

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Nov. 7, 2021

Guest Pastor Aaron Oosterwyk

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

*** Please stand in body or in spirit.**

“O worship the King all glorious above,”

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*** Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #2 v. 1-5 *“O Worship the King”***

1. O worship the King all glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
2. O tell of his might and sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
3. Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
4. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail.
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!
5. O measureless Might, unchangeable Love,
whom angels delight to worship above!
Your ransomed creation, with glory ablaze,
in true adoration shall sing to your praise!

PSALM 104; Words: Robert Grant, 1833, alt, P.D.; Music: W. Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815; attr. Johann Michael Haydn, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

* Litany of Praise

Leader: Hallelujah! Praise! Praise God in the temple,
in the highest heavens!

**People: Praise! Praise God's mighty deeds
and noble majesty.**

Leader: All that is alive, praise!

People: Praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

* 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 Response: LUYH #466 v. 1,3,4,5 *"Abide With Me"*

1. Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
4. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.
5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Words: Henry F. Lyte, 1847, alt., P.D.; Music: William H. Monk, 1861, P.D.
CCLI #678905

"O gratefully sing his power and his love:"

Call to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this:

While we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help
in time of need.

Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion,

let us confess our sin before God and one another.

—based on Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Here are words you may trust,

words that merit full acceptance:

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

To all who confess their sins and resolve to lead a new life,
he says, "Your sins are forgiven." He also says, "Follow me."

Now to the one who rules all worlds, immortal, invisible,
the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.

—based on 1 Timothy 1:15, 17

God's Will for Our Lives

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

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #772 v. 1-4

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

1. My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Chorus:

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.*

2. When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.

Chorus

3. His oath, His covenant, His blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

Chorus

4. When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found,
dressed in His righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.

Chorus

Words: Edward Mote (1797-1874), Tune: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868),
Public Domain. CCLI# 678905

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

"Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,"

Scripture Reading: Exodus 14:10-14

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"The Lord Will Fight for You!"***

Time of Prayer

"Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise."

* Song of Application: P.P. #165 v. 1-3

"The Battle Belongs to the Lord"

1. In heavenly armor we'll enter the land,
the battle belong to the Lord.
No weapon that's fashioned against us will stand,
The battle belongs to the Lord.

Chorus:

*And we sing glory, honor, power and strength to the Lord.
We sing glory, honor, power and strength to the Lord.*

2. When the power of darkness comes in like a flood.
The battle belongs to the Lord.
He'll raise up a standard, the pow'r of His blood,
The battle belongs to the Lord.

Chorus

3. When your enemy presses in hard, do not fear,
The battle belongs to the Lord.
Take courage, my friend, your redemption is near,
The battle belongs to the Lord.

Chorus:

*"The Battle Belongs to the Lord" | Sam. 17:47; Isa. 54:17; Eph. 6:11-18; Rev. 7:12,
Jamie Owens-Collins, ©1985 Fairhill Music, CCLI# 678905*

* We Profess our Faith: Apostles Creed

Leader: And now let us join together in love,
and with one heart and one voice
profess the faith of the church at all times
and in all places:

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

—Apostles' Creed

* God's Blessing

* Closing Hymn of Praise: LUYH #43 v. 1-3

"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer" (Organ)

1. Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

2. Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

Words: William Williams, 1745; st. 1 tr. Peter Williams, 1771, alt; st. 2-3 tr. William Williams, 1772, alt., P.D.; Music: John Hughes, 1907, P.D.; 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. 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 11/07	Next Week 11/14
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry H.
Projection:	Hannah VH	Tim H.
Video	Brandon S.	Devin VZ
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

November 7, 2021

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Guest Pastor: This morning we welcome Pastor Aaron Oosterwyk to 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!

New Attendees – Church Information Sunday! If you are a frequent visitor on Sunday mornings or have recently have started attending on a regular basis – you are invited to attend a brief ‘informational gathering’ on Sunday, December 7 immediately following the Sunday morning service. During this time a couple members of the church leadership team will take the time to share a little bit more about the church and also be available to answer any questions you might have. Essentially we want to do hospitality well and would love to get to know you more! This gathering will take place at the front of the church shortly after the service and shouldn’t last long. We look forward to having a great conversation!

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!

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. We have collected 75 jars and are in need of 225 more to complete the project. Please leave your ingredients and jars on the marked table in the fellowship hall. Thank you!

Ingredients Still needed:

9 (5 pounds) flour

6 (5 pounds) sugar

33 (1 pound box) of brown sugar

18 (10-12 ounce) bag of Christmas M&M's

18 (10-12 ounce) bag of chocolate chips

Birthdays for November: Trudy Van Dyk (Nov. 2); David Schmidt (Nov. 3); Terry Beezhold (Nov. 5); Clarence Vander Griend (Nov. 6 – 93 years!); Cody See (Nov. 6); Alyssa Ackermann (Nov. 7) Jeff Droog (Nov. 19); Jennaya Knoester (Nov. 28); Pam Van Zanten (Nov. 29) Happy Birthday and prayers for continued health!

