

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 – *"Celebrating the Sabbath"*
6. Sept. 25 AM – *"Honoring Those in Authority Over Us"*
7. Oct. 2 AM – *"Loving Our Neighbor"*
8. Oct. 9 AM – *"Fencing Our Marriage"*
9. Oct. 16 AM – *"What About Stealing?"*
10. Oct. 23 AM – *"Taming Our Tongues"*
11. Oct. 30 AM – *"True Contentment"*

**Welcome to Mount Vernon
First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
Aug. 28, 2022—Morning Service – 10:30 AM**

*Please stand in body or in spirit

“O love of God, how rich and pure!”

Prelude

Welcome

* Opening Hymn of Praise: *“The Love of God”* v. 1-3

1. The love of God is greater far
than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
and reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
and pardoned from his sin.

Refrain

*O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
the saints’ and angels’ song!*

2. When years of time shall pass away,
and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
when men who hear refuse to pray,
on rocks and hills and mountains call,
God’s love so sure shall still endure,
all measureless and strong;
redeeming grace to Adam’s race—
the saints’ and angels’ song.

Refrain

3. Could we with ink the ocean fill,
and were the skies of parchment made,
were every stalk on earth a quill,
and every man a scribe by trade,
to write the love of God above
would drain the ocean dry;
nor could the scroll contain the whole,
tho' stretched from sky to sky.

Refrain

Text: Frederick M. Lehman; Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai, stanza 3; Music: Frederick M. Lehman; Public Domain; CCLI #678905

*Call to Worship: Psalm 100

Leader: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

People: **Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him and praise his name.

People: **For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all
generations.**

* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #1 v. 1-4 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

1. All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Serve him with joy, his praises tell,
Come now before him and rejoice!
2. Know that the Lord is God indeed;
he formed us all without our aid.
We are the flock he comes to feed,
the sheep who by his hand were made.
3. O enter then his gates with joy,
within his courts his praise proclaim.
Let thankful songs your tongues employ,
O bless and magnify his name.

4. Because the Lord our God is good,
his mercy is forever sure.
His faithfulness at all times stood
and shall from age to age endure.

Words: William Kethe, 1561 at., P.D.; Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

"How measureless and strong!"

Announcements

Call to Confession

The psalmist testifies: Happy are those whose transgression
is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you.

—from Psalm 32:1-6, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: (Based on John 3:16-17)

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world
to condemn the world,

but in order that the world might be saved through him."

—John 3:16-17, NRSV

God's Will for our Lives (Based on Proverbs 3:5-6)

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not
on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight. —Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV

Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #714 v. 1-3 *“The One is Blest”*

1. The one is blest who, fearing God,
walks not where sinners meet,
who does not stand with wicked ones,
and shuns the scorners' seat.
2. How blest the one who in God's law
finds goodness and delight,
and meditates upon that law
with gladness day and night.
3. That one is nourished like a tree
set by the river's side;
its leaf is green, its fruit is sure:
the works of such abide.

Words: Psalter, 1912, alt. 1985, P.D.

Music: (WINCHESTER OLD 8.6.8.6): attr. George Kirbye, 1592, P.D.

Offering: General Fund

Offertory: *“Two Roads”*

*(Following the offering the children are invited forward
for the Children's Message)*

Children's Message – Mrs. Marjo Rouw

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

* Song 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

"I+ shall forevermore endure"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:13-27

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"The Narrow Road that Leads to Life"***

Time of Prayer

* Song of Application: LUYH #770 v. 1-4 *"In Christ Alone"*

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on the cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground His body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then, bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am His and He is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no human plan,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'til He returns or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

"In Christ Alone" Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend,
Copyright © 2002 Thankyou Music; All rights reserved. Used by permission.
CCLI# 678905

"The saints and angels song."

- * We Confess our Faith: Our World Belongs to God – st. 1-2, 5-6
Leader: As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—
which some seek to control,
and others view with despair—
we declare with joy and trust:
Our world belongs to God!

**People: From the beginning, through all the crises
of our times, until the kingdom fully comes,
God keeps covenant forever:
Our world belongs to God! God is King:
Let the earth be glad!
Christ is victor: his rule has begun!
The Spirit is at work: creation is renewed!
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!**

Leader: God holds this world with fierce love.
Keeping his promise, he sends Jesus into the world,
pours out the Holy Spirit
and announces the good news:
sinners who repent and believe in Jesus
live anew as members of the family of God—
the firstfruits of a new creation.

