

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
September 5, 2021

* Please stand in body or in spirit

"Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!"

Prelude

Song Video of Reflection: *"Only a Holy God"* – City Alight

Welcome

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Great is the Lord in Zion;
he is exalted over all nations.
Let them praise your great and awesome name.

People: He is holy!

Leader: Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool;

People: He is holy!

Leader: Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his mountain,

People: for the Lord our God is holy!

- Based on Psalm 99

*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!

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #538 v. 1-4

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

1. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
who wert and art and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye made blind by sin Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.
4. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name,
in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Words: Reginald Heber; Music: John B. Dykes;

Descant: David McK. Williams; Public Domain; CCLI# 678905

“Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;”

Announcements

Invitation to Transformed Living

Call to Confession:

Prayer of Confession

Sung Prayer of Confession: LUYH #739 v. 1-3 *“I Surrender All”*

1. All to Jesus I surrender,
all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him,
in his presence daily live.

Refrain

I surrender all, I surrender all;
all to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

2. All to Jesus I surrender,
make me, Savior, wholly thine;
let me feel thy Holy Spirit, truly know
that thou art mine.

Refrain

I surrender all, I surrender all;
all to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

- 3 All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to thee;
fill me with thy love and power,
let thy blessing fall on me.

Refrain

Words: Judson W. VanDeVenter, P.D. 678905

Words of Assurance:

Leader: In Christ we have the forgiveness of sins
and the riches of God's grace.
This grace was given to us:
to preach to the nations the unsearchable riches
of Christ, and to make plain to everyone
the administration of this mystery,
which for ages past was kept hidden in God,
who created all things.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: We have been made holy
through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ
once for all.

**People: This is God's gospel promise:
to forgive our sins and give us eternal life
by grace alone because of Christ's one sacrifice
finished on the cross.**

—Hebrews 10:10, NIV; Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 6

We Offer Our Lives to God:

As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom he loves,
you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion,
in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience.

Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a
complaint against another. The Lord has forgiven you; now you
must do the same. Over all these clothes, put on love, the
perfect bond. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts,
because it is for this that you were called together in one body.
Always be thankful. —Colossians 3:12-15, NJB

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #746 v. 1-3

“Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God”

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

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

“Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,”

Scripture Reading: John 17:6-19, Pew Bible Page 1070

Prayer of Illumination

Message: **“Characteristics of Christ’s Church – Holiness”**

Time of Prayer

“God in three persons, blessed Trinity!”

* We Confess Our Faith: LUYH #541 *“We Praise You, O God”*

Leader: We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord;
all creation worships you, the Father everlasting.
To you all angels and all the heavenly powers cry aloud;
the cherubim and seraphim sing in endless praise:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Leader: The glorious company of apostles, praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets, praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs, praise you.
Throughout the world the holy church acclaims you:

**People: Father, of majesty unbounded; your true and only Son,
worthy of all praise; the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

Leader: You, Christ, are the King of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you took our flesh to set us free,
you humbly chose the virgin’s womb.
You overcame the sting of death and
opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God’s right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come to be our judge.

**People: Come, then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting. Amen.**

Text: 4th c. Christian hymn, P.D CCLI# 678905

* Hymn of Response: LUYH #540 v. 1-4

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

1. Holy God, we praise your name;
Lord of all, we bow before you.
Saints on earth your rule acclaim;
all in heaven above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain;
everlasting is your reign.
2. Hark, the glad celestial hymn
angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim,
in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heavens with sweet accord:
“Holy, holy, holy Lord!”
3. Lo, the apostolic train
joins your sacred name to hallow;
prophets swell the glad refrain,
and the white-robed martyrs follow;
and from morn to set of sun,
through the church the song goes on.
4. Holy Father, holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name you,
though in essence only one;
undivided God, we claim you,
and, adoring, bend the knee
while we own the mystery.

Words: Te Deum, 4th c.; vers. Ignaz Franz, ca. 1774; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1853, alt., P.D. Music: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774; desc. Emily R. Brink, 1986, ©1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources, CCLI # 678905

* Call to Service:

Leader: As we prepare to leave this place,
may God grant us the ability to lead a life
worthy of the calling
to which we have been called,

People: **with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another in love,
making every effort to maintain the unity
of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

Leader: There is one body and one Spirit,
Just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,

**People: One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.**

* Sung Response: LUYH #741 *"Take, O Take Me as I Am"* 2x
Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.