November Anniversaries: Bob & Marty Hitchcock (Nov. 28)

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

Greeters: November 7 – Larry & Maxine Greidanus; November 14 – Dick & Linda Gudmundson

Coffee Hosts: November 7 – Henry & Sharon Kuipers; November 14 – Keith & Jean Rasmussen

Friday-Sunday: Worship Conference here at First CRC. See above announcement for details.

NEXT WEEK:

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 7:00AM: Morning Men's Bible Study at Shari's in Burlington

Links for Sunday's Service: Oct. 31: <https://youtu.be/r2hyMLRYJNM>

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.

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.)

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”

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

Get the Denomination's Award-winning Magazine for FREE - The Banner, the magazine of the Christian Reformed Church, is free! Sign up for free print delivery and a weekly e-newsletter by visiting thebanner.org/signup. Given the Award of Excellence (2020) for best denominational magazine by the Evangelical Press Association, The Banner offers CRC news; thoughtful articles; and reviews of books, movies, and music. TheBanner.org/signup

Confession Prayers - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Have you ever hidden from someone or something? In our prayers, God does not want us to hide from him. He wants us to seek him by confessing our sins to him when we pray. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

Seeking God's Face - is a daily, contemplative devotional—rooted in the ancient traditions of the Divine Office and *lectio divina*—guiding you to renewed communion with God through sacred Scripture and universal prayer. Subscribe for daily emails at seekinggodsfacel.org/subscribe.

Groundwork: Jonah: Praying for God's Deliverance - When we find ourselves in situations that we cannot fix, it's natural to feel anxious, desperate, overwhelmed, exhausted, and scared. Join Groundwork as we study Jonah 2 to remember that God is ready to hear us, to deliver us, and to offer us his abundant mercy. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Today is World Hunger Sunday. Join us! - Today we are having an offering to support the work of World Renew and help put food on tables around the world. World Renew has the plans, the systems, the partners, and the people to come alongside communities experiencing hunger. We are excited to join this program as a faithful response to the God who can accomplish abundantly more than all we ask or imagine. Thank you for giving as you are able to help solve World Hunger.

At-home Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Generosity: Read Acts 4:32-35 and ponder or discuss the following questions. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject) The early church was characterized by a spirit of generosity. How does today's church (or your own congregation) measure up? Do today's Christians have a reputation for generosity? In what ways is that true or untrue?



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:

Corky Vander Griend had a fall and stay in the hospital this last week. He broke his hip and collarbone on the right side. Surgery to the hip went well and he is back at Home Place in Burlington. Prayers for a healing would be appreciated. Thanks from Corky's family.

Jill Haagsma's sodium levels are up! She is on an IV and feeling much better. She hopes to return home by the end of the week.

She is still quite fatigued, but she is in good spirits. Please continue to keep Jill in your prayers throughout these coming days.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Pray continued healing for those affected by COVID.

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

Please continue to pray for **Les Faber** and 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 November 1 - *ReFrame Ministries: Prayer ministry*

Pray with Stella, who recently told our prayer ministry team that she feels guilty for calling the police on her son, who was abusing drugs.

Pray for her son's recovery and for a sense of peace for Stella as she reflects on and navigates her difficult circumstances.

Tuesday November 2 - Resonate Global Mission: Asia

Give thanks for a successful Timothy Leadership training in eastern and central Asia. "Everything was new to me!" said one participant. "I have never heard of such things, but I desire now to apply them all into my ministry setting." Pray for participants as they put their learning about Christian leadership into practice.

Wednesday November 3 - World Renew: Disaster Response Services

The past 16 months have seen a brutal onslaught of natural storms across the United States. The people who are affected are often left confused, hopeless, distressed, and feeling forgotten long after the storms have passed. Please join us in praying for these survivors, and ask for wisdom as we search out the best ways to help.

Thursday November 4 - Disability Concerns: Resource and community

Each Thursday last month, our Disability Concerns community gathered to explore our newest resource: Everybody Belongs, Serving Together. We're thankful for all who shared their knowledge within the field and supported our learning experience. Pray with us that conversations begun there may have a significant impact on ministry throughout the church.

Friday November 5 - Kuyper College: New starts

We give thanks and praise for an overall healthy and in-person first semester this school year. Please pray for students in the new Workplace Partnership Program, a collaboration between Kuyper College and area businesses providing urban students an affordable Christian college education, combining workplace experience and access to Kuyper classes.

Saturday November 6 - Resonate: Campus ministries

Pray for campus ministers as they continue to navigate ministry during the pandemic. Many limitations continue on what they may or may not do, and rules and regulations often change. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in making plans and connecting with students while helping to ensure everyone's health and safety.

Sunday November 7 - World Renew: World Hunger Sunday

In communities facing poverty, people often struggle to grow enough food, find clean water, rebuild after a disaster, and deal with injustice. We praise God for opportunities to come together as one in Christ and to love our neighbor. Pray with us for equipping to foster justice, love, and mercy in our work with partners and congregations.