

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
September 26, 2021

* Please stand in body or in spirit

"I love to tell the story of unseen things above,"

Prelude

Opening Video: *"The Mission of the Church"*

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #286 v. 1, 2, 4
"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.
4. Savior, since of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in your name.
Fading are the world's best pleasures,
all its boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasures
none but Zion's children know.

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

* Welcome

* Words of Adoration

Leader: The love of God has been poured into our hearts
Through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

People: We dwell in him and he in us.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name.

People: Make known his deeds among the peoples.

Leader: Sing to him, sing praises to him,

People: and speak of all his marvelous works.

Leader: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,

People: who was and is and is to come!

- Based on Psalm 105:1-2, Romans 5:5, and Revelation 4:8

* 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 Response: LUYH #15 v. 1-2 *"The First Place"*

1. Jesus, the perfect picture of the unseen God.
Maker of things we cannot comprehend.
Wisdom, the earth displays your strength and beauty.
Sovereign, yes, every throne knows you are God.

Refrain

Every inch of this universe belongs to you, O Christ.
For through you and for you it was made.
Your creation endures by the order of your hand.
So you must have in all things the first place.

2. Victor, over sin and death you triumphed.
Firstborn, you've shown us life beyond the grave.
Bridegroom, we long for you in expectation.
Jesus, your church rejoices to proclaim.

Refrain X 2

Every inch of this universe belongs to you, O Christ.

For through you and for you it was made.

Your creation endures by the order of your hand.

So you must have in all things the first place.

Words and Music: Matthew Westerholm © 1999 Matthew Westerholm;

arr. Greg Scheer © 1999 Matthew Westerholm; CCLI# 678905

"Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love."

Announcements

Safe Church Sunday - Ministry Video

Invitation to Transformed Living

Call to Confession:

Prayer of Lament for Abuse Awareness:

Words of Assurance:

Leader: Since we have been justified through faith,
We have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
Into this grace in which we now stand.

People: **And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.
And hope does not disappoint us,
because God has poured out his love
into our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
who he has given to us.**

We Offer Our Lives to God: LUYH #731

"Why We Do Good Works"

Leader: Since we have been delivered from our misery by
grace through Christ without any merit of our
own, why then should we do good works?

People: Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, is also restoring us by his Spirit into his image, so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits, so that he may be praised through us, so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits, and so that by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ.

Text: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 86

Song of Response: LUYH #742 v. 1-3 *“Will You Come and Follow Me”*

1. Will you come and follow me,
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you, and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind,
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you, and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see,
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you, and you in me?

*(During the singing of this song the children are invited forward
for the children's message)*

Children's Message:

(Following the message children ages 3 – 3rd grade are excused for Children & Worship)

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #742 v. 4-5

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

4. Will you love the 'you' you hide,
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you, and you in me?

5. Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you, and you in me.

Words: The Iona Community © 1987 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent; Music: Scottish traditional; arr. John L. Bell © 1987 wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent; OneLicense.net License #A-711218

"I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true;"

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

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Characteristics of Christ's Church – Mission"***

Video of Application: *"Church Mission Measures"*

Time of Prayer

"It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do."

Song Video of Reflection: *"Facing a Task Unfinished"* - Getty's

* We Confess Our Faith: LUYH #263

"Joining the Mission of God"

Leader: Joining the mission of God, the church is sent with the gospel of the kingdom

People: to call everyone to know and follow Christ and to proclaim to all the assurance that in the name of Jesus there is forgiveness of sin and new life for all who repent and believe.

Leader: The Spirit calls all members to embrace God's mission in their neighborhoods and in the world: to feed the hungry, bring water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and free the prisoner.

People: We repent of leaving this work to a few, for this mission is central to our being.

