

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

May 14, 2023

Pastor John Knoester

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

“I’m so glad I learned to trust Him,”

Prelude: Marjo Rouw

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn: LUYH #538:1-4**

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

1. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
who wert and art and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye made blind by sin Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Sing acapella

4. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name,
in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Words: Reginald Heber; Music: John B. Dykes;

Descant: David McK. Williams; Public Domain; CCLI# 678905

* Opening Prayer

* Song of Praise: LUYH #19:1-5 ***“For the Beauty of the Earth”***

1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,

Refrain

*Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

2. For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,

Refrain

3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind’s delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:

Refrain

4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

Refrain

5. For yourself, best gift divine,
to the world so freely given,
agent of God’s grand design:
peace on earth and joy in heaven,

Refrain

Words: Folliot S. Pierpont, 1864, alt., P.D.; Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838;
adapt. William H. Monk, 1861, P.D.; CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting

* We Greet Each Other

“Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;”

Announcements

Call to Confession:

The psalmist models a transparent faith with these words:
Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.
We express our longing for God's leading
by our own transparent confession.
—based on Psalm 139:23-24, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: Psalm 139: 13-17

Reader #1:

¹³ For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Reader #2:

¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully
made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Reader #1:

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together
in the depths of the earth.

Reader #2:

¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your
book before one of them came to be.

Reader #1:

¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!

Call to Holy Living: Proverbs 1:8-9 and Proverbs 3:5-6

⁸Listen, my son, to your father's instruction
and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

⁹They are a garland to grace your head
and a chain to adorn your neck.

- Proverbs 1:8-9

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;

⁶in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

- Proverbs 3:5-6

Song of Thanksgiving: ***"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"*** vs. 1-4

1. 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to take Him at His word,
just to rest upon His promise,
just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

Chorus

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus
O for grace to trust Him more!

2. O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to trust His cleansing blood,
just in simple faith to plunge me,
'neath the healing cleansing flood!

Chorus

3. Yes 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
just from sin and self to cease,
just from Jesus simply taking,
life and rest and joy and peace.

Chorus

4. I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
precious Jesus Savior Friend,
and I know that Thou art with me,
wilt be with me to the end.

Chorus

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(During the singing of vs. 4 the choir is invited forward)

Ministry of Music: ***“Wings of the Dawn”*** Choir

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit and when I rise.
Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I go from your presence?

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
There your hand will guide me.
Your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say surely darkness will hide me,
And the light be dark around me,
Not even dark is dark to you.
Night will shine like the day.

And if I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
Even there your hand will guide me.
Your right hand will hold me fast.

So I'll praise you, lift up my voice and I'll praise you,
Lord Father I praise you, praise you, my Lord,
yes I'll praise you, Lord.

You created me within, You knit me in my mother's womb.
I praise you for I am fearfully made.
Your works are wonderful.

And if I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
Even there your hand will guide me.
Your right hand will hold me fast.
Rise on wings of the dawn.

Based on Psalm 139, Linda A Spencer, Copyright 1985 GlorySound, A division of Shawnee Press, Inc., CCLI# 678905

*(Following the ministry of music the
choir returns as the gratitude video is played)*

Mother's Day: Gratitude Video

Offering: General Fund
Offertory

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

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #755:1-3 **"Speak, O Lord"**

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
to receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all Your purposes, for Your glory.
2. Teach us Lord full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity,
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
and the earth is filled with Your glory.

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"And I know that He is with me,"

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:8-11, Mark 2:23-3:6, Romans 12:1-2

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Created to Worship –
Keeping Sunday Special & Biblical Guidelines for Worship"***

Time of Prayer

"He'll be with me to the end."

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #378:1-4 ***"Lord of All Hopefulness"***

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled
at the plane and the lathe:
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Words: Jan Struther (1901-1953) from Enlarged Songs of Praise, 1931, used by permission of Oxford University Press; Music: Irish; harm. Hymnal, 1982 ©Church Pension Group/Church Publishing, Inc.; OneLicense.net License #A-711218

* We Confess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 104

Q. What is God's will for you in the fourth commandment?

- A. First, that the gospel ministry and education for it be maintained, and that, especially on the festive day of rest, I regularly attend the assembly of God's people to learn what God's Word teaches, to participate in the sacraments, to pray to God publicly, and to bring Christian offerings for the poor.

