

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
September 19, 2021
10:30 A.M. Worship Service

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

"My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine."

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

* Sung Call to Worship: LUYH#551 v. 1-4

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice with us and sing:
alleluia, alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam,
and shining moon with silver gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. O rushing wind so wild and strong,
White clouds that sail in heaven along,
Alleluia, alleluia!
New rising dawn in praise rejoice;
You lights of evening find a voice:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. Cool flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear;
alleluia, alleluia!
Fierce fire, so masterful and bright,
providing us with warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4. Earth ever fertile, day by day
bring forth your blessings on our way,
alleluia, alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
let them his glory also show:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Francis of Assisi; Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams. Public Domain; CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting

"For thee all the follies of sin I resign:"

* Opening Songs of Praise:

"Raise a Hallelujah"

1. I raise a hallelujah, in the presence of my enemies
I raise a hallelujah, louder than the unbelief
I raise a hallelujah, my weapon is a melody
I raise a hallelujah, heaven comes to fight for me
2. I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes, hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive!
3. I raise a hallelujah, with everything inside of me
I raise a hallelujah, I will watch the darkness flee
I raise a hallelujah, in the middle of the mystery
I raise a hallelujah, fear you lost your hold on me!
4. I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes, hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive!

Chorus

Sing a little louder (In the presence of my enemies)
Sing a little louder (Louder than the unbelief)
Sing a little louder (My weapon is a melody)
Sing a little louder (Heaven comes to fight for me)
Sing a little louder (In the presence of my enemies)
Sing a little louder (Louder than the unbelief)

Sing a little louder (My weapon is a melody)
Sing a little louder (Heaven comes to fight for me)
Sing a little louder!

I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes, hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive!

CCLI Song #7119315 ©2018 Bethel Music Publishing For use solely with the
SongSelect[®] Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License
#678905

"Reckless Love"

1. Before I spoke a word, You were singing over me
You have been so, so good to me
Before I took a breath, You breathed Your life in me
You have been so, so kind to me

Chorus

*O, the overwhelming, neverending
Reckless love of God
O, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety nine
I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
O, the overwhelming, neverending
Reckless love of God*

2. When I was Your foe, still Your love fought for me
You have been so, so good to me
When I felt no worth, You paid it all for me
You have been so, so kind to me

Bridge 1

There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up, coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down, coming after me

Bridge 2

There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up, coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down, coming after me

Bridge 3

There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up, coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down, coming after me

Chorus

*O, the overwhelming, neverending
Reckless love of God
O, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety nine
I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
O, the overwhelming, neverending
Reckless love of God*

CCLI Song # 7089641 Caleb Culver, Cory Asbury, Ran Jackson
2017 Watershed Publishing Group (Admin. by Watershed Music Group)
Bethel Music Publishing, Cory Asbury Publishing (Admin by Bethel Music)
Richmond Park (Admin by Essential Music Publishing)

*(Following the singing of this song the children
are invited forward for the Children's Message)*

Children's Message: Marjo Rouw

*(Following the conclusion of the children's message
children ages 3- 1st grade are dismissed for Children's Worship)*

* Song of Preparation: "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" v. 1-3

1. How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure
that He should give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss.
The Father turns His face away
as wounds which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.

2. Behold the Man upon a cross,
my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life.
I know that it is finished.

3. I will not boast in anything:
no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Words and Music by Stuart Townend, ©1995 Kingsway's Thankyou Music,
All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI# 678905

"My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;"

Scripture Readings: John 17:6-19

Text: v. 17 (Pew Bible Page 1070)

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Characteristics of Christ's Church - Truth"***

Time of Prayer

"If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

* Song of Application: LUYH #366 v. 1-3 "My Jesus, I Love Thee"

1. My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

2. I love thee because thou hast first loved me
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

3. I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,
and say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #366 v. 4 *"My Jesus, I Love Thee"*

4. In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright.
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Words: William R. Featherstone, ca. 1862, P.D.; Music: Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876, P.D.; CCLI #678905

Postlude

Welcome to the House of the Lord! We have come to bring our worship to our God. May we do so in our singing, praying, giving, preaching and listening. May God be glorified. After the morning service all are invited to the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

	Today 9/19	Next Week 9/26
Sound:	Henry VZ	Mardy S.
Projection:	Devin VZ	Tim H.
Video	Tim H	Devin VZ
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Announcements

September 19, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Kick-Off Sunday (Continued...): Just in case you were missing last Sunday or forgot to sign up to volunteer for something in the life of the church... DON'T WORRY! We've left the sign up sheets out for another week. There are still a few categories that could use a few warm bodies!

The Crop Walk is this afternoon at 2 pm. However you can still donate until October 31!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

Youth Group at Van Hofwegens, Sunday September 19 at 6:00 pm

DATES TO NOTE:

Men's Bible Study Breakfast: Wednesday, September 22, 7:00 am at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington.

