

God's Word Gives Our Lives Direction



701 West Blackburn Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360-336-2405

www.firstcrcmv.com

Pastor John Knoester

Worship Service
10:30 AM

Church School: 9:30 AM
September—May

LET *everything*
THAT HAS *breath*
PRAISE THE *Lord*
PSALM 150:6 *Lord*

A decorative flourish consisting of three stylized, symmetrical scroll-like elements that curve upwards and outwards from a central point.

January 1, 2023

The Loop System is provided for those using hearing devices by using the telephone mode on your device. This is available beginning in row 5 on either side of the sanctuary.

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
January 1, 2023 ☞ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service
Guest Pastor Jon Westra

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

"All people that on earth do dwell,"

Prelude

Opening Song Video: *"Psalm 8"* – Josh Alexander Wilson

Welcome

* Opening 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

* Call to Worship:

Leader: God is King! Let the earth be glad!

People: Christ is victor; his rule has begun. Hallelujah!

Leader: The spirit is at work, renewing the creation.

People: Praise the Lord!

Leader: Who is this God whom we have come to worship?

People: God is the creator of all.

Leader: The creator of birds and trees, wind and sea?

People: God is the creator of all things seen and unseen.

Leader: Then let us worship the God of creation,

People: the God of all things great and small.

- Based on Our World Belongs to God st. 2

* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #20 v. 1-4 *“All things Bright and Beautiful”*

Refrain

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

1. Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
God made their tiny wings.

Refrain

2. The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

Refrain

3. The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them every one.

Refrain

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

4. God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

Refrain

Words: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848, P.D.; Music: Melody English traditional, The
Dancing Master, 1686; harm. John Worst, 1974, alt. © 1987 Faith Alive Christian
Resources, CCLI #678905

* 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!

* We Greet One Another

"Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice."

Announcements

Call to Confession:

Leader: As God's creatures we are made in his image
to represent him on earth and to live in loving
communion with him.
By sovereign appointment we are
earth-keepers and caretakers:
loving our neighbor, tending the creation,
and meeting our needs.
God uses our skills
in the unfolding and well-being of his world.

People: Yet often we neglect our task.
Recalling our task leads us to confess our sin
and to yearn for God's forgiveness.
—from *Our World Belongs to God*, st. 10

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Leader: Our world, broken and scarred,
still belongs to God.

People: He holds it together and gives us hope.

Leader: With the whole creation we wait
for the purifying fire of judgment.

People: For then we will see the Lord face to face.

Leader: God will be all in all,
righteousness and peace will flourish,
everything will be made new,

People: and every eye will see at last
that our world belongs to God!
Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus.

—from *Our World Belongs to God*, st. 18, 58

Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #437 v. 1-3 *"Day by Day"*

1. Day by day and with each passing moment,
strength I find to meet my trials here;
trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure
gives unto each day what he deems best—
lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
mingling toil with peace and rest.
2. Every day the Lord himself is near me,
with a special mercy for each hour;
all my cares he gladly bears and cheers me,
he whose name is Counselor and Power.
The protection of his child and treasure
is a charge that on himself he laid:
"As your days, your strength shall be in measure"—
this the pledge to me he made.

3. Help me then in every tribulation
so to trust your promises, O Lord,
that I lose not faith's sweet consolation
offered me within your holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
e'er to take, as from a father's hand,
one by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
till I reach the promised land.

Words: Carolina Sandell Berg (1865); tr. Andrew L. Skoog, 1931, alt. P.D

Offering

Offertory:

- * Song of Preparation: LUYH #7 v. 1,2,4

"Sing Praise to the Lord, You People of Grace"

1. Sing praise to the Lord, you people of grace;
fill heaven with the songs that sound from this place;
since you are God's servants and meet in his name,
his wonders declare and his glory proclaim.

Refrain

Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Halle! Hallelujah!

2. His greatness exceeds what words can explain,
and his is the power no force can restrain;
with fanfares of horns and crescendos of strings
raise anthems to honor the King of all kings.

Refrain

4. Yield all that you are to worship the Lord—
see life as a psalm, each moment a chord;
let harmonies flourish and melodies soar—
let all that has breath praise the Lord evermore.