Second, that every day of my life I rest from evil ways, let the Lord work in me through his Spirit, and so begin already in this life the eternal Sabbath.

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #543:1-3 **"Now Thank We All Our God"**

1. Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.
2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven—
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Words: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt., P.D.; Johann Crüger, 1647, harm. based on Felix Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang*, Opus 52, 1840, Public Domain; *CCLI #678905*

* Postlude

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

May 14, 2023

Welcome! The psalmist prayed: "Restore us, O Lord God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved" (Psalm 80:19). May all who have come to worship find restoration, inner peace and spiritual strength. 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.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Dear Friends,

The 'short answer' to why God creates, saves, and sustains us is for the praise of His glory. In other words, you and I were **created to worship!** That's the primary purpose not only of our individual lives, but also as a church. Together, we are called to worship our Triune and living God!

This being said, when it comes to corporate worship, it's fair to ask **why** do we worship the way that we do? What is the main purpose of some of our specific liturgical elements on Sunday morning? What are some of the biblical and theological reasons for why we do them?

In the months to come, I plan to do a general survey of Reformed worship itself as well as teach on some of the specific liturgical elements themselves. The hope, of course, is that better understanding will lead to even deeper appreciation and gratitude for the very reason we are created, saved, and sustained in Christ. May God bless this study in the weeks to come!

Tentative Sermon Schedule:

1. May 7 – “*God’s Church, Not Ours*”
2. May 14 – “*Keeping Sunday Special and Biblical Guidelines for Worship*”
3. May 21 – “*Liturgy, Scripture, and Preaching*”
4. June 4 – “*Our Offerings*”
5. June 18 – “*Sacraments*” (Communion Sunday)
6. June 25 – “*Prayer*”
7. July 30 – “*Music*”
8. Aug. 6 – “*Confession & Assurance*”
9. Aug. 13 – “*Professing our Faith / Creeds*”
10. Aug. 20 – “*Benediction*”

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

Worship Service YouTube Links:

May 7: <https://youtu.be/4krv4wQrjbo>

Taste of Latin America will be held Friday, **May 19 at 6:00 p.m.** Please let Sylvia know if you plan to attend the ***Taste of Latin America*** night and whether you are bringing food or not. Today is the last day to sign up. Please send your recipe ingredients with the title of what you are making to the church office by **Tuesday** of this week.

Congregational Meeting: Save the date! **Monday, May 22 at 7pm** is the date for our annual Congregational Meeting. Our annual church budget will be presented for approval and informational reports from various church committees will be presented. **Meeting packets will be available to pick up in person in the fellowship hall following our morning service. We have a few extra packets made if we missed your name and you would like one for information.** All packets not picked up by

the 14th will be sent out in the mail on Monday, May 15. The Council presents the following two nominees for the office of elder (2 open spots): Eliot Blom and Henry Van Zanten Jr. The Council presents the following four nominees for the office of deacon (2 open spots): Derek Blanken, Harmen De Jong, Terryl Dykstra, and Adam Faber. If you have any questions about any items on the agenda, please contact your district Elder prior to the Congregational Meeting. Absentee ballots can be placed in Beth's mailbox by her office door.

Christian Education Fund:

Pledge forms are in your mailboxes for the 2023-2024 school year. The cost of the ministry for the 2023-2024 school year is \$129,500.00. Please return your pledge forms in mailbox #85.

Also please remember to pay your pledges for the current school year.

In order for the Christian Education Fund to continue we need to fulfill our pledges for both school years by May 31. If you have any questions regarding your pledges, please contact Katie Jungquist, 428-3818.

Trudy Van Dyke would love to come and worship on Sundays. Please call the office if you are willing to pick her up and bring her back after the service. A low to mid size car works best.

Church Potluck: Our next church potluck will be held on Sunday, July 2 (*not June 4 as previously planned*) following the morning service. Brad Diekema will be here so this will be a good time to welcome him. Come and join us.

Summer Block Party! Mark your calendars accordingly for **Saturday, July 29** as that will be the date of our summer block party! Darrel L. is already exploring new games and water entertainment for this year's event and Kristi S. is already making food preparations. In addition, there is always a need to help set things up, serve during the event, and take things down at the end. Please contact Mardick S. if you would like to help out accordingly. Otherwise, we encourage you to invite your friends to join us on **Saturday, July 29!**

Join C.A.R.E. Medical Center (formerly Pregnancy Choices) for our Baby Bottle Campaign, running from Mother's Day to Father's Day!

