

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
October 31, 2021
10:30 A.M. Worship Service

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God"

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #776 v. 1-4
"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.
3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

4. That Word above all earthly powers—
no thanks to them—abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God’s truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!

Words: based on Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852,
P.D.; Music: Martin Luther, 1529, alt.; harm. Johann s. Bach (1685-1750), P.D.;
CCLI #678905

* Call to Worship / God’s Greeting

Leader: Our worship is in the name of the Father,

**People: the one eternal God in whom we live and move
and have our being.**

Leader: and of the Son,

**People: our crucified and risen Lord, Jesus Christ,
through whom the love of God
is made manifest in us.**

Leader: and of the Holy Spirit,

**People: the Counselor by whom we become
the people of God and the church of Jesus Christ.**

Leader: Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of our help?

People: Our help is in the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

* Opening Song of Praise: LUYH #175-176 v. 1-4
“The Wonderful Cross”

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

Refrain

*Oh, the wonderful cross,
Oh, the wonderful cross
bids me come and die
and find that I may truly live.
Oh, the wonderful cross,
Oh, the wonderful cross,
all who gather here by grace
draw near and bless your name.*

3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Refrain

4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"; Words: Isaac Watts, 1707, P.D.;

Music: Lowell Mason, 1824, P.D. CCLI #678905

"The Wonderful Cross"; Words and Music: Chris Tomlin, J.D. Walt, Jesse Reeves

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

"And his righteousness,"

Children's Message – Marjo Rouw

*(Following the message children ages 3- 3rd grade
are dismissed for Children's Worship)*

* Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #899 v. 1-3 *“Seek Ye First”*

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.
2. Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

Sing acapella

3. We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia.

Words and Music: Matthew 6:33, 7:7, 4:4; para. Karen Lafferty, 1972,
© 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin Music Services; CCLI #678905

“And all these things shall be added unto you.”

Scripture Reading: Daniel 2:24-49
(Pew Bible Page 874)

Prayer of Illumination

Message: *“The Interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream”*

Time of Prayer

“Allelu, alleluia”

* Song of Application: Sing! #123 v. 1-3 *“Bring Forth the Kingdom”*

1. You are salt for the earth, O people:
salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
Life in the kingdom of God!

Refrain

*Bring forth the kingdom of mercy;
Pray for the kingdom of peace;
Work for the kingdom of justice;
Hope for the city of God!*

2. You are a light on a hill, O people:
Light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people;
Shine for the kingdom of God!

Refrain

*Bring forth the kingdom of mercy;
Pray for the kingdom of peace;
Work for the kingdom of justice;
Hope for the city of God!*

3. You are a seed of the Word, O people:
Live for the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
Grow in the kingdom of God!

Refrain

*"Bring Forth the Kingdom" Words and Music: Mary Haugen; based on
Matt. 5:13-16, © 1986, G.I.A. Publications. Use by permission. All rights
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* We Profess our Faith: Our World Belongs to God – Art. 56-57

Leader: Our hope for a new earth is not tied
to what humans can do,
for we believe that one day every challenge
to God's rule and every resistance to this
shall be crushed.

People: **Then his kingdom shall come fully,
and our Lord shall rule forever.**

Leader: We long for that day when Jesus will return
as triumphant king,
when the dead will be raised and all people
will stand before his judgment.

People: **We face that day without fear,
for the Judge is our Savior.**

Leader: Our daily lives of service aim for the moment
when the Son will present His people to the Father.

People: **Then God will be shown to be true, holy,
and gracious.**

* God's Blessing

* Closing Hymn of Praise: PH #195 *"Our God Reigns"*

How lovely on the mountains are the feet
of Him who brings good news, good news.
Announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness,
our God reigns, our God reigns.
Our God reigns, our God reigns,
our God reigns, our God reigns!

