

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
August 15, 2021

* Please stand in body or in spirit

"O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder"

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #553 v, 1-4 *"How Great Thou Art"*

1. O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain

3. But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain

4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

*Words and Music: Stuart K. Hine, 1949, © 1949, 1953, The Stuart Hine Trust, USA
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* Call to Worship:

Leader: Great and marvelous are you 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!**

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made;

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- Based on Rev. 15:3-4 and Psalm 118:24

* 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 #21 v. 1-3 *"This Is My Father's World"*

1. This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.
2. This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me everywhere.
3. This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King, let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let the earth be glad.

Words: Maltbie D. Babcock (1858-1901) P.D.; Music: English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard (1852-1930), P.D.; CCLI #678905 Music (TERRA BEATA 6.6.8.6 D): English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard (1852-1930), P.D.

"Consider all the works thy hand hath made."

Invitation to Transformed Living

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Song Video of Reflection: *"My Worth is Not in What I Own"*

- Getty's/Piper

Words of Assurance:

Leader: Here the good news: This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. By God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God!

* We Offer Our Lives to God:

Leader: As we are to walk humbly with God in lives of gratitude, let us hear again his Word: God commands us to serve him alone as God, to serve him according to his Word,

People: to speak of him only with deep respect and love, to attend faithfully the assembly of God's people on the day of rest, and every day to let the Lord work in us through his Spirit.

Leader: To respect and cooperate with all God-given authority, to live purely and joyfully with the gift of sex, to nurture human life as God's precious gift.

People: to use the resources of this earth as stewards of God's creation, to use the gift of speech for promoting the truth in love, and to exercise purity of heart in all of life.

Leader: May the Spirit of God guide us to be obedient to this Word.

People: Amen!

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #844 v. 1,2,3,5

“Lift Up Your Hearts Unto the Lord”

1. Lift up your hearts unto the Lord,
lift up your hearts unto the Lord.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
lift up your hearts unto the Lord!
2. In Christ the world has been redeemed,
in Christ the world has been redeemed.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
in Christ the world has been redeemed.
3. His resurrection sets us free,
his resurrection sets us free.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
his resurrection sets us free.

Acapella

5. Sing alleluia to the Lord,
Sing alleluia to the Lord.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
Sing alleluia to the Lord.

Words: st. 1-4 from early Christian liturgy; st. 5 Linda Stassen, 1974,
©1974 Linda Stassen; Music: Linda Stassen, 1974; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986,
© 1974, 1986 Linda Stassen; CCLI #678905

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

“I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,”

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:19-23
(Pew Bibles page 1157)

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“United in Christ”***

Time of Prayer

“Thy power throughout the universe displayed;”

* Song of Reflection: LUYH #17 v. 1-4 *“Beautiful Savior”*

1. Beautiful Savior! King of creation!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
3. Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.
4. Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

Words: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1873, P.D;

Music: Schleissche Volkslieder, 1842, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

* We Confess Our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 54-55

Leader: What do you believe concerning “the holy catholic church?”

**People: We believe that the Son of God,
through his Spirit and Word,
out of the entire human race,
from the beginning of the world to its end,
gathers, protects, and preserves for himself
a community chosen for eternal life
and united in true faith.
And of this community I am and always will be
a living member.**

Leader: What do you understand by “the communion of saints?”

People: The communion of saints— believers one and all—as members of this community, share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts. Each member should consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and cheerfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.

Call to Service

* God’s Blessing:

* Parting Praise: LUYH #302 “*Hear Our Praises*” v. 1-2

1. May our homes be filled with dancing,
may our streets be filled with joy.
May injustice bow to Jesus
as the people turn and pray.

Refrain

*From the mountain to the valley,
hear our praises rise to you.
From the heavens to the nations,
hear our singing fill the air.*

2. May your light shine in the darkness
as we walk before the cross.
May your glory fill the whole earth
as the water over the seas.

Refrain x2

Words and Music: Reuben Morgan © 1998 Hillsong Publishing (APRA), admin. US & Canada at EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI# 678905

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 8/15	Next Week 8/22
Sound:	Henry VZ	Mardy S.
Projection:	Devin VZ	Tim H.
Video	Tim H.	Devin VZ
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Announcements

August 15, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please join us in celebrating **Les & Joy Faber's** 65th anniversary with cake after the service.

Congratulations to Greg and Beth Boon on the wedding of their daughter **Kylie** to Tim Evans on August 2 last week.

Check out the Missionary Bulletin Board for updates from the Bos family, the Nicholsons, Love, Inc., and the Hansens at SVC.

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!

New Hirings Update: We praise God that we recently had several well-qualified applicants apply for the open custodial position. Following interviews with the Executive Committee the recommendation was made and approved by council that it become a shared position between two current members of our church. The council is pleased to announce that **Mr. Cody See has accepted the position of Facilities Manager and Mr. Rich Knight as Custodian.** Together the two of them will coordinate the work that Clarence and Eleanor have so faithfully performed through the years.

The council recognizes that as with any major ‘transition’ in life – various changes and adjustments will naturally take place. Encouragement, support, praise, gratitude, patience, and grace are just a few of the many attributes that pour forth from a spiritually healthy church. We look forward to hearing how the newest members of our church staff experience these in the weeks/months ahead!