C.A.R.E. Medical is a ministry that serves women and their partners in their medical and personal needs here in the Skagit Valley. Their medical clinic provides free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, and STI testing. Through the Thriving Hearts Program, they personally and directly partner with underprivileged women through one-on-one mentoring relationships with mature women of God. Thriving Heart also provides resources to these women, such as baby clothes, maternity clothes, formula, and home goods. By participating in this Baby Bottle fundraiser, you can support the work of Thriving Heart in directly providing for the needs of these women and their children. We invite you to be a part of this invaluable ministry! Simply pick up a bottle in the foyer, fill it with change, bills, or checks, and return it to the church by Father's Day. Thank you for supporting our community's moms, dads, babies, and children!

Ministry Associate Update: Pastor Brad Diekema's acceptance letter has been received and is currently posted on the bulletin board outside of the church office. Please continue to keep Pastor Brad in your prayers in the weeks to come as he makes plans to move to the area in late June. Pray not only that the transition itself goes well, but also as he prepares for his classis exam in early October.

Special Guest: Mr. Steve Gumear, the cofounder and former director of Partners Relief and Development, will be with us on **Sunday, May 28**. Currently Steve and his wife Oddny are leading a variety of relief work in Ukraine. In addition to proclaiming God's Word to us he will also be updating us on what God is doing in the midst of the conflict.

Heather Village, a Christian retirement community in Mount Vernon, has an opening for a Maintenance Supervisor. This position is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance operations of the buildings and grounds in the community. To qualify, a candidate must be a Christian and have good interpersonal skills. An ideal candidate would have a working knowledge of electrical and plumbing systems, carpentry and painting skills, and would be expected to be available for on-call emergencies. This is a full-time position that could be shared between two people; pay is dependent on experience. For more

information or to submit a resume or list of qualifications, please contact the Heather Village Manager by mail at Heather Village, 925 Heather Circle, Mount Vernon WA 98273 or by email at hvoffice2021@gmail.com prior to June 10, 2023.

There is a new newsletter from our missionaries **Brett & Angela Nicholson** and from **John & Trista Vander Wal**. You may view them at the following links: <https://firstcrmv.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Missionary-Update-on-the-Nicholsons.pdf>

<https://firstcrmv.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Vander-Wal-May-2023.pdf>

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts today:

Adam & Katie F, Marinus & Jill R.

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, 5/14:

Fred F, Wiebe & Johnna VDH

Children in Worship:

Today - Juli O., Rayah O.

Next Week 5/21: ?, Hannah

Worship Team:

Today: Kevin & Glenda K., Nellie VDH, Emmalyn S.

Next Week: Eliot B, Heidi B. Kayla VH, Ella VH

This week:

NO Choir practice today after the service. Will meet on May 21 and then off on May 28.

May 19, Friday, 6:00pm: Taste of Latin America

Upcoming Dates to Note:

May 19 at 6:00 p.m. Taste of Latin America

May 21, 6:30pm: Women's Bible Study

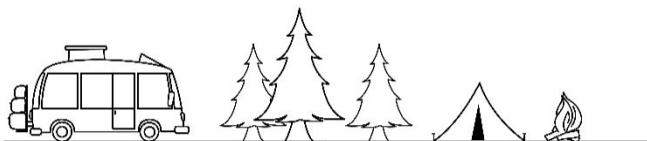
Monday, May 22, 7pm: Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, May 23 at 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant

July 2: Church Potluck! Brad Diekema will be here.

July 29, Saturday: Neighborhood "Block Party"

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:



Cascade Family Bible Camp (July 6-10): Registration is all online again this year and is easier than building and launching a rocket with your seven-year-old! You can register to camp in your tent or RV or choose to stay in a comfortable cabin. Along with inspiring speakers and great kids' programs, Warm Beach Camp is a great outdoor facility with plenty to do. Our keynote speaker this year is Todd Statham. He is a campus pastor at The University of British Columbia (Okanagan campus). As a university chaplain, he helps undergraduates, international students and professors grow in faith in Christ and think Christianly about their studies and research. Ordained in the Christian Reformed Church, Todd has previously served as a missionary in Malawi and a university lecturer in Germany.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Happy Mother's Day! - Today we celebrate the special women in our lives. Your gifts for the World Renew offering help build capable, confident women around the world. Women's support is crucial to building strong families and communities that flourish -- and have hope for the future. Honor a Woman of Hope in your life by giving

generously to World Renew today. For more information or to give online, go to worldrenew.net/womenofhope.

