

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
September 12, 2021

* Please stand in body or in spirit

*"God is here! As we, your people,
meet to offer praise and prayer,"*

Prelude

* Welcome/Announcements

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #246 v. 1-3 *"God is Here"*

1. God is here! As we, your people,
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of your Spirit
into open minds and hearts.
2. Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the Word has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence as in speech,
here in newness and renewal
God the Spirit comes to each.
3. Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here, as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

Words: st. 1-4 Fred Pratt Green, 1977, © 1979 Hope Publishing Company; st. 5
Henrietta Ten Harmsel ©1979 Hope Publishing Company; Music: J. Wyeth's
Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813, P.D.; CCLI #678905

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Holy, holy, holy God, we worship and adore you –
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People: Today in our worship we long for a glimpse
of your glory, seen perfectly in Christ, our Lord.**

Leader: As we worship, may we gain new insight
about the mystery and wonder of your love.

**People: And may we sense new ways to mirror that love
in our world, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

* 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 #286 v. 1-3

"Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God.
He, whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
2. See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.

3. Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering,
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner
light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna
which God gives them on their way.

PSALM 87; Words: John Newton, 1779, alt., P.D.; Music: Franz Joseph Hayd (1732-1809), 1797, P.D.; CCLI #678905

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

*“May we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share”*

Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 12:12-13, 27-29
(Pew Bible Page 1137)

Introduction to today’s service plan

- a. We glorify God through our **Worship** – Pastor John
- b. We glorify God through the use of **Technology** – Henry H.
- c. We glorify God through **Education** – Tim V.H.

Time of Prayer

* Song of Response: LUYH #247 v. 1-3 *“I Love Your Church, O Lord”*

1. I love your church, O Lord!
Her saints before you stand,
dear as the apple of your eye
and graven on your hand.
2. Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
her sweet communion, solemn vows,
her hymns of love and praise.
3. I love your church, O God,
the people you have called,
the church our blest Redeemer saved
with his own precious blood.

Words: Timothy Dwight, 1800, alt., P.D.; Music: Aaron Williams,
1770, P.D. CCLI #678905

- d. We glorify God through our **Evangelism** – Darrel L.
- e. We glorify God through our **Fellowship** - Greg A.
- f. We glorify God through our care for the **church** – Greg B.
- g. We glorify God by being **hospitable** and **safe** - Tim V.H.

Time of Prayer

* Song of Preparation: *“O Church Arise” (Getty) v. 1-4*

1. O Church arise and put your armour on;
hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong,
in the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
we'll stand against the devil's lies;
an army bold whose battle cry is Love,
reaching out to those in darkness.
2. Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
but to rage against the captor;
and with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
we will fight with faith and valour.
When faced with trials on every side,
we know the outcome is secure.
And Christ will have the prize for which He died,
an inheritance of nations.
3. Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
as the Son of God is stricken;
then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
for the Conqueror has risen.
And as the stone is rolled away
and Christ emerges from the grave,
this victory march continues till the day
every eye and heart shall see Him.

4. So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride,
give grace for every hurdle;
that we may run with faith, to win the prize
of a servant, good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day
when, with Christ we stand in glory.

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*"Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts"*

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-17 (Pew Bible pg. 1167)

Message: ***"Whatever you do"***

Time of Prayer

*"Wait the coming of your Spirit
into open minds and hearts."*

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #246 *"God is Here"* v. 1, 4, 5

1. God is here! As we, your people,
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of your Spirit
into open minds and hearts.
4. Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's celebration,
all we have to give, receive;
we who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe.

5. In this time of celebration
we would offer special praise.
As we think of past and future,
vow anew to walk your ways.
Times of triumph, times of failure—
still this song keeps ringing through:
Lord, your works cannot be numbered,
Lord, our church belongs to you.

Words: st. 1-4 Fred Pratt Green, 1977, © 1979 Hope Publishing Company; st. 5
Henrietta Ten Harmsel ©1979 Hope Publishing Company; Music: J. Wyeth's
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* We Confess Our Faith: HC Q&A 55 & Our World Belongs to God
st. 37-39, 41

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

**People: First, that believers one and all,
as members of this community,
share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts.
Second, that each member should consider it
a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully
for the service and enrichment
of the other members.**

Leader: In our world, bent under the weight of sin,
Christ gathers a new community.
Satan and his evil forces seek whom they may
confuse and swallow;
but Jesus builds his church, his Spirit guides,
and grace abounds.

**People: The church is the fellowship of those
who confess Jesus as Lord.
She is the Bride of Christ, his chosen partner,
loved by Jesus and loving him:
delighting in his presence,
seeking him in prayer,
silent before the mystery of his love.**

Leader: Our new life in Christ is celebrated and nourished in the fellowship of congregations where God's name is praised, his Word proclaimed, his way taught; where sins are confessed, prayers and gifts are offered, and sacraments are celebrated.

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

* Song of Response: LUYH #309 *"The Servant Song"*

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.
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.
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.
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.
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

* Call to Service

* God's Blessing

* Parting Hymn of Praise: "All Glory Be to Christ"

1. Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive;
unless the Lord does raise the house,
in vain its builders strive.
To you who boast tomorrow's gain,
tell me what is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn; all glory be to Christ.

Chorus

*All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
all glory be to Christ!*

2. His will be done, His kingdom come,
on earth as is above,
who is Himself our daily bread;
praise Him, the Lord of love.
Let living water satisfy
the thirsty without price;
we'll take a cup of kindness yet;
all glory be to Christ.

Chorus

3. When on the day the great I Am,
the faithful and the true,
the Lamb who was for sinners slain,
is making all things new.
Behold our God shall live with us
and be our steadfast light.
And we shall e're his people be;
all glory be to Christ.