* God's Blessing:

* Parting Praise: LUYH #741 *"Take, O Take Me as I Am"*
Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.

Words and Music: John L. Bell (b. 1949) © 1995 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent; All rights reserved. OneLicense.netLicense #A711218

Postlude

Welcome to worship! Here let us seek to see God more clearly, love God more completely, and serve God more certainly. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised! After joining us in worship, join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

	Today 9/5	Next Week 9/12
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry H.
Projection:	Hannah VH	
Video	Brandon S.	
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Announcements

September 5, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

"Many thanks for all the expressions of condolence my family and I received after my son Owen's passing. Thank you for your kind words, your caring actions and your constant prayers! Special thanks to Pastor John! Sincerely, **Alice DeVries**

NEW ATTENDEES AND REGULAR GUESTS: For those of you who are not yet receiving the weekly bulletin announcements and prayer chain requests and would like to be connected – **let Beth know (360) 336-2405 or at secretary@firstcrcmv.com**. She can hook you up to the latest news!

There are copies of **Today's Christian Living** available on the shelf in the hallway.

Back in the Saddle Again! Kick Off Sunday, September 12: We are looking forward to resuming many of the fellowship ministries that we love so dearly: coffee and juice in the fellowship hall, Sunday potlucks, and hopefully nearly all of our educational ministries. Therefore, on **Sunday, Sept. 12** we plan to have a special **'kick-off Sunday'** to the church season and look forward to sharing all the many different ways that we can glorify God together through both our service to others and through the fellowship we share in Jesus Christ. There will be sign-up sheets for all those willing to volunteer in various ministries in our church. See you there! There will be coffee and cookies!

Extended care at MVCS is up and running! "Which is great, but as of now I am the only adult working, which means I'm on campus 7am to 6pm daily. We are looking to hire another adult who is interested in opening or closing (ideally both). If the individual has children they are welcome to bring them to work with them at no charge. That way they can make some money. I'm attaching a flyer for reference. My boys would be forever grateful to not have to wake up early daily and stay late!"

Heide Handy, Early Learning Director Admin,

hhandy@mountvernonchristian.org

See the flier on the bulletin board across from Beth's office!

Dear Friends,

In a world currently filled with a lot of confusion, chaos, and divisiveness – the Church of Jesus Christ has certainly experienced its own share of challenges and disappointments. Thankfully, as the children of God, we can be assured that our heavenly Father is faithful and will continue to guide, protect, and lead His people. This is His Church, not ours.

The current cultural context also presents a tremendous opportunity. An opportunity to model something different to a watching world. With the Holy Spirit's leading and guidance we can demonstrate what it means to spiritually thrive even in the midst of much darkness.

Therefore, in the weeks to come, we're going to take the time to review some of the defining characteristics of the Church of Jesus Christ. In other words, the key biblical characteristics of a spiritually healthy church. May God bless us as we study and reflect on these characteristics together.

Pastor John

In His Grace, -

1. August 29 – *“Characteristics of Christ’s Church – Introduction and ‘Joy’”*
2. Sept. 5 – *“Characteristics of Christ’s Church – Holiness”*
3. Sept. 12 – Kick-off Sunday
4. Sept. 19 - *“Characteristics of Christ’s Church – Truth”*
5. Sept. 26 - *“Characteristics of Christ’s Church – Mission”*
6. Oct. 3 - *“Characteristics of Christ’s Church – Unity”*
7. Oct. 10 - *“Characteristics of Christ’s Church – Love”*

Birthdays for September: Beverly Van Slageren, 92 years. Happy Birthday and prayers for continued health!

Anniversaries for September: Bryan and Deanna Van Beek, 25 years.

Sunday Service Links: August 29 - <https://youtu.be/OPPUBYfKWjU>

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. 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:

Kickoff Sunday! September 12

Crop Walk: Sunday, September 19 at 2 pm

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

Men's Bible Study Breakfast: Wednesday, September 8, 7:00 am at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT



THE CROP WALK DONATION PAGE IS UP!

Team Name: First Mt. Vernon CRC

When: September 19, 2 p.m.; Meet: in front of Mt. Vernon Christian School (across from Church)

google search: CROP Hunger Walk or events.crophungerwalk.org/2021

Type in team name First Mt. Vernon CRC in search box. It will take you to our team's donation page.