"Our God Reigns" Text: Isaiah 52:7-10, Tune: Leonard E. Smith, Jr.; 1974; harm.
Dale Grotenhuis, 1984 Text & Music Copyright © 1974, 1978, L.E. Smith Jr., New
Jerusalem Music. CCLI# 678905

Postlude

Welcome! As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. May we together experience the presence of God. 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 10/31	Next Week 11/7
Sound:	Tim H.	Tim H.
Projection:	Hannah VH	Hannah VH
Video	Brandon S.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin

Announcements

October 31, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Dear Friends, Brooke and I would like to thank you for the many cards, words of encouragement, and gifts given to us throughout pastor appreciation month. We certainly feel appreciated and are grateful we belong to such a loving and caring church family. "Thank you" for being the body of Christ to us and we look forward to continuing to serve Him together with you! In His Grace, - **Pastor John and Brooke**



Guest Pastor: Next week Sunday (Nov. 7) Pastor Aaron Oosterwyk will proclaim God's Word to us. Pastor Aaron, his wife Erica, and their children recently moved to the area from Kennewick, Washington where he served as a Care and Recovery Pastor at South Hills Church. Erica recently accepted a teaching position at Mount Vernon Christian. Please take the time to welcome them when they are here!

Do you want to get your fuzzies taken? No, this announcement is not about the theft of your stuffed animals. This is about getting a new picture taken for the upcoming church directory. My baby sister used to call getting your picture taken "getting your fuzzies taken", a phrase we still tease her about until this day. So if you are so inclined to get a new or updated fuzzy for the directory, please let me (Beth) know and I'll bring my camera and tripod and take a new one after church. I'd like to get these done before January, so please plan accordingly.

Pictures Needed! This year's Thanksgiving Service is going to follow the various themes of the beloved hymn, "*For the Beauty of the Earth.*" In preparation for it we would like any of you budding photographers to send Beth a few of your favorite pictures. The deadline to send pictures is November 18. Send them to: secretary@firstcrcmv.com

Sunday School Service Opportunity (and Adults!): Between now and Sunday, Nov. 14 we are focusing on making 21(ish) Thanksgiving care packages for our college age young adults and older. Some ideas might be baked goodies, homemade gifts, letters/cards of encouragement, Starbucks gift cards, etc. You may place your items in the labeled basket, or on the table, marked accordingly in the Fellowship Hall beginning on **Sunday, October 31.**

Christmas Blessing: The Evangelism Committee would like to do a small church project for the purpose of blessing our neighbors. Thus, this year we will be making "Christmas Cookie Jars." Essentially these are decorative mason jars filled with the ingredients for making holiday cookies. A Christmas greeting, recipe, and a brief invitation to our Christmas services will be attached to the jar. The goal is 300 'gifts' and the first thing we need to do is collect the jars. **Thus, if you have any 16 oz (pint) mason jars at home (with lids preferred, but not necessary) that you would be willing to donate we will gladly receive them!** The rest will likely need to be purchased (approximately \$2 a jar). **Please bring these jars to church no later Sunday, November 14** after which we will purchase whatever is needed. There are sign up sheets in the annex for volunteers to bring ingredients and to sign up for 'assembly' (tentatively Saturday, Dec. 4) and 'distribution' (tentatively Dec. 4 or 5).

Ingredients List:

- 5 pounds bags of flour (need 14)
- 5 pounds bags of sugar (need 9)
- 10 -12 ounce bag of chocolate chips -2 cups (need 38 bags)
- 10 -12 ounce bag of Christmas M&M's (need 38 bags)
- 1 box of baking soda (1 pound)
- 1 box of salt

We are still in need of 225 jars!

Local Worship Conference! Tim Vande Griend, the Director of Worship Arts at Crosspoint CRC in Chino, CA. will be in Mount Vernon the weekend of **Nov. 12-14**. Tim is an extremely gifted musician and teacher who is deeply beloved by those who have been impacted by his ministry. All church members and friends are invited to attend any one, or all, of the following workshops and services at the First Christian Reformed Church in Mount Vernon:

Friday, Nov. 12, 7-9 PM:

We'll begin the weekend spending some time together in worship with songs, scriptures, and prayers, followed by an interactive conversation about worship. We'll discuss foundational questions as well as practical ones as a means of pursuing worship renewal in one's local setting.