Chorus

Chorus: Sing acapella

Words and Arrangement by Dustin Kensrue; Music: Traditional Scottish Folk
Tune© 2012 We Are Younger We Are Faster Music (Admin. by Music Services,
Inc.); CCLI #678905

Postlude

Welcome! We invite all of you to praise God with hearts and hands and voices. Let us be mindful of the wonders God has given us. Come rejoice in God and together sing praises to His name. Reach out in warmth to all who have gathered in the house of the Lord.

	<i>Today 9/12</i>	<i>Next Week 9/19</i>
Sound:	Henry H.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Hannah VH	Devin VZ
Video	Brandon S.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Announcements

September 12, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

The Cadet program is in need of leaders this year. If you have ever been a Cadet leader or a Cadet and could spare a couple nights a month to model for boys what it's like to be a Christian man, please sign up today after church or contact Eliot Blom at 206-552-5954 or eliotb31@yahoo.com.

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!

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. This morning 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!

Announcement for all High School Students! Youth Group is starting up again on September 19 at the Van Hofwegen house (4225 Montgomery Pl, Mount Vernon) at 6:00. Come join us for a time of devotions, games, food, and a time to hang out. If you have any questions, please contact Devin Van Zanten (dvanzanten2016@gmail.com, (360)708-9679), or Eliot Blom (eliotb31@yahoo.com, (206)552-5954) with any questions.

Corky Vander Griend and his family would like to thank you all for your kind words of comfort, your prayers, and support during the passing of Lona. God bless you all.

Hans & Alieen Meishke wish to thank the congregation for all your heartfelt cards, calls and prayers. They are overwhelmed with gratitude for your kindness. Hans says, "The Lord has been with us in this move", and they are very happy with their new environment in Kenmore.

Extended care at MVCS is up and running! 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. 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.

In His Grace, -

Pastor John

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: Sept 5: <https://youtu.be/lfVP1nNRxwU>

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.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

Kickoff Sunday! September 12

Estate Sale for Hans and Alieen Meishke in Heather Village, Sept. 17 & 18

Crop Walk: Sunday, September 19 at 2 pm

DATES TO NOTE:

Men's Bible Study Breakfast: Wednesday, September 22, 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

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

ReFrame Ministries - **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.

GOD LIKES YOU - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. God wants to be with you. He loves to watch you run and play. He laughs at the jokes you tell. He celebrates your accomplishments. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

GROUNDWORK: YOU SHALL NOT MURDER - The sixth commandment "You shall not murder" seems quite straight forward. Yet as we read the whole Bible we discover it demands more of us than simply not killing another person. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Exodus 20:13, Genesis 4:2-12, and more to gain a deeper understanding of the sixth commandment. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Faith Formation Ministries – **Faith Practice Reflection Tip** - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Sabbath: Read Mark 2:23-28 and ponder or discuss the following questions: What would a sabbath that is "made for you" look like? What would be life-giving? What would be restful? What would point you to God? For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject



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:

Pray for Henry Van Zanten Jr., as he had a heart procedure this past Friday to implant the Defibrillator/Pacemaker. We pray for a successful outcome and quick healing.

Please pray for Les Faber: recent tests show that Les' metastatic colon cancer is continuing to spread. The plan now is for Les to start a new kind of therapy in the coming days/weeks. Please pray that this new therapy will be effective and that the side effects will be minimal. Pray too that God will give Les, Joy, and the entire Faber family His indescribable assurance and peace in Christ as they walk this road together.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please continue to keep **Adelaida Vega** in your prayers as she has begun new chemo treatment for her cancer

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 September 6 - *Communications: Labor Day*

As we take time to reflect on work and its place in our lives and communities, give thanks for the ways our work at home or in careers, paid and unpaid, helps us to serve others. Pray for people seeking employment or struggling in their work life.

Tuesday September 7 - *Resonate: Lithuania*

Pray for a student of Steve Van Zanen, a Resonate missionary who serves at LCC International University in Lithuania. While the student has experience with faith, taking this course has been his first real experience with the Bible—and he's been asking Steve a lot of questions! Pray that this student will come to know Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

Wednesday September 8 *Raise Up: Educational Care: West Africa*

Praise God for 500 Christian teachers and administrators who participated in various training programs, and 11 certified advanced facilitators. Pray for provision for an EC graduating cohort and for new teacher training opportunities in central Africa. Ask the Spirit to empower participants in the training programs to strive for transformational change in their classrooms and schools.

Thursday September 9 - *ReFrame: Japan*

"I've been away from God for a long time, absent in my faith," said Machi in a message to our Japanese ministry team. Praise God that she recently began listening to our programs again and reading our devotions. Pray that she will continue to seek Christ.

Friday September 10 - *World Renew: Zambia*

The COVID-19 infection rate is decreasing in Zambia as a new supply of vaccines is being rolled out, but effects of the pandemic remain a serious concern. The country is also tense leading up to elections. Please pray for peace and acceptance once the results are counted, and pray for health and safety for the people of Zambia.

Saturday September 11 - *Communications: 9-11*

Today marks 20 years since the terrorist attacks that killed thousands of people and deeply affected travel and safety measures throughout the world. Pray for God's comfort for all who are commemorating lost loved ones, and for God's love and wisdom to reign in the hearts of people who shape our countries and cultures.

Sunday September 12 - *Resonate: Mission Emphasis*

Today marks the beginning of Mission Emphasis Week, when many CRC congregations celebrate and learn more about mission. This year's theme—Whole Church, Whole Gospel, Whole World—focuses on Acts 1:8 and how each of us has a role in God's plan for redemption. Ask the Holy Spirit to equip, encourage, and provide opportunities for every believer to share the hope of the gospel.