**People: We rejoice in the goodness of God,
renounce the works of darkness,
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.
As covenant partners, set free for joyful obedience,
we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work
in the world.**

**With tempered impatience,
eager to see injustice ended,
we expect the Day of the Lord.
We are confident that the light
which shines in the present darkness
will fill the earth when Christ appears.
Come, Lord Jesus. Our world belongs to you.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #604 v. 1-3 *"To God Be the Glory"*

1. To God be the glory, great things he has done;
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he has done.*

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

3. Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875, alt., P.D.; Music: William H. Doane, 1875, PD.;

* Postlude

Welcome! “Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go,” the psalmist prayed (Psalm 71:3). May we all find that God is a “rock of refuge” where we find help for every hour of need. A hearty welcome to all who have come to worship our Creator. 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.

<i>Tech Team</i>	<i>Today 8/28</i>	<i>Next Week 9/4</i>
Sound:	Henry VZ	Henry H.
Projection:	Tim H./France K.	Tim H./Maddie D.
Video	Dick G.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

August 28, 2022

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Membership Transfer: At its August 15 meeting the council approved the membership transfer request of **Danielle Van Zanten** to Houston CRC in Houston, British Columbia. We want to thank Danielle for her many years of service to our church family and wish her God's richest blessings as she continues to serve Him in her new church home!

To MVCRC and Council: *"What can we say to express our appreciation to you for the wonderful time we had at our retirement party? We thank God for the beautiful weather and everyone on the committee who planned the evening. The food was delicious, and the games were fun. We were happy to share our yard with you all. We would especially like to thank everyone for the plant and generous gift which was give to us. It is greatly appreciated. Finally, how did 2 years turn into 41? To God be the glory forever!"* **Thank you, Clarence & Eleanor**

Sunday Morning Worship! Throughout this past summer several of our worship leaders have invited the congregation to move closer to the front and to each other. There are several important reasons and benefits for this request: (1) The singing sounds even more amazing when we are closer together. (2) Our shut-ins who receive DVDs of the service get to see more of their church family as the videos usually only incorporate the front area of the church. (3), It's easier for visitors and/or those arriving late to find a seat as the back of the church is now less full. In light of these benefits and as we begin a new church season - both the worship committee and elders would like to graciously encourage the congregation to continue this practice. Our hope is that we will begin to naturally fill up the front of the church first and that in the future the back will be filled up as well!

Church Committee Lists: The new church committee lists have been finalized by the executive committee and are available to be picked up on the shelf in the breezeway! We did our best to honor any requests to be added, or removed, from a committee. In addition, we also took the liberty of appointing some of our new members to certain committees, as well as those who have recognizable gifts. If you are not currently on a committee but would like to be added to one - there is still time! Please let either Beth or Pastor John know as soon as possible. Thanks again to all those who willingly offer to use their gifts for the life of Christ's church!

Education Committee Meeting: The new church season is fast approaching! In fact, we hope to begin Sunday School on Sunday, September 18! **Our next committee meeting is scheduled for TODAY, August 28 in the council room shortly following the morning service.** Those currently on the committee, or recently assigned, should be on the lookout for an email this coming week. If you are an interested parent, prospective teacher, etc. - you are certainly invited to join us too!

Worship Service YouTube Link for August 21: N/A

First CRC offers the option to give your offerings online, including setting up automatic and reoccurring donations. For information on this and other ways to give please check the "Give" page on the church's website: https://firstcrcmv.com/?page_id=1509.

CALENDAR:

Greeters: This morning - Hank & Sylvia VZ;

Next week – Henry & Pam Van Zanten

Coffee Hosts: This morning – Clarence & Eleanor Klunder;

Next week – Henry & Sharon Kuipers

Worship Team: This Morning – Greg & Beth B.

Next Week – Henry, Pam & Sylvia VZ, France K., Nellie VDH

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Men's Bible Study: Tuesday, August 30 at 7:00 am at Shari's Restaurant

Crop Walk – September 18 at 2:00pm

RECOMMENDED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We have dreamed of the **great witness to our community when all the churches turn out to walk to fight hunger!** Grain can not get out of Ukraine and this is causing greater food shortages in the poorest of countries. The **CROP HUNGER WALK is on Sept 18 at 2:00 PM.** It is so easy to join and so easy to do! This 3.4-mile walk will start and end at the Mount Vernon Christian School and take us through downtown Mount Vernon. To join the walk, visit crophungerwalk.org and search for Skagit and register there. Find your church team. If you don't see your church team, go ahead and make one. Find us also on Facebook: Skagit Crop Hunger

