rest my plea.*

4. Let my contrite heart rejoice
and in gladness hear your voice;
from my sins, O hide your face,
blot them out in boundless grace.

Refrain

*God, be merciful to me,
on your grace I rest my plea.*

PSALM 51:1-9; Words: *Psalter*, 1912, alt., Christopher Miner © 1998
Christopher Miner Music; CCLI #678905

Words of Assurance

We Offer Our Lives to God:

Pastor: Jesus Christ has come into heaven and is at God's
right hand— with angels, authorities,
and powers in submission to him.

**People: Since we have a great high priest who has gone into
heaven— Jesus, the Son of God—let us hold firmly
to the faith we profess. Let us praise his holy name!**

Pastor: Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!

**People: Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power,
and strength be to our God forevermore!**

Pastor: Alleluia, Amen!

People: Alleluia!

—based on Hebrews 4:14; Revelation 5:10, 12

* Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #682 v. 1-3

"Before the Throne of God Above"

1. Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

2. When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

3. Behold him there! The risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless righteousness;
the great unchangeable "I AM,"
the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Savior and my God,
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

Words: Charitie Lees DeCheney Bancroft (1841-1923), P.D.; Music: Vikki Cook,
1997, ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship, admin. EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI
#678905

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

*"The Lord upholds the poor and meek
but brings the wicked low;"*

Scripture Reading: I Peter 5:5-6 (Pew Bible p. 1203)

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Clothing Ourselves with Humility"***

Time of Prayer

*"Sing praise to God who sends the rain,
whose care the cattle know."*

* Song of Reflection: *"Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord"* 3x

Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord.

Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord.

And He shall lift you up,

higher and higher,

and He shall lift you up.

Words: I Peter 5:6; Music by Bob Hudson; © 1978 and this arr. © 1983 Maranatha!
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* A Prayer of Acclamation

Leader: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, out of sheer love
you who were high made yourself low.

People: Here in the love of Christ I stand.

Leader: You suffered the death we deserved.

People: Here in the death of Christ I live.

Leader: You reorder human hearts; you reconcile things
above and things beneath; you make all things new.

People: Here in the power of Christ I'll stand. Amen.

* God's Blessing:

* Parting Praise: 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, Copyright © 2002 Thankyou Music; All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI# 678905

Postlude

Welcome! Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy." Those are the words of the psalmist in Psalm 5:11. Whoever you are, wherever you are from, we welcome you and we invite you to "be glad" with us about God's goodness and mercy. Let us "ever sing for joy" and praise God with profoundly grateful hearts.

	Today 7/25	Next Week 8/1
Sound:	Mardy S.	Tim H.
Projection:	Tim H.	Hannah VH
Video	Devin VZ	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Announcements

July 25, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Church Staff – Custodial Opening: On August 15, 2021, our beloved custodians **Clarence and Eleanor Klunder** will be retiring. We certainly plan to have a church event to celebrate their many years of service sometime in the fall. In the meantime, we also need to fill the position! The executive committee plans to have a **job description available by Tuesday, July 27** and then **hopefully begin doing interviews starting on Monday, August 2**. Interested applicants are encouraged to contact either the church office (Beth Boon), council president (Tim VH), or Pastor ASAP. Priority will likely be given to current members of the church, but all interested individuals are encouraged to apply!

Friends and family members of Sam DeJong are invited to a celebration of life to be held on **Saturday, August 7, at 2:00 PM at Cascade Christian Reformed Church**, Marysville Washington.

Beth will be out of the office next week Thursday, July 29, and the following Monday, August 2. Please have your announcements/prayer guide requests to me by **Tuesday** evening on the 27th for them to appear in the bulletin and online. Thank you!

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committees present our **3rd Annual Summer Block Party. Saturday July 31st from Noon to 4 p.m.** A good old-fashioned afternoon of fun: Food, drink, games for kids and adults, water fun and a chance to meet and visit with friends and neighbors. A celebration of our Church and our community. If you're interested in helping, please contact Darrel Lagerwey for details.

Skagit County Fair – Church Parking Lot: The Skagit County Fair organizers are anticipating a large number of attendees to the fair (Aug. 11-14) this year. As a result, they've reached out to us about using our parking lot for overflow parking. If possible, they would also like to have it 'supervised' and suggested charging a parking fee accordingly. **If there are any First CRC church groups interested in providing such supervision and fundraising accordingly – please let the church office or Pastor John know no later than this coming Sunday, July 18**. Otherwise, we will likely allow an outside community group to do the supervision, or leave it open/free for public use.

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 during 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

12. August 1 – *"Final Instructions and Blessing"* – I Peter 5:7-14

Committee Substitutes: If you are on the schedule and are unable to be here – we all know how busy summers can be, especially – please find a replacement from your committee and let Beth know by Weds. so she can put it into the bulletin announcements. This way we cut out the middleman! Thank you so much.

The new directory will be coming out in the next month or so, so if you have any changes to your phone numbers or email addresses, please let Beth know in the next couple of weeks. Thank you!

Sunday service link for July 18, 2021: <https://youtu.be/7VlugCAvLz8>

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.