Make your donation using credit card or pay pal or make checks payable to: **Church World Services**

Drop off at Church or pay @ Crop Walk; October 31 is the donation deadline

Alan and Amy Muia, directors of New Earth Recovery, are presenting "Recovery for Everyone," a one-day course about addiction, recovery, and how to help those who are struggling. Saturday October 9th, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 pm. Hosted by Communion Church in downtown Mount Vernon. Email info@NERecovery.org to register. \$30/person, \$50/couple. Scholarships available! More information at www.NERecovery.org.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOD IS WITH YOU - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Have you ever been scared about a big math test, or starting a new school, or even about flying in an airplane? It's okay to be careful. But fear and worry can control our thoughts and actions. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

GROUNDWORK: HONOR YOUR PARENTS AND AUTHORITIES - Why does God care about our relationships? Join Groundwork as we study God's command in Exodus 20:12 to honor our fathers and mothers. Together we'll look to the whole of scripture to help us understand this command and how we can keep it in both healthy and broken relationships. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

WORLD RENEW DRS HURRICANE IDA RESPONSE - World Renew Disaster Response Services is organizing a response to help people who have survived Hurricane Ida in Louisiana and across the U.S. Gulf Coast. Please pray for those whose homes and lives are affected by the storm, for the dedicated DRS volunteers who help them clean up, rebuild, and recover, and for God's guidance as we prayerfully make plans to respond. You can support this work with your financial gift to World Renew, DRS Hurricane Ida 2021, at worldrenew.net/donate, or call 800-552-7972. You can also send your check by mail to: World Renew, 1700 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49508.



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:

Henry Van Zanten Jr. will be undergoing a medical procedure for installing an ICD Implant (Defibrillator Pacemaker) on the morning of September 10. Please pray that the 2-hour procedure will go smoothly and that I will be able to return home later in the day.

Please pray for our **college students** who are settling down into their dorm rooms and getting ready to start a new time in their lives. Pray that God will give them strength and guidance as they begin the new year.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please continue to keep **Clarence Vander Griend and his family** in your prayers. No service for Lona has been planned at this time.

As I've received several requests for Corky's address, here it is:
210 N. Skagit Street, Burlington, WA 98233

Please continue to keep **Adelaida Vega** in your prayers as she has begun 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 pray for **Hans and Aileen Meishke** as they settle into Kenmore Senior Living in Kenmore.

Please continue to pray for members who have lost 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 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 30 - *ReFrame Ministries: India*

Please continue to pray for all relief efforts in India amid the pandemic. Our Hindi ministry partners recently traveled to and delivered food and supplies to a community that listens to their programs. Pray that Christian ministries will find new opportunities to share Christ's love in such a difficult time.

Tuesday August 31 - *World Renew: East Africa*

Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda are battling a second wave of the pandemic. These countries are in various stages of lockdown or regulations, making travel difficult or impossible. Please pray for health and safety for the people of East Africa, asking that more opportunities may open up for vaccine distribution.

Wednesday September 1 - *Resonate Global Mission: Japan*

Resonate missionaries Jeong and MiSook Gho ask for prayer for online leadership trainings they are leading, as believers from several countries are gathering online! Ask God to equip and encourage these emerging leaders for the global church.

Thursday September 2 - *Candidacy Committee: Seminary students*

In September, seminary students start or resume their academic year. Ask God to grant them strength, clarity of mind, and the ability to balance all aspects of their busy lives. Ask the Spirit to draw them into a deeper relationship with him as they prepare to become leaders in the church.

Friday September 3 - *ReFrame Ministries: Hindi ministry*

Knowing that many of their listeners are part of India's lowest classes, our partners in India collected extra funds to provide about 500 meals for people in nearby communities. Pray for people like Pramond, a recipient, who said, "The COVID-19 lockdown directly affected me and my six family members at home. I lost my work and was becoming hopeless."

Saturday September 4 - *World Renew: Haiti crisis*

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world, and its economic development has been significantly crippled by relentless natural disasters, such as last month's earthquake, hurricanes, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The country is also navigating gang violence, political protests, and other challenges in the wake of its president's assassination. Please join us in praying for God's peace in the hearts of Haitians who have had to endure so much hardship.