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.

Kids Corner: Mother's Words - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Proverbs 31 introduces a mother who also taught her son, King Lemuel, many lessons. No doubt she had to repeat them several times. He used her lessons throughout his reign as king. What can we learn from Lemuel's example? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Ten Commandments Bookmark.

Groundwork: Everything We Have is from God - Whether we have them or not, money and possessions are an inescapable fact of life. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study passages like Exodus 20:15-17, Deuteronomy 5:19-21, Deuteronomy 8:7-18, Leviticus 25:23-28; Proverbs 22:9, Ephesians 4:28, and Matthew 5:40-42 to cultivate a biblical perspective on our money and the things we own in this life. Listen now at Groundworkonline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Tech Team	Today: 5/14	Next Week: 5/21
Sound:	Mardy S.	Mardick S.
Projection:	Maddie D.	Hannah V.H.
Video:	Tim H./Isaac D.	Franchesca B.
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 REQUEST:

We express our sincere Christian sympathy to **Hank & Anjean Vander Veen and family** in the passing away of their daughter, Judi Vander Veen this past Wednesday. Many years ago, Judi graciously purchased and donated the large Bible that is displayed weekly on the communion table. May the many promises contained within God's Word be a source of comfort to the entire Vander Veen family and to all those who knew and loved Judi. The family will be holding a small private memorial service for Judy at Hawthorne's in the days to come. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they make various plans accordingly.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Margaret Vander Pol has two compression fractures and is experiencing significant back pain. An MRI is being scheduled and spine doctor is being consulted. She is currently waiting to hear word as to whether she is a good candidate for spine surgery. Please pray for relief from the pain and wisdom for her doctors on how best to provide such relief.

Please keep **Adelaida Vega** in your prayers as she enters hospice care. Pray for **Michelle and Darin** and their family as they enter this time.

Continue to pray for **Adelaida Vega, Maxine Greidanus** and **Shirley Boonstra** 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 Meischke** at Kenmore Living in Kenmore, WA, **Adrianna Swanson**, and **Clarence Vander Griend** at Home Place in Burlington; **Trudy Van Dyke** at *Where the Heart Is*. **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)

Monday May 15: Resonate: Nicaragua -“Many of our students and their families have experienced deep pain and brokenness,” said missionaries Liam and Jessica Starkenburg, who serve with Nicaragua Christian Academy International. “Ask God to redeem, heal, restore, and uphold this amazing community.”

Tuesday May 16: Raise Up: Timothy Leadership Training: Videos - Timothy Leadership Training is working with DECIBEL, a ministry organization in Europe, to format materials into micro-videos for distribution on smartphones. Pray that these videos will open up opportunities for leadership training in some of the most difficult-to-reach places in the world.

Wednesday May 17: Calvin Theological Seminary: Graduates -Nearly 50 students will be graduating this month. Rejoice with our graduates and their families and the churches and others who have supported them. Pray for them as they transition to ministry positions, further studies, or other places where God may lead them.

Thursday May 18: Faith Formation: Ascension Day -On this day we reflect on our risen and ascended Lord, and we give thanks that he lives to intercede for us and will return one day to make all things new.

Friday May 19: Resonate: Germany The Berliner Stadtmission (Berlin City Mission) is a Resonate partner in Berlin, Germany, where missionaries David Kromminga and Mary Buteyn serve. This ministry hosts language cafes where immigrants and refugees can learn German and make friends. David and Mary give thanks for the many people coming to these language cafes! Pray for opportunities to share the gospel.

Saturday May 20: World Renew: Disaster Response Services (DRS) -

This past year 133 young people, ages 19-30, volunteered with our DRS program. DRS has been steadily working to grow this volunteer base by attending conferences alongside college program administrators and through direct connections with student ministry leaders to explain and encourage student engagement. Pray that these recruitment efforts continue to be fruitful.

Sunday May 21: ReFrame: India -ReFrame's partners in India

recently hosted an event for seekers in a remote village of northern India. Pray that the 70 attendees will continue to use the devotions and audio programs they used and discussed at the event. Pray also for their safety, since many people in their region are opposed to the Christian faith.