

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
August 8, 2021

* Please stand in body or in spirit

"Amazing grace – how sweet the sound"

Prelude

* Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #492 v. 1-4

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

1. Come, thou almighty King,
help us thy name to sing;
help us to praise.
Father all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.
2. Come, thou incarnate Word,
gird on thy mighty sword;
scatter thy foes.
Let thine almighty aid
our sure defense be made,
our souls on thee be stayed;
thy wonders show.
3. Come, holy Comforter,
thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art,
rule now in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of power.

4. To thee, great One in Three,
eternal praises be
hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity
love and adore.

Words: anonymous, 1757, alt., P.D.; Music: Felice de Giardini, 1769, P.D.; CCLI #678905

* Welcome

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty!

People: Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.

Leader: Who will not fear you, O Lord,
and bring glory to your name?

**People: For you alone are holy.
All nations will come and worship you!**

* 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!

* Song of Praise: LUYH #500 v.1,3,4

"Lord, Our Lord, Your Glorious Name"

1. LORD, our Lord, your glorious name
all your wondrous works proclaim;
in the heavens with radiant signs
evermore your glory shines.
How great your name!

Refrain

LORD, our Lord, in all the earth,
how great your name!
Yours the name of matchless worth,
excellent in all the earth.
How great your name!

3. Moon and stars in shining height
nightly tell their Maker's might;
when I view the heavens afar,
then I know how small we are.
How great your name!

Refrain

4. Who are we that we should share
in your love and tender care—
raised to an exalted height,
crowned with honor in your sight!
How great your name!

Refrain

*Words: Psalter, 1912, alt., P.D.; Music: William F. Sherwin (1826-1888), 1877, P.D.;
CCLI# 678905*

"That saved a wretch like me!"

Announcements

Call to Confession:

The apostle John wrote:
My little children,
I am writing these things to you
so that you may not sin.
But if anyone does sin,
we have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous;
and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,
and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.
In the strength of this assurance,
let us confess our sins to God.

—based on 1 John 2:1-2, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish but may have eternal life.
Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

- John 3:16-17 NRSV

God’s Law:

Our Lord Jesus said:

“‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.’

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it:

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

On these two commandments
hang all the law and the prophets.”

—from Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV

* Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #690 v. 1-4

“I Know Not Why God’s Wondrous Grace”

1. I know not why God’s wondrous grace
to me he has made known,
nor why, unworthy, Christ in love
redeemed me for his own.

Refrain

*But “I know whom I have believed,
and am persuaded that he is able
to keep that which I’ve committed
unto him against that day.”*

2. I know not how this saving faith
to me he did impart,
nor how believing in his Word
wrought peace within my heart.

Refrain

*But "I know whom I have believed,
and am persuaded that he is able
to keep that which I've committed
unto him against that day."*

3. I know not how the Spirit moves,
convincing us of sin,
revealing Jesus through the Word,
creating faith in him.

Refrain

4. I know not what of good or ill
may be reserved for me,
of weary ways or golden days,
before his face I see.

Refrain

*Words: based on 2 Timothy 1:12, Daniel W. Whittle, 1883; P.D.;
Music: James McGranahan, 1883, P.D.; CCLI # 678905*

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

"I once was lost, but now am found,"

Scripture Reading: Philemon 1-25 (Pew Bible Pg. 1183)

Prayer of Illumination

Message: **"No Longer a Slave"**

Time of Prayer

"Was blind, but now I see."

* Sung Prayer: LUYH #693 v.1-5

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" v. 1-5

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now I'm found,
was blind but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Chorus

*My chains are gone, I've been set free;
my God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood, His mercy reigns
unending love, amazing grace.*

3. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

Chorus

*My chains are gone, I've been set free;
my God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood, His mercy reigns
unending love, amazing grace.*

5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.

Words: John Newton (sts), refrain by Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio; © 2006
worshiptogether.com songs/sixsteps Music/Vamos Publishing; admin. EMI CMG
Publishing; Music: traditional American melody; refrain and arr. Chris Tomlin and
Louis Giglio EMICMGPublishing.com; arr. Diane Dykgraaf © 2012
worshiptogether.com Songs/sixsteps Music, Vamos Publishing, admin.
EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI # 678905

*(During this song the children will be returning to the sanctuary
and the elders serving communion are invited to come forward)*

We Celebrate Communion Together:

Summary of the Scriptural Teaching

God meets us in the sacraments,
holy acts in which his deeds elicit our response.
In the supper our Lord offers the bread and cup to believers
to guarantee our share in his death and resurrection,
and to unite us to him and to each other.
We take this food gladly,
announcing as we eat that Jesus is our life
and that he shall come again
to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.

—from *Our World Belongs to God*, st. 4

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Invitation and Distribution

Song Video of Reflection: *“Communion Hymn (Behold the Lamb) – Stuart Townend*

(During this song video the elders will be coming down the aisles to serve the elements to those who have difficulty opening the individual sets in the holders in the pews).