Saturday, Nov. 13, 10 AM – Noon:

This workshop will focus on practical skills in worship leadership, including: musical skills for instrumentalists and vocalists, verbal leadership, Scripture reading, transitions, and more.

Saturday Lunch: Noon – 1 PM (For those also participating in the afternoon workshop)

Saturday, Nov. 13, 1 PM – 3 PM

This afternoon workshop will be preparation specifically for Sunday morning's worship service at First CRC. All those interested in participating are encouraged to sign up accordingly

Sunday, Nov. 14, 10:30 AM – Sunday morning service!

**We want to do hospitality well! Therefore, for 'planning purposes' it would be helpful to know how many people will be attending each of the workshops. If possible, please send an RSVP email either to the First CRC office at secretary@firstcrcmv.com, or to Pastor John Knoester at Jknoes14@hotmail.com. Even if you don't RSVP, please feel welcome to attend any of the sessions!

Links for Sunday's Service: Oct. 24: <https://youtu.be/mjBnDHIrWg>

2021 Combined Reformation Service – Alternate Plans! One of the more enjoyable traditions each year is the gathering of sister churches for a combined evening Reformation service on the last Sunday in October. The service is usually followed by a wonderful time of fellowship together. Due to Covid-19 this service was postponed last year and again this current year.

In light of this year's cancellation, First CRC Mount Vernon has received more than a few 'gracious expressions of disappointment.' The leadership is especially grateful for the 'gracious' aspect of these communications. As a result, they would love to invite you instead to a **gathered time of singing, scriptures, prayers, and a 'conversation on worship'** to take place on **Friday, Nov. 12 at 7 PM at First CRC, Mount Vernon** - to be followed by a time of fellowship together. Masks are requested and encouraged. (Note that this service is part of a local worship conference that First CRC is also hosting. If interested in attending the conference, please don't hesitate to contact First CRC Mount Vernon for more detailed information.)

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

Tuesday, Nov. 2, 7:00AM: Morning Men's Bible Study at Shari's in Burlington

Wednesday, Nov. 3 GEMS Theme Night

Greeters: Oct. 31 – **Dennis & Melba DeKok;**
November 7 – **Larry & Maxine Greidanus**

Coffee Hosts: Oct. 31 – **Clarence & Eleanor Klunder;**
November 7 – **Henry & Sharon Kuipers**

Dear Friends,

I suspect when most of us think about the book of Daniel we immediately recall the stories of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace and Daniel in the lion's den. Such stories are often taught in a way to provide us a model for how to live for Christ in a hostile world. Certainly that is an important part of their purpose.

Yet, the reality is, very few of us can really claim to come close to such a standard. As sinners, we often fall miserably short. Which is precisely why the book of Daniel points us to someone even greater who also lived a life of exile and separation. His name, of course, is Jesus.

In the weeks to come we're going to study the first half of the book of Daniel and observe how it points us to Jesus Himself. Listed below is our study plan and as always I encourage you to read the text ahead of time before each Sunday. May God bless us as we engage in this study together! In His Grace, - Pastor John

1. Oct. 17 – Daniel 1 – *“Exiled in Babylon”*
2. Oct. 24 – Daniel 2:1-23 – *“Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream”*
3. Oct. 31 – Daniel 2:24-49 – *“The Interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream”*
4. Nov. 7 – Guest Pastor Aaron Oosterwyk
5. Nov. 14 – Guest Tim Vande Griend – *“Worship Convictions Conversation”*
6. Nov. 21 - Daniel 3 – *“The Fiery Furnace”*

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), Joni Beezhold (Oct. 30). Happy Birthday and prayers for continued health!