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Tour the Biblical Lands of Israel- March 6 – March 17, 2023. Experience a refreshing renewal of your faith, and gain a deeper understanding of the Bible, as you tour the biblical lands with teaching host, Pastor Peter Tuininga, and Sindbad Tours of Israel. See many of the biblical places (Jerusalem, Galilee, Caesarea, Jericho, and much more), and gain spiritual and historical insights which will make the Bible come alive for you. For complete information, cost, and registration, go to toursofisrael.wordpress.com or call Peter Tuininga: 1 289 877 8433 or e-mail: peter.tuininga@gmail.com

Courageous Creativity - Check out the kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. God chose you to share his gift with the world in unique and creative ways! Perhaps God gave you the creative ability to sing songs about his love, to be a gospel storyteller, or to serve others with your talents. Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Family Fire - 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.

Groundwork: Salt and Light: A Kingdom Perspective on Jesus's Followers in the World - What are we to be like as Jesus's disciples out in the world? How should we act? How should we interact? Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 5:13-16 to study the two declarative statements Jesus makes that tell us who we are as his followers and helps us understand how we should be. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Glocal Mission Podcast - How do we join God's mission locally and globally? That's what Resonate leaders Rich Braaksma and Nalini Suganandam aim to discover in this podcast, interviewing regional leaders and people doing awesome things (church planters, campus ministers, lay leaders, etc.) in a variety of contexts! Just five episodes in, this podcast in its infancy is already uncovering oodles of insight and inspiration. Plug in your earbuds and join us as we meet ministry leaders from around North America living out the gospel in their own contexts. Check it out at <https://anchor.fm/glocalmission>



How can
we
PRAY
for you?

People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Email the office at secretary@firstcrcmv.com or call the church office at (336-2405) by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please continue to pray for **Kevin Wigboldy** as he recovers from his stem cell transplant.

Please continue to pray for **Michael Hendricks** as he recovers from his heart surgery.

Continue to pray for **Shirley Boonstra, Maxine Greidanus** and **Adelaida Vega** as they continue to fight their cancer.

SHUT INS: *Nell Annema and Marion Ekkelkamp* at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley; *Marcella DeVries* at Bethany Lutheran in Everett, *Marjean DeGroot* at Mountain Glen in Mount Vernon; *Mary*

Koopmans at Where the Heart is in Burlington; **Hans & Aileen Meishke** at Kenmore Living in Kenmore, WA, **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 August 22 - *Chaplaincy and Care: Veterans*

Chaplains who serve in veterans hospitals meet large numbers of men and women returning from recent war fronts with physical injuries or less obvious cognitive, emotional, spiritual, and moral injuries. Pray for our chaplains as they provide pastoral care for many who can feel alone and misunderstood. May our local churches also find ways to enfold veterans into their own communities.

Tuesday August 23 - *World Renew: Global food crisis*

Globally, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization, food is about 20 percent more expensive than it was a year ago. As rising prices of staple foods continue to take a toll on the world's most vulnerable people, we pray that, by God's grace and the generosity of our supporters, we can continue to help families solve food security challenges in the communities where we work.

Wednesday August 24 - *Resonate: Campus ministry*

Many university students are heading back to campus this month! Pray for Resonate partner campus ministries throughout North America as they welcome students back for a new academic year. Pray that campus ministries will provide faith communities in which students are supported, valued, and heard.

Thursday August 25 - *ReFrame: Chinese ministry*

Pray for wisdom and creativity for our Chinese ministry team as they develop a new smartphone app. The project is bigger than originally planned, so please pray also that it will be completed on time and help to reach more Chinese speakers with God's Word.

Friday August 26 - *Indigenous Family Centre: Staff and community*

Please pray for our staff, long term and new, as summer is a busy time with children's programs and other activities. Pray for safety, joy, and new experiences for staff and children. May the physical, emotional, spiritual, and mental needs of our community be met and healed.

Saturday August 27 - *Calvin Theological Seminary: New academic year*

Pray for God's strength and guidance as staff and students begin the new school year together—from traveling and moving in to orientation to ongoing classes, both residential and online.

Sunday August 28 - *Resonate: Nicaragua*

Tesoros de Dios, a Resonate partner in Nicaragua, serves children with disabilities and their families. Ministry leaders ask for prayer for these families. Many face difficult financial circumstances. Ask God for provision through better opportunities, community support, and other means.