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 July: Harm & Susan DeJong – 30 years; Clarence & Eleanor Klunder – 54 years; Clarence & Lona Vander Griend – 69 years; Larry & Margaret VanderPol – 52 years; Les & Joy Faber – 65 years; Dick and Linda Gudmunson – 41 years

DATES TO NOTE:

Men's Breakfast Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, July 28, at 7:00 a.m. at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is a summer newsletter from **East Central Ministries** up in the hallway on the missionary bulletin board!

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Travel with Calvin University - Join Calvin experts on these unique trips designed to give an up-close look at each destination — Hawaii with Volcanoes National Park in February 2022, the geology and culture of the Netherlands “off the beaten path” in April 2022, and Florence through the eyes of Dante in May 2022. See calvin.edu/go/travel for details.

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Turkey & the Seven Churches of Revelation - (May 23 - June 4, 2022): Walk in the footsteps of Paul and John during the day and study their New Testament writings at night! Join host Jeff Weima, professor of New Testament at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading biblical scholar, for this truly inspirational tour. Travel by deluxe motorcoach to sites connected with Paul's First, Second, and Third Missionary Journeys and the seven churches to whom John wrote the Book of Revelation. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Remembering: Telling our faith stories to other generations is a deeply meaningful way to help us remember together what God has done. Check out our intergenerational story-starter questions at tinyurl.com/StoryStarterQ. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.)

August Safe Church Webinar: On Being a Trauma Informed Congregation - Join us for our August webinar - Wednesday, August 4th, 12p - 1p Eastern. The webinar will be a conversation with Dr. Dawn Gibson and Pastor Anthony Gibson who will lead us in sharing a discussion on Trauma-Informed Congregations and being made whole. <https://bit.ly/SCAugustwebinar>

CARE FOR GOD'S WORLD - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. What jobs do you have that help others? This week, think of things you can do to take care of God's world. Even simple things—like watering plants, feeding a pet, or helping your little brother learn how to tie his shoes—are ways you can worship God with your actions! Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

GROUNDWORK: STAND FIRM IN THE REALITY OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION - As Paul responds to false teachings in Corinth, he is adamant that it is necessary to believe in the truth of Christ's bodily resurrection. Join Groundwork as we study 1 Corinthians 15 to discover why this truth is crucial to the gospel message. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



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:

Update for Adelaida Vega: Apparently the current chemo is not working, and the cancer is growing. The doctor would like to try a different kind of chemo, but unfortunately the insurance is unwilling to cover it. As a result, they are currently reaching out to a foundation to hopefully cover it.

Please pray that Adelaida will have the opportunity to try this new chemo and also that it might be effective. Pray too for God's peace for all the family members in the midst of all the current uncertainty and anxiety. Michelle and her parents are so thankful for the prayers of their church family. Adelaida is Michelle Kuiper's mom and is currently residing with Darin and Michelle. When you have the opportunity, the family would be grateful if you would send a card/letter of encouragement to brighten up the long days. The following is the address to send them too:

Adelaida Vega
1765 Hillcrest Loop
Mount Vernon, WA 98274

Please continue to pray for the **Hamming family (Elaine, Henry & Jayne, Josh)** in the recent passing away of their grandson, nephew, and cousin Zach.

Please keep the Ekkelkamp family in your prayers, as Jerry was laid to rest this past Friday. Pray for comfort for Marion and all their loved ones.

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)

Monday July 19 from: *Calvin Theological Seminary: Plans and preparations*

About 40 percent of our students are international students. Pray for their plans for travel, border crossings, and residential transitions. Pray for plans being made this summer to welcome all students back in the fall.

Tuesday July 20 from: *World Renew: Latin America*: Through the generous gifts of North American churches, World Renew has been able to provide hygiene kits, food, shelter, and more for communities in Honduras and Nicaragua that were devastated last year by two consecutive hurricanes. Please pray that everyone affected may continue to rebuild their lives, leaning on God's goodness and mercy.

Wednesday July 21 from: *ReFrame: Family Fire*: Pray for Ruth, who is struggling in her marriage. Although things have been better lately between her and her husband, Ruth is still struggling to forgive him. "My heart is broken," she shared. "I have tried to forgive, but I can't forget, and that's the hardest part."

Thursday July 22 from: *Resonate: West Africa*: Resonate missionaries give praise for the teachers they work with in West Africa. Through Christ-centered education these teachers have a major influence in the lives of children and their communities. May God equip, encourage, and challenge them in their day-to-day callings.

Friday July 23 from: *GEMS Girls' Clubs: Conference*: Women will gather online July 23-24 for a GEMS virtual conference. Attendees will worship our unshakable God, celebrate their sisterhood in Christ, and learn more about the challenges of girls today. Please pray that each woman will leave strengthened and equipped to mentor girls well.

Saturday July 24 from: *The King's University: Preparations*: The King's University is planning for a return to in-person community this fall. Please pray for staff, faculty, and students as they navigate the transition to being back together again. Pray for joy, grace, and creativity in the working-out of details. Excitement is in the air!

Sunday July 25 from: *Diversity: Ministry leaders*: Pray for Latino pastors being trained and supported through Consejo Latino. Pray for Korean second-generation leaders ministering in racially changing neighborhoods, bringing people into the kingdom of God. Pray for First Nations leaders who conduct vital pastoral leadership. Pray for diaspora leaders partnering with CRC churches with the hope of becoming one church. Thank you!