A very special thanks once again to **Clarence and Eleanor Klunder** for their 41 years of faithful service. In the coming weeks they will continue to help out in the training of our new staff and then the plan is to have a special night to celebrate their years of service sometime this fall. We hope to have a ‘save the date’ for you accordingly by mid-September. In the meantime, as always, we give thanks to God for his faithful provision.

Sunday service link for August 1, 2021: <https://youtu.be/m35tsAZ06KM>

There will be no link for last week’s service, as no DVD was made.

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.

DATES TO NOTE:

Men’s Breakfast Bible Study will meet on **Wednesday, August 25, at 7:00 a.m.** at Shari’s Restaurant in Burlington.

Tuesday, August 24 – Mount Vernon Christian Convocation

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

Nothing to speak of

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR OUTREACH - 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

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Service: Jesus is our model for true servanthood. What characteristics and practices of Jesus could each of us emulate to help us develop a servant heart? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.)

GROUNDWORK: GOD IS FAITHFUL, CONSISTENT, AND KEEPS HIS PROMISES - Trusting in God's provision can be heard when life seems to constantly change. Join Groundwork as we study Judges 6:33-40, Exodus 34:1-10, Isaiah 53, and Ephesians 2:1-10 to be reminded of God's faithful and consistent character and discover why his covenant nature means we can be confident he will keep his promises. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

WELCOMING THE STRANGER - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. What does welcoming someone look like? It doesn't have to be hard. Just say hello! Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

Share God's hope with displaced families in Haiti - Haiti has been devastated by a series of natural disasters that crippled its economy. In early June 2021, the economic instability coupled with political unrest sparked gang violence in the neighborhoods of Martissant and Fontamar; houses have been burned, innocent bi-standers injured and killed, and thousands have been displaced. Many of the displaced have sought refuge in overcrowded shelters with no sanitation facilities; amongst them the disabled and infirm. People are in dire need of food. World Renew is responding to this crisis and has already provided a one-month supply of food items, water, sanitary pads and COVID-prevention kits to 750 displaced individuals. Will you help provide food to 315 more vulnerable people? The goal is to provide 2 hot meals a day per person for 35 days until these families can be resettled. Through our prayers and gifts we can extend God's hope to those displaced by the violence. To donate visit: worldrenew.net/haiti

Discover Revelation Now Available - Discover Revelation from Discover Your Bible is available today for your small group! This excellent, in-depth study leads you to dig deeper into the initial chapters of Revelation where Jesus addresses the seven churches. The study questions are designed for use with visitors and seasoned believers. Purchasable now in digital format from the Global Coffee Break website. Print format is available later this month. Three digital lessons are accessible for free as you wait.

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.



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@firstcrmv.com by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Hans and Aileen Meishke will be moving from Heather Village to Kenmore othe 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.

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 **Alice DeVries** and her family as they mourn the loss of Alice's son **Owen**, who was laid to rest Friday.

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 9 from: *World Renew: Haiti*

The assassination of Haitian president Jovenel Moise in July brought more chaos to a country already struggling with gang violence, antigovernment protests, and a surge in COVID-19 cases. World Renew staff in Haiti are safe but ask for continued prayers for this nation, for wisdom as leaders manage the crisis, and for World Renew's ministry in navigating so many challenges.

Tuesday August 10 from: *Resonate: Japan*

Several Resonate missionaries serve in Japan, where less than one percent of people are professing Christians. Resonate missionaries Ken and Jeannie Lee request that we ask God "to raise up pastors, leaders, missionaries, and evangelists to share the gospel with the full knowledge of Christ in this land."

Wednesday August 11 from: *ReFrame Ministries: Japan*

Yuki can't attend church services in his area because of his work schedule, but he listens to ReFrame's Japanese programs because a friend shared a recording with him. He keeps asking our ministry team for more materials and is learning about the Christian faith. Pray for Yuki as he continues to grow in his relationship with Christ.

Thursday August 12 from: *Calvinist Cadet Corps: New season*

The theme of our upcoming Cadet season, based on Joshua 1:9, is "God's in Control." We pray that this theme will remind cadets and counselors that God is always with them, including during times of stress and anxiety. May this reassurance help these boys and men be strong and courageous as they live for Jesus.

Friday August 13 from: *Chaplaincy and Care Ministry: Worldwide*

Please pray for our military chaplains serving overseas with service members who experience isolation from family/friends and their faith community. Corey Van Solten (U.S. Army National Guard) is deployed to Kosovo; Richard Hill (U.S. Army) and Raidel Martinez (U.S. Air Force) serve in Germany; John Averill (U.S. Army) is stationed in Belgium; Lloyd Wickers (U.S. Navy) ministers in Japan.

Saturday August 14 from: *Resonate: Michigan*

A church-plant partner in Michigan that ministers with people from a Muslim background recently celebrated three baptisms! "Pray for these newly baptized believers to stay strong in the Lord and to be effective witnesses," the church planter asks.

Sunday August 15

from: *Justice ministries: CRC Annual Day of Justice*

We give thanks to God for the passage of Bill C-15, which implements the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation in Canada. As we lament unmarked graves on residential schoolgrounds across Canada, we pray that God will use the passage of this bill to turn people's hearts toward reconciliation.