Leader: In a world estranged from God, where happiness and peace are offered in many names and millions face confusing choices,

**People: we witness— with respect for followers of other ways— to the only one in whose name salvation is found: Jesus Christ.
In Jesus, God reconciles the world to himself.
God loves all creation; his compassion knows no bounds.**

Text: from st. 41-42, Our World Belongs to God

*Hymn of Application: LUYH #262 v. 1-3 *"I Love to Tell the Story"*

1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain

*I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

2. I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

Refrain

3. I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

Refrain

Words: A. Catherine Hankey, 1866, P.D.; Music: William G. Fisher, 1869, P.D.;

* Call to Service: LUYH #267 *"The Great Commission"*

Leader: Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth
has been given to me."
With gratitude and expectation,
we hear Jesus' command:

**People: Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything
I have commanded you.
With joy and trust, we hear Jesus' promise:
"Surely I am with you always,
to the very end of the age."**

Text: adapted from Matthew. 28:18-20

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #590 v. 1, 2, 3, 7, 8

"Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" v. 1,2,3,7,8

1. Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

2. My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.
3. The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.
7. Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,
your loosened tongues employ;
you blind, behold your Savior come;
and leap, you lame, for joy!
8. To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heaven.

Words: English, Charles Wesley, 1739, alt., P.D.; Music: Carl G. Gläser, 1828, and
arr. Lowell Mason, 1939, P.D. CCLI #678905

Postlude

Welcome! This is the day that the Lord has made. Worship is our opportunity to be glad and rejoice in the Lord's house on the Lord's Day. We come as the children of God, knowing that we are welcomed here where all are meant to be one in the Lord. Let us lay down our burdens and rejoice in the Lord for the Lord is good, the Source of love. 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 9/26	Next Week 10/3
Sound:	Mardy S.	Tim H.
Projection:	Tim H.	Hannah VH
Video	Devin VZ	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Announcements

September 26, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

The Men's Breakfast Bible Study has been moved to **TUESDAYS**. Their next meeting at Shari's in Burlington is on October 6 at 7:00 am.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

Greeters: Rinie & Jill Rouw; **Oct. 3** – Greg & Tish Ackermann

Coffee Hosts: **Oct. 3** – Dennis & Melba DeKok

DATES TO NOTE:

Men's Bible Study Breakfast: Tuesday, October 6, 7:00 am at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington.

Council meets October 11 at 6:30pm

GEMS Kick-off and Ice Cream Social – October 7; 6:30pm

Sunday School begins! October 3, 9:30 am

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 October: Sylvia Van Zanten (Oct. 10, 71 years), Steve Jungquist (Oct. 17, 71 years), Wayne Doss (Oct. 19, 74 years), Marinus Rouw (Oct. 12, 84 years). Happy Birthday and prayers for continued health!

Anniversaries for September: Kevin & Glenda Kok, 39 years.

Sunday September 19 Service Link: https://youtu.be/aA9P2_KvciU

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.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Sabbath: Read Psalm 23 and ponder or discuss the following questions: Reflect on the words “I shall not want” (or, as The Message puts it, “I don’t need a thing.” How often do those words describe you? How have you experienced God’s “goodness and mercy”? How might you be an agent of goodness and mercy to your neighbor or to your “enemies”? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject)

Safe Church October Webinar - Join us on Zoom October 6th, at 12pm Eastern for our October Safe Church webinar: Faith Leaders and a Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence. This webinar features a conversation with Rev. Michael Ten Haken (Pease CRC), Judy Pearson (Director of the Pearl Crisis Center), and Glenda Rittenour (Court Advocate), to discuss how they function as a Community Coordinated Response Team in Pease, Minnesota, in response to domestic abuse and with battering intervention programs. <https://bit.ly/SCOctoberwebinar>

Today is Abuse Awareness Sunday - 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. Please help this valuable ministry that empowers all CRCs by giving now at their website: crcna.org/SafeChurch/Donate

Groundwork: You Shall Not Steal - Stealing of any kind reveals a lack of trust in God's provision. Join Groundwork as we study Exodus 20:15 and dig into scriptures that help us better understand the damage stealing causes in our relationships and what attitudes of the heart we can cultivate to help curb any temptation to steal something for our own benefit. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

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.