The Bread:

Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35) The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

Take, eat, remember and believe that the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.

The Cup:

Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow within him.” The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Take, drink, remember and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.

Prayer of Gratitude

* We Profess our Faith: Apostles Creed

Leader: And now let us join together in love,
and with one heart and one voice
profess the faith of the church at all times and in all
places:

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.**

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

—Apostles' Creed

* God's Blessing:

* Parting Hymn of Praise: LUYH #543 v. 1-3

"Now Thank We All Our God" v. 1-3

1. Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven—
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Words: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt., P.D.; Johann Crüger, 1647, harm. based on Felix Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang*, Opus 52, 1840, Public Domain; CCLI #678905

Postlude

This morning, we will commemorate Jesus' death and resurrection as we celebrate the Lord's Supper. By faith, Jesus' death fully covers all our sin and by His resurrection power He gives us everlasting life. May Christ's Spirit strengthen us in faith, hope, and love as we draw near to Christ Jesus through His Spirit. *The Lord's Supper is a table of grace. All those who have received the grace of Christ and confess Him as Lord and Savior of their life are warmly invited to participate. Yet, know too that there is also 'grace' from this community of faith for those who do not yet confess Christ as Lord. And if that's the case then we encourage you not to partake until you have the genuine desire to receive God's grace and are ready to proclaim Christ as your Lord.*

	Today 8/8	Next Week 8/15
Sound:	Henry H.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Josh H.	Devin VZ
Video	Carson B.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Announcements

August 8, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

This morning we celebrate the sacrament of Communion.

No More Cooties! AM Service – Physical Distancing Update: The red and green tape on the pews has been removed. However, one of the benefits of the tape was that due to the intentional spacing we have been much more evenly spread out in the pews throughout this past year. In order to encourage such spacing to continue going forward we will keep putting bulletins out in every other pew. Additional bulletins will also be available on the back table as well as on the shelf by the door of the council room. Thank you once again for your flexibility and understanding throughout this past year.

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 August 1, 2021: Not yet available. Look for it next week!

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.firstcrmv.com> for more information on these and other giving options.

DATES TO NOTE:

Men's Breakfast Bible Study will meet on **Wednesday, August 11, at 7:00 a.m.** at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington.

Our faithful custodians of 41 years, **Clarence and Eleanor Klunder**, have their last day on August 15th! We thank the Lord for so many years of excellent service to our congregation!

Les & Joy Faber recently celebrated their 65th anniversary on July 27, and they would like to celebrate with us with cake after the service on the with cake after the service on **next Sunday the 15th**.

Tuesday, August 24 – Mount Vernon Christian Convocation

Birthdays for August: Alice Oosterhof turns 91 on the 11th, Anjean VanderVeen turns 93 on August 14, and Marcella DeVries turns 92 on the 30th. Happy Birthday and prayers for continued health!

Anniversaries for August: Mike & Sue Hibma – 40 years on the 14th; Hank & Anjean VanderVeen – 71 years on the 14th!

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

A FRIEND NAMED JESUS - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Think about your best friend. What do you like about your best friend? How do you know you have a good friendship? Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

GROUNDWORK: GOD'S PERFECT PEACE - How do we find the strength to say "it is well with our souls," even when our circumstances leave us feeling uncertain or anxious? Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Isaiah 26:3-4, Jeremiah 6:13-14, and Numbers 6:22-26 to better understand the truth of God's perfect peace and discover how we can experience it for ourselves, even when our lives aren't very peaceful. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

NEW GRANTS AVAILABLE - Do you have an idea for outreach in your community? Resonate Global Mission's Innovation Experiment Grant Program will fund and support innovative projects from CRCNA individuals, congregations, faith communities, and partners who want to spread the gospel in their communities and around the world. Apply by August 31, 2021. To learn more and apply, visit www.resonateglobalmission.org/innovation-grant

Discover who God has called you to be - Are you a young adult seeking an opportunity to live in community, grow in your faith, and serve in a grassroots ministry? Resonate Global Mission is currently recruiting for Cohort. Cohort offers opportunities to serve in Central America, Detroit, or the Middle East. You'll get hands-on experience in ministry while engaging challenging questions about faith, mission, and justice. Learn more online at www.resonateglobalmission.org/cohort

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Service: Look for service opportunities that allow you to serve “with” people in need, rather than doing things “to” or “for” them. And always remember to look for things you can learn from people you serve. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.)

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Skagit County CROP Hunger Walk is Sept 19, 2:00PM starting at the Mount Vernon Christian School. Teams and individuals can register at www.CropHungerWalk.org (search Skagit in the search bar).

What is CROP? The 3.4 mile walk is fun, bring-your-dog-and-stroller kind of casual. Our goal is to both raise funds to end poverty and also to be a testimony of the church in our community. You can register at crophungerwalk.org. Crop hunger walk is the oldest and largest walk in the United States with over 1,000 walks going on this year, raising over \$11,000,000 annually.

