

Dear Friends in Christ,

Throughout this past year, your elders have been reading through a book entitled *"The Tender Commandments"* by Ron Mehl. I think it's fair to say that one of the most misunderstood passages in all of Scripture is that of the Ten Commandments. Many people in our world today view these commandments as a restrictive list of 'don'ts' rather than a love message from God!

In the weeks to come we're going to take a closer look at each of the commandments. Many of the illustrations I will be using will come directly from Mehl's book. In addition, I'll also make use of the Heidelberg Catechism which does an excellent job of summarizing the heart of each command. May God bless us as we make our way together through this important part of His Word!

In His Grace,  
Pastor John

1. Aug. 7 AM – *"Introduction to the Ten(der) Commandments"*
2. Aug. 14 AM – *"The Only God"*
3. Aug. 21 AM – *"The Pursuit of Empty Images"*
4. Sept. 4 AM – *"Honoring God's Holy Name"*
5. Sept. 11 AM – *"Honoring Those in Authority Over Us"*
6. Sept. 18 AM – *"Celebrating the Sabbath"*
7. Sept. 25 AM – *"Loving Our Neighbor"*
8. Oct. 2 AM – *"Fencing Our Marriage"*
9. Oct. 9 AM – *"What About Stealing?"*
10. Oct. 16 AM – *"Taming Our Tongues"*
11. Oct. 23 AM – *"True Contentment"*

***Welcome to Mount Vernon  
First Christian Reformed Church!  
Pastor John Knoester  
Aug. 14, 2022 -Morning Service – 10:30 AM***

\* Please stand in body or in spirit

*“Jesus, the perfect picture of the unseen God.”*

Prelude

Welcome

\* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #575 v. 1-4

*“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul praise him, for he is your help and salvation!  
Come, all who hear; brothers and sisters, draw near.  
Join me in glad adoration!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things  
is wondrously reigning,  
sheltering you under his wings, oh, so gently sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining?
3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper  
your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
as with his love he befriends you.
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath,  
come now with praises before Him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!

Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt., P.D.; Music:  
(LOBE DEN HERREN): Ernewerten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665; desc. Craig S.  
Lang (1891-1971) © Novello and Co., Ltd. Admin. G. Schirmer, Inc.; CCLI #678905

\* Call to Worship

Leader: Our hearts are ready, O Lord, our hearts are ready!

**People: We will sing and make melody!  
We will awaken the dawn!**

Leader: We will give thanks to you, O Lord,  
among the peoples, we will sing praises to you  
among the nations.

**People: For your steadfast love is great  
above the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches  
to the clouds.**

—based on Psalm 108:1-4

\* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #278 v. 1,3,4 *“The City is Alive, O God”*

1. The city is alive, O God,  
with sound of hustling feet,  
with rapid change and flashing lights  
that pulse through every street;  
but oft there’s in humanity behind the bright facade,  
and throngs with empty, hungering hearts  
cry out for help, O God.
2. In Galilee the people heard  
your servant Christ declare  
through healing touch, through word and cross,  
the good news of your care.  
He said your heart touched every heart  
that longed for peace and right,  
that those bowed down by burdens borne  
could find your life, your light.
3. O God, inspire your church today  
to take Christ’s servant role,  
to love the world, to hear its claims  
to sense its yearning soul,  
to live within the marketplace,  
to serve both weak and strong,  
to lose itself, to share its dream,  
to give the world its song.

\* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

*"Maker, of things we cannot comprehend."*

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: (Based on Matthew 11:28-30 )

Jesus said: Come to me, all you that are weary  
and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

— from Matthew 11:28-30, NRSV

God's Will for our Lives

Leader: As we are to walk humbly with our God  
in lives of gratitude, let us hear again his Word:  
God commands us to serve him alone as God,  
to serve him according to his Word,  
to speak of him only with deep respect and love,  
to attend faithfully the assembly of God's people  
on the day of rest,  
and every day to let the Lord work in us  
through his Spirit;  
to respect and cooperate with all  
God-given authority,  
to live purely and joyfully with the gift of sex,  
to nurture human life as God's precious gift,  
to use the resources of this earth as stewards  
of God's creation,  
to use the gift of speech for promoting the truth  
in love, and to exercise purity of heart in all of life.

**People: May the Spirit of God guide us to be obedient  
to this Word. Amen!**

Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #121 v. 1-5

*"Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult"*

1. Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea,  
day by day his voice is sounding,  
saying, "Christian, follow me."
2. Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love me more."
3. Long ago apostles heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and work and family,  
leaving all for his dear sake.
4. In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of work and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."
5. Jesus calls us! By your mercy,  
Savior, may we hear your call,  
give our hearts to your obedience,  
serve and love you best of all.

Words: Mrs. Cecil F. Alexander, 1852, P.D.; Music: William H. Jude, 1887, P.D.;  
CCLI #678905

Offering: General Fund

Offertory:

\* Hymn of Preparation: 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

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

*“Wisdom, the earth displays  
your strength and beauty.”*

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-3, Matthew 10:37-39,  
Revelation 2:1-7

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“The Tender Commandments – The Only God”***

Time of Prayer

\* Song of Application: LUYH #15 *“The First Place”* v. 1-2

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*

Words and Music: Matthew Westerholm © 1999 Matthew Westerholm;  
arr. Greg Scheer © 1999 Matthew Westerholm; CCLI# 678905

***“Sovereign, yes, every throne knows you are God.”***

\* We Confess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 94 & 95

(94) Leader: Q. What does the Lord require in the first commandment?

**People: A. That I, not wanting to endanger my own salvation, avoid and shun all idolatry, sorcery, superstitious rites, and prayer to saints or to other creatures. That I rightly know the only true God, trust him alone, and look to God for every good thing humbly and patiently, and love, fear, and honor God with all my heart. In short, that I give up anything rather than go against God's will in any way.**

(95) Leader: Q. What is idolatry?

**People: A. Idolatry is having or inventing something in which one trusts in place of or alongside of the only true God, who has revealed himself in the Word.**

\* God's Blessing

\* Parting Praise: LUYH #302 "Hear our Praises" v. 1-2

1. May our homes be filled with dancing,  
may our streets be filled with joy.  
May injustice bow to Jesus  
as the people turn and pray.

*Refrain*

*From the mountain to the valley,  
hear our praises rise to you.  
From the heavens to the nations,  
hear our singing fill the air.*

2. May your light shine in the darkness  
as we walk before the cross.  
May your glory fill the whole earth  
as the water over the seas.

*Refrain x2*