Spending Time with Jesus - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. If you were going to spend time with Jesus, what would you want to do? Would you play with him? Would you ask him questions and talk about stuff? Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

Stoking the Spirit in Your Marriage - Family Fire is proud to share a series of videos on improving your marriage, titled, "Stoking the Spirit in Your Marriage." Based on their long-running series of in-person marriage seminars, Pastors Deb & Steven Koster discuss skills and fundamentals everyone can use in their marriages. Get the series in 13 installments right in your inbox with your free subscription to Family Fire. Visit familyfire.com/stokingmarriage

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)

All Nations Heritage Sunday - October 3 - Next week is All Nations Heritage Sunday and we'll celebrate the multicultural church of Christ. Consider giving now to the All Nations Heritage Scholarship Fund that provides financial assistance for students of various ethnic minorities attending universities affiliated with the CRC. Check out the website: crcna.org/AllNations



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:

Wilma Paul took a fall at Life Care Center on Tuesday. She went to United General ER and stayed overnight, waiting for a room to open up somewhere for surgery. No beds were available so she was taken to Harborview. They are hoping to get her into surgery today (Thurs. the 23rd). She has a fracture above the knee involving pins and a rod in place there from prior surgeries. Of course, family can't be with her once she is recuperating on a floor of the hospital, so they ask for prayers through surgery and recovery.

Sid Tiemersma passed away in his sleep Monday night. Please keep his children, family, and close friends in your prayers during this time of significant loss. Pray for the Holy Spirit's comfort and work for each one of them. Thank you in advance for your commitment to pray.

John Velasquez had a successful quadruple bypass surgery. 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 20 - *ReFrame: Portuguese ministry*

Adam recently messaged ReFrame's Portuguese ministry team, expressing concern for his church, which has lost many members since the pandemic began. Pray for Adam as well as many other people who share this concern. Pray for churches around the world as they move forward and seek to grow, sharing the grace and love of Christ with others.

Tuesday September 21 - *World Renew: Mercy and Justice*

Pray with us for the many families around the world that are suffering: being isolated from each other, struggling through pain, or navigating the trenches of poverty. In so many places medical care is underresourced and inadequate to meet the overwhelming needs caused by the pandemic. Pray for wholeness and healing for vulnerable families and communities.

Wednesday September 22 - *ThereforeGo Ministries: Mentoring and SERVE*

Please pray with us as we launch three mentoring networks with churches seeking to grow connections with emerging adults in their congregations this fall. We are also preparing for SERVE 2022 at sites across Canada and the United States. We are excited to see what God will do in the lives of students next summer through SERVE.

Thursday September 23 - *Chaplaincy and Care: Conference*

At our annual conference September 23-25 we are hosting our 154 CRC chaplains online from the U.S., Canada, and around the globe. Our theme is "Rest. Sabbath. Hope." Pray for our chaplains as they collaborate with peers, find spiritual renewal, hone skills, and implement best practices to continue to minister during "moments that matter."

Friday September 24 - *Resonate: Honduras*

Resonate missionary Caspar Geisterfer in Honduras is discipling a young adult who was recently appointed to lead the youth group at her church. She accepted the position but admitted that she's intimidated. Ask the Holy Spirit to encourage and equip her as she leads students in her church.

Saturday September 25 - Faith Formation Ministries: Mental health

As many people continue to experience mental health challenges, whether these have been lifelong challenges or more recent ones, ask God to generously provide peace, joy, and hope to them and their loved ones. May God's people be particularly attentive and welcoming toward all who long to experience Christian fellowship.

Sunday September 26 - Safe Church: Abuse Awareness Sunday

Today we lament that as a community of believers we are still far from being a safe space for many people. Living through a pandemic has revealed staggering numbers of individuals who live in situations of abuse and harm on a daily basis. May God sustain our ministry as we persevere toward the goal of creating spaces free from abuse.