Refrain

PSALM 150; Words: Martin Leckebusch © 2006 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.; Music:
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*(Following the conclusion of the song children ages 3- 3rd grade
are dismissed for Children's Worship)*

“Serve him with joy, his praises tell,”

Scripture Reading: Psalm 150

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“A Hard Fought Praise”***

Time of Prayer

“Come now before him and rejoice!”

* Song of Application: 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

* We Profess our Faith: LUYH #8 “How We Know God”

Leader: We know God by two means:

People: First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God: God’s eternal power and divinity. All these things are enough to convict humans and to leave them without excuse. Second, God makes himself known to us more clearly by his holy and divine Word, as much as we need in this life, for God’s glory and for our salvation.

* God’s Blessing:

* Parting Praise: LUYH #964

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, P.D.; Music: Traditional Black Gospel; CCLI #678905

Postlude

On this first Sunday of the **New Year, welcome** to worship! We have come to honor and praise the living God who makes all things new. Paul reminds us that it is God who enables us to “walk in newness of life’ (Romans 6:4). Let us glorify God with that reality in mind. Blessings on one and all. After the worship service, we invite you to join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Tech Team	Today 1/1	Next Week: 1/8
Sound:	Mardy S.	Tim H.
Projection:	Maddie D.	France K.
Video:	Tim H.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin

Announcements

January 1, 2023

Today we welcome **Pastor Jon Westra** as he leads us in worship.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Next Sunday, January 8 we will have a Church potluck following the morning service. Come and enjoy.

The **Executive Committee** will meet on Monday, **January 9** at 7:00 p.m.

The **Women's Bible Study** will be meeting Sunday evenings on Jan. 8 and Jan 22 to finish up their series of studies.

Remember, there is NO SUNDAY SCHOOL until Jan. 15!

Friendship House: November marked 12 years since our church first started serving monthly meals at Friendship House. It would not have been possible to continue this for so long without many willing hearts and hands, past and present, helping to prepare the food. No doubt many people in our community have been blessed through the years simply by getting a hot meal to satisfy their hungry stomachs and knowing someone cared enough to prepare it.

Due to a number of factors, it has become increasingly challenging to fill the sign-up sheets every month. With a strong desire to keep our church's commitment to provide these meals, it has been decided to ask our members to provide only the hot dish portion of the meal. A purchased dessert will be provided. The hope is that by eliminating the request for desserts, there will be more people available to make a hot dish and everyone can get an occasional break from having to prepare something every month. A huge thank you to all who faithfully help support this ministry, either monetarily or by providing food. Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Worship Service YouTube Links: December 25:

<https://youtu.be/0jz18WuUTb4>

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

Pastor Michael Kooy will be retiring from ministry in January 2023. If you have stories, cards, or photos you would like to send as he takes this next step in life, you can email them to Pastor Kelsi Jones at kelsijoann@gmail.com or send them to Grace Community Church 10415 S Kedvale Ave, Oak Lawn, IL 60453 by January 5.

Pastor John will be out of the office till Jan. 4. If you have an emergency, please contact your district elder. Thank you!

Beth will be out of her office till Jan. 3. Sylvia Van Zanten will be graciously filling in while she is gone, so send your announcements as per usual during the week.

Check out the copies of **Today's Christian Living** on the shelf in the hallway and various **Christmas greetings** on the bulletin board by the kitchen!

CALENDAR:

Greeters: Today - Tim & Heather VH.

Next Week 1/8: Henry & Pam VZ

Coffee Hosts: Today - Clarence & Eleanor K.

Next Week 1/8: Katie J., Elly C.

Children in Worship: Today - Alyssa A., Myra VDB

Next Week 1/8: Heidi, Emily

Worship Team:

Today: Henry VZ, Mandi D, Nellie VDH

Next week 1/8: Stan B, Julie, Adrianna, and Tessa S.

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Jan. 3: 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant

Jan. 4 GEMS

Jan. 8: Church Potluck!