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

Save the Date! Celebrate a medieval Christmas with the acclaimed NOËL Celtic and classical harp ensemble and benefit **New Earth Recovery**, a faith-based nonprofit operating recovery homes in Skagit County. **Tuesday Dec 7 @ 7:00 pm**, here at First Christian Reformed Church. Harps, flute, strings, poetry, and treats following. Free event with a freewill offering.

Heather Village, a Christian retirement community in Mount Vernon, is seeking a property manager. Candidates must be a Christian and have excellent communication and organizational skills. Previous experience in real estate or property management is preferred. This is a part-time position of up to 10 hours a week with potential for growth. Please submit a resume or list of qualifications by November 30, 2021, to Heather Village, 925 Heather Circle, Mount Vernon WA 98273 or via email to HVoffice2021@gmail.com.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Hunger 2021: Special Dinner Opportunity - Have you signed up to host a Dinner for Good? Not sure what we are talking about? It's not too late! Visit worldrenew.net/world-hunger-dinner to learn more. We'll also take a collection next week that will go directly to World Renew's work with people like the ones you've met during your devotion time. Join us in the hunger for good!

Praise Prayers - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. What are some words that you can use to describe God? When we tell God how wonderful we think he is, it helps us remember who he is and everything he has done for us. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

GROUNDWORK: JONAH: RUNNING AWAY FROM GOD - What happens when we try to run away from God? Join Groundwork as we begin our study of Jonah. Together we'll discuss the resonance of Jonah 1 for our lives today and find assurance in God's persistent and relentless love for his people. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



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:

Michelle Kuipers will be able to go back to work on Friday. Apparently the Covid had also caused significant swelling in the neck and face area. However, she recently was able to receive a prescription that has effectively reduced the swelling. We praise God for His healing hand! Both Darin and Michelle also want to express their gratitude for all the prayers offered on their behalf. Thank you for being the church.

Pray for healing for **Tish Ackermann**, who has fought Covid, and for **Greg Ackermann's father**, who was taken to the ER recently with significant pain.

Pray for continued healing for **Wilma Paul**.

Please continue to pray for **Les Faber**, as he is in Hospice care. Please also continue to pray for **Joy** and the entire Faber family in the days and weeks to come.

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 October 25 - *Resonate: Campus ministries*

Resonate partner campus ministries worked hard to connect with students at the beginning of this academic year. Give thanks for all the new connections formed. Pray that students, faculty, and staff will find a supportive faith community through campus ministries.

Tuesday October 26 - *World Renew: Bangladesh and India*

Our team in Bangladesh and India asks for prayers as local churches seek to help their neighbors, especially at this time when many are out of work and need support. Pray also for the many projects our partners are carrying out in these countries as they seek to show Christ's love in all they do.

Wednesday October 27 - *ReFrame: India*

Pratap is an alcoholic and often causes problems at home. His family has been reaching out to our partners in India, asking for prayers. Pray for Pratap's deliverance from alcoholism. Pray for peace for his loving family as they walk with him through this challenge.

Thursday October 28 - *Calvin Theological Seminary: Peace*

Pray for students, faculty, and staff as they navigate school, families, and other obligations during the pandemic, and as they begin, in stages, to move into a newly renovated building this semester. Pray that all will be able to take time regularly with the One who gives us rest (Matt. 11:28).

Friday October 29 - *Resonate: Central America*

Pray for our cohort in Central America. Rachel Beveridge, a missionary who leads the cohort, said that this year has been especially challenging for many of the cohort fellows and the ministries they are serving. Ask for God's grace.

Saturday October 30 - *World Renew: Gender justice*

Each of us is an imagebearer of God, created with inherent value. But during times of upheaval such as the current pandemic, women and girls in many developing countries experience an uptick in gender-based injustices, making them more economically vulnerable than usual. May God continue to give us wisdom as we strive to achieve justice for all.

Sunday October 31 - *Communications: Reformation Day*

In 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 theses and started a discussion and eventually a movement in the church that still shapes our faith today. Ask God to give each of us the courage to continue to follow Christ's calling in our lives so that the church around the world and through the ages may be built up.