Our committee consists of Christians who partner with Church World Services to bring the CROP HUNGER WALK to Skagit County. We take no administration fees. 75% of the money we raise will go to fight hunger globally, and 25% will go to support Skagit County food banks and Friendship House in their fight against hunger. More information about the Crop Hunger Walk and Church World Service can be found at <http://www.crophungerwalk.org/> and <https://cwsglobal.org/about/>.

A VISION: The Church can come together and testify to the world that Jesus cares about the hungry and poor! Jesus commands us in Matt. 25:35 to “Feed the Hungry.” So let’s lead the way!

We are looking for each church to sign up a team. We have found it very helpful to have a team captain to promote from within. It is not hard. It simply puts a face on the walk. Sign up, create a team name, and then ask others to join your team.

- Recruit walkers at your church
- Promote the CROP Hunger Walk at your church through bulletin announcements, posters, etc. (We provide all the materials to do this at no cost.)
- Create a team name so that your church can easily support the walk
- Carry a church banner if you have one, or make one at the beginning of the walk
- Dogs and strollers are welcome!

We will have a Facebook Live meeting for team leaders, or anyone really, to be better informed and to have questions answered. A ZOOM training will be August 14th if you want some support in promoting your team. Just email Bon.Hull@gmail.com for the Zoom link. This training is not required but you will find it inspiring and helpful.

Blessings, Bonnie Hull, Crop Committee Chair

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:

Please pray for Henry Van Zanten, Jr., as he goes in Thursday the 12th for an ICD Implant for his heart so that he can get medications figured out for his irregular heart rate due to Apical Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy. We thank God that his procedure went well this past Thursday and no blockages were found. Genetic testing will also take place in the coming weeks to see if he has the gene that can trigger ApHCM and to help understand if their kids are carrying the gene. At this time, 2 of 3 kids have had Echocardiograms and have come back negative. They ask for prayers as we continue to process this information and for decisions to make in the coming weeks.

Hans and Aileen Meishke will be moving from Heather Village to Kenmore Senior Living (in Kenmore, WA) on September 1 to be closer to family and to get the help that Aileen requires. As of yet we do not have an exact address, but we will let you know when we do. The congregation is encouraged to shower Hans and Aileen with cards and words on encouragement during this time of change and new surroundings.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please continue to keep **Adelaida Vega** in your prayers as this week she began new chemo treatment for her cancer. Pray that this treatment is effective and that the side effects are more tolerable. Pray too for Adelaida's family members as they walk alongside her in the weeks and months to come.

Please continue to pray for the **Hammings family**, the **Ekkelkamp family**, **Rouw family** and **Alice DeVries** and her family as they mourn the loss of loved ones.

SHUT INS:

Nell Annema and 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 August 2 - from: *Resonate Global Mission: Cohorts*

Pray for individuals participating in Resonate's Go Local and Joining God in the Neighborhood cohorts. These provide opportunities to learn how to be more present in our neighborhoods and to join the Holy Spirit at work. Pray that these participants will be strong witnesses for Christ in their communities.

Tuesday August 3 - from: *Communications: Inspire "Light" conference*

With the in-person Inspire conference postponed till next summer, Inspire "Light" will take place online from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. (EST) Aug. 3-6, with speakers focusing on music as a spiritual discipline, intergenerational ministry, diversity, and more. Please pray that all participants may be spiritually enriched, and that planning for next year's in-person event may go well.

Wednesday August 4 - from: *Safe Church Ministry: Teaching, training*

We work to support people within our denomination, community, and churches who have lived through or are living in trauma, and we encourage others to work from this perspective. Please pray that our webinar debuting today, "On Being a Trauma-Informed Congregation," will provide valuable discussion and information for working from a trauma-informed perspective.

Thursday August 5 - from: *Calvin Theological Seminary: Preparations*

As we gear up for the new school year, including a return to residential courses in person, please pray for students as they travel and make transitions, and for health and safety for everyone beginning the new school year together.

Friday August 6 - from: *Resonate: Worldwide*

Give thanks for CRC churches joining God's mission in their local neighborhoods and throughout the world. Ask God for wisdom and guidance in these ministries. Pray that the Lord's global church may grow through this work.

Saturday August 7 - from: *ReFrame Ministries: English ministry*

A listener shared that they enjoyed the Think Christian podcast because "it embraces pop culture with a Christian lens and understands that art is a form of prayer to be engaged with and not shunned"

Sunday August 8 - from: *Worship Ministries: Rest and focus*

As fall approaches with many ministry opportunities resuming again, pray that worship leaders and pastors may have much-needed time this month for rest. Pray for Worship Ministries as we seek to offer resources and support in the form of peer learning groups, a Worship Leader Certificate course, Reformed Worship, weekly roundtable discussions, podcasts, and more