Ladies Bible Study

Jan. 11: Cadets

Jan. 22: Ladies Bible Study

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CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

World Renew: Giving Thanks at Christmas - Thank you for sharing God's love through the World Renew Gift Catalog during Advent. Your donation of a chicken, water filter, or goat can be a miracle for people who face poverty and hunger. Want to give in the New Year? Go to worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-552-7972. Thank you!

ReFrame Ministries: The Stone of Help - Check out the kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. In this week's devotion, learn about God's faithfulness while making a pile of rocks called an Ebenezer. Happy New Year! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the The Bible in One Year Plan.

Groundwork: God Keeps His Promises And Offers Us Rest - As the book of Joshua opens, we witness God acting to keep his promises to Abraham and his descendants, the Israelites. Join Groundwork as we study Joshua 1 and examine how God works through his people, see the importance of community, and affirm that we can follow God's command to "be strong and courageous" because we trust God to keep his promises. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Faith Formation: At-home Faith Formation Tip - “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance” (Eccles 3:1-4). As we enter a new year full of unknowns, remind each other to take comfort in the knowledge that all your times are in God’s hand. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)

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Offering:	General Fund	General Fund



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.

NEW REQUESTS:

Please keep **Trudy Van Dyke** in your prayers. She was taken to the hospital recently after being found at home. She was diagnosed with COVID so no visitors at this time. She is having some tests done too.

Keep **Marilyn Cooke** in your prayers. She has bone spurs and is wearing a boot currently to see if it will help heal them. If not, surgery will be done. Pray for healing for Marilyn.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Sally Reehorn has returned to her home in Creekside. She is still very weak. Pray for healing and strength for Sally.

Alice De Vries home now and is slowly but surely recovering from her recent mini-strokes. At the present time she would prefer phone visits over in-person visits. She is very grateful for all the many encouraging cards that have been sent and prayers offered on her behalf. Please pray for a full recovery for Alice in the weeks ahead!

Please pray for **Adelaida Vega** who had a colostomy procedure done recently. Although very complicated, it was successful. Please continue to pray healing and strength in the days ahead.

Please pray for **Terry's mom, Jeanne Beezhold**, as she has been diagnosed with a form of lung cancer. Remember her especially on Wednesdays when she has her chemotherapy treatments at the Skagit Regional Health Cancer Care Center in Mount Vernon.

Continue to pray for **Maxine Greidanus, Shirley Boonstra** 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; *Hank & Anjean VanderVeen* at *The Bridge in Mount Vernon*; *Sally Reehoorn* at Creekside in Burlington; *Bev Van Slageren* at family in Grandview, WA.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

Resonate: New missionaries: Give thanks for the many missionaries who have joined our team this year! Several have already moved to the field. Others are raising a support team and preparing to serve. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide these new missionaries.

Raise Up: Educational Care: Guidance: Give thanks with us for our new Educational Care program manager, Diana Boot. As she transitions into this role, pray for discernment, opportunities, and fruitful communication with new partners as Educational Care seeks to meet many requests from around the world.

ReFrame: North America: Praise God for this testimony from Cecilia, who asked for prayer for her grandson during Hurricane Ian in Florida: “There are times when I wonder if God hears me, and then something happens, like my grandson’s safety in that horrible hurricane—and I say, ‘You did hear me, God. You are so good!’”

World Renew: Refugees: The United Nations estimates that over 100 million persons have been forcibly displaced worldwide. As this year comes to a close, we pray for the millions of refugees around the globe who are seeking opportunity, safety, and freedom. Please pray that they find strong advocates for their basic human rights, bringing them hospitality and hope for the future.

Resonate: Dominican Republic: Steve and Sandra Brauning, Resonate missionaries serving in the Dominican Republic, ask for prayers that the Lord will “mobilize his church worldwide for mission work, evangelism, discipling, church planting, and all forms of witness and service.”

CRCNA leadership: New Year's Eve: As we reach the end of another calendar year, thank God for his presence with us each day and each moment throughout our lives. Pray for his continuing guidance in the lives of all his people and in the ministry and work of his body, the church.

Communications: New Year's Day: As we begin a new year, ask the Holy Spirit to fill us and give us courage, wisdom, and love to faithfully follow where he leads.