Council meets October 11 at 6:30pm

Announcement for all High School Students! Youth Group is starting up again **TONIGHT** 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.



We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, messages and encouraging Bible verses this week. Henry's procedure was a success, and now he will begin healing at home. We trust that the ICD implant will do exactly what is intended to do. We give thanks for God's faithfulness and healing mercies. **Henry and Pam Van Zanten**

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!

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 Link: Sept 12: <https://youtu.be/MTRcFjX4Go>

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.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

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!

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOING MY FATHER'S WORK - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. How was the twelve-year-old Jesus like us? We are also God's children, and God has some important plans for each of us. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

GROUNDWORK: YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY - The seventh commandment helps us live rightly in sacred marriage relationships. Join Groundwork as we study Exodus 20:14 and other scriptures to better understand why God cares and how we find the hope and grace to help us commit and, when necessary, receive forgiveness and re-commit to keeping this commandment. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

FAITH PRACTICE REFLECTION TIP - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Sabbath: Read Luke 6:6-11 and ponder or discuss the following questions: In what areas of your life do you need healing and restoration? How might celebrating sabbath help you open your heart to letting Jesus “completely restore” and heal you? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject)

ABUSE AWARENESS SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 26 - In one week, the Safe Church ministry of the CRC invites congregations to imagine a more holistic approach to nurturing a safe and healthy church community where abuse itself becomes unthinkable and where survivors feel supported and safe. In preparation, learn more about Safe Church now at their website: crcna.org/SafeChurch. Consider donating to Safe Church at crcna.org/SafeChurch/donate

DISABILITY CONCERNS OCTOBER LEARNING SERIES - Disability Concerns Ministry is excited to share our newest resource with you: Everybody Belongs, Serving Together (www.faithward.org/everybody-belongs-serving-together/). Join us this October, every Thursday evening at 8pm (EST) as we dive into this resource, inviting leaders in our community to speak on topics covered in this handbook. Visit our website to find out more and to register for this series: bit.ly/dcc2021series (Hosted by Disability Concerns Canada)

NEW THRIVING ESSENTIALS COURSE - Be one of the first to experience and help shape a new course created for elders, deacons, church staff, and all lay leaders. Developed with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc, this online four-session course explores key paradigms about mission, discipleship, discernment, and leadership. Pilot testing begins this week, with 300 spots available over the fall. For details and to sign up, visit crcna.org/Thrive



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:

Sid Tiemersma was admitted to the hospital with some heart complications. As a result, he had a stent put in and is currently still being monitored. Please pray that the stent is effective and that Sid will be able to return home soon!

John Velasquez had a quadruple bypass surgery this past Wednesday. The doctors are confident it went well. Please continue to pray for a full recovery in the weeks ahead! Cards and notes of encouragement can sent to the following address:

**John and Judy Velasquez
1728 Britt Road #1
Mount Vernon, WA 98273**

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

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.

Please continue to keep **Adelaida Vega** in your prayers.

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 13 -*Disability Concerns: Event*

Give thanks with us for all the work God has been blessing in our ministry! At our annual leadership event, disability advocates from across North America discussed the importance of engaging young people in our ministry. The conversation continues this month as we launch the Disability Advocacy Journey to train young adults in their own communities. May God be at the center of this important work!

Tuesday September 14 -*ReFrame: Today devotions*

Norma reads Today devotions and recently shared, "Pray for me to stay on this road of recovery upon my release from prison and drug treatment. Pray for me to decide on the best housing plan as I achieve new independence."

Wednesday September 15 -*Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee: Unity and love*

Pray for unity among all people who love, worship, and follow Christ. Pray that we will be one, as Jesus prayed, and that we will be known by our love for all people whom God has made.

Thursday September 16 -*Resonate: Mexican Independence Day*

As we honor Mexican Independence Day, give thanks for the many ways God is working through Resonate partner church plants that minister with people who have immigrated to Canada and the United States from Mexico. These church plants are passionate about evangelism and spreading the gospel with their neighbors.

Friday September 17 -*World Renew: Detroit flooding*

Detroit, Mich., declared a major disaster on July 15, 2021, after severe flooding affected more than 3,000 basements. Flooding has occurred in this area four times within the past seven years, causing insurance companies to drop homeowners policies. Disaster Response Services is dispatching teams to the area for cleanup and debris removal. Please pray for all who are affected by the flooding, including our volunteers.

Saturday September 18 -*Pastor Church Resources: Endurance*

Many pastors and ministry leaders are running on empty. They've continued to carry out their callings during many months of COVID-19 challenges. Please offer encouragement and assistance to your pastor and ministry leaders. Ask God to fill them up and give them what they need to carry on.

Sunday September 19 -*Resonate: Mission Emphasis Week wrap-up*

Give thanks with us for all the ways God is working through CRC churches, individuals, and partner ministries to share the hope of the gospel throughout the world. Pray for continued and strengthened relationships between Resonate and CRC churches so that many more people will come to know the hope, mercy, and grace of Christ.