

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
July 2, 2023

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

"Every inch of this universe belongs to you, O Christ."

Prelude

Welcome

* Opening Hymn: 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): Erneuertem Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665; desc. Craig S.
Lang (1891-1971) © Novello and Co., Ltd. Admin. G. Schirmer, Inc.; CCLI #678905

* Call to Worship / Prayer of Adoration

Leader: You are the Sovereign One, O God,
and rightly to be blessed.

People: Your name shall ever be upon our lips.

Leader: We praise you for creating this world in all beauty,
for redeeming the world through Christ, our Lord,
and for sending the gift of your Spirit
to encourage, instruct, and sustain us.

**People: We long for your Spirit to work among us now,
to inspire our praise, to challenge us with your truth,
and to equip us for service in your world.**

* Song of Praise: LUYH #15 v. 1-2 *"The First Place"*

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

* God's Greeting

* We Greet Each Other

"For through you and for you it was made."

Announcements

Call to Confession: Hebrews 10:19-22, NSRV

Since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. —Hebrews 10:19-22, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: I Timothy 1:15,17, Hebrew 10:10, HC Q&A 66

Leader: 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

We have been made holy through the sacrifice
of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**People: This is God’s gospel promise: to forgive our sins
and give us eternal life by grace alone
because of Christ’s one sacrifice finished on the cross.**
—Hebrews 10:10, NIV; Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 66

Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #682 v. 1-3

“Before the Throne of God Above”

1. Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

2. When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

3. Behold him there! The risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless righteousness;
the great unchangeable "I AM,"
the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Savior and my God,
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

Words: Charitie Lees DeCheney Bancroft (1841-1923), P.D.; Music: Vikki Cook, 1997, ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship, admin. EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI #678905

Offering: General Fund

Offertory: Cascade Family Bible Camp Video

*(Following the offertory video children ages 3-3rd grade
are excused for Children and Worship)*

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #755 v. 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.

Words and Music: Keith Getty / Stuart Townend; © 2005 Thankyou Music
(Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing); All rights Reserved. CCLI #678905

"Your creation endures by the order of your hand."

Scripture Readings: James 5:13-16, I Thess. 5:16-18, Colossians 4:2-6

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"The Sovereignty of God and Our Human Prayers"***

Time of Prayer

"So you must have in all things the first place."

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #427 v. 1-5

"How Firm a Foundation"

1. How firm a foundation you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2. "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3. “When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,
for I will be with you in trouble to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.
4. “When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace all-sufficient shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.
5. “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!”

Words: Isaiah 43:1-5; J. Rippon’s *Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt., P.D.; Music: J. Funk’s *A Compilation of Genuine Church Music*, 1832; harm. Dale Grotenhuis (1931-2012), 1985, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources; CCLI #678905

* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 116-117

Leader: Q. Why do Christians need to pray?

People: A. Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us. And also because God gives his grace and Holy Spirit only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly, asking God for these gifts and thanking him for them.

Leader: Q. How does God want us to pray so that he will listen to us?

People: A. First, we must pray from the heart to no other than the one true God, who has revealed himself in his Word, asking for everything he has commanded us to ask for.

Second, we must acknowledge our need and misery, hiding nothing, and humble ourselves in his majestic presence.

Third, we must rest on this unshakeable foundation: even though we do not deserve it, God will surely listen to our prayer because of Christ our Lord. That is what he promised us in his Word.

* Benediction

* Doxology: 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

Words and Music: Reuben Morgan © 1998 Hillsong Publishing (APRA), admin. US & Canada at EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI# 678905

Postlude

Welcome! Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy." Those are the words of the psalmist in Psalm 5:11. Whoever you are, wherever you are from, we welcome you and we invite you to "be glad" with us about God's goodness and mercy. Let us "ever sing for joy" and praise God with profoundly grateful hearts. 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.

Tech Team	Today: 7/2	Next Week: 7/9
Sound:	Tim H.	Mardick S.
Projection:	Franchesca B.	Tim H./Isaac D.
Video:	Brandon S.	Dick G.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

July 2, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

New office bearers: The new office bearers for the upcoming church year are as follows: Council and Elder President - Darrel Lagerwey; Council and Elder Clerk - Dick Gudmunson; Council and Elder Vicar - Eliot Blom; Records Clerk - Henry Van Zanten Jr.; Deacon President - Mardick Stevens; Council and Deacon Treasurer - Jon Vander Kooy; Deacon Secretary - Hank Van Zanten; Deacon Vicar - Derek Blanken; Deacon Benevolence - Terry Dykstra Deacon Helping Hands - Fred Folkertsma. Please take the time to both encourage and thank these

Commissioning Service: On Sunday, June 11 Elder Darrel Lagerwey and Pastor John had the opportunity to participate in the sending service for Pastor Brad in Byron Center, Michigan. If you are interested in watching a 14-minute clip of that particular part of the service - here is the link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/18r4SFBVwRVHLCWHMdnP5y2V_mYdeqJPL/view?ts=6491dd58

There will be an outdoor church work party on Saturday, July 15, beginning at 9:00 AM. It will be a beautification project for the grounds of our church. Please join in with your wheelbarrows, hoes and rakes!

Happy 100th Birthday to Grace Feddema on July 6! She has been a blessing and we are so grateful to God for all the wonderful years He has given her. May he continue to bless her with happiness and love!



Just a friendly reminder to please remember to turn out the lights in church if you are the last one there!

The Back to School Blessing is back on! Stay tuned for future announcements.

Meet-n-Greet Dessert Nights with Pastor Brad: In the weeks and months to come it's important for Pastor Brad to get to know as many members of our church family as possible. Thus, the council would like to encourage each member/family to sign up for a **'dessert night' at church sometime in the months of July and August.** Generally speaking, these will take place on **Tuesday and Thursday nights** in the church fellowship hall starting at **7 PM.** One council member will help facilitate the evening with Brad and ideally each evening date would include 2-4 additional families. You are encouraged to bring a small appetizer/dessert to share, but please don't feel obligated. Sign-up sheets are currently on the coffee table in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Beth or Pastor John if you have any questions. Thank you!

If you are a long-time visitor of our church and would like to be assigned a mailbox, please let Beth know! Recently added were the Cody & Amy Stiles and Eric and Theresa Vander Kooy. Call Beth at 360-336-2405 or email her at www.secretary@firstcrcmv.com.

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!**

Christian Education Fund:

THANK YOU to all those that pledged for the coming school year. The total tuition cost of \$123,810.00 for school year 2023-2024 has been pledged. Thank you so much for your support!

First CRC offers the option to give *your offerings online, 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:

June 25: https://youtu.be/w_jRaVvtogs

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 – *"Confession & Assurance"*
8. Aug. 6 – *"Music"*
9. Aug. 13 – *"Professing our Faith / Creeds"*
10. Aug. 20 – *"Benediction"*

Calendar:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts today:

Katie J., Tim & Heather VH

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, 7/2:

Clarence & Eleanor K., Bryan & Deanna VB

Children in Worship:

Today: Only God knows

Next Week: Ditto

Worship Team:

Today: Greg & B., ?

Next Week, 7/9: Eliot B., Heidi B., TBD

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Tuesday, July 11, 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant

Saturday, July 15, 9am: Church Work Party

Saturday, July 29: Neighborhood "Block Party"

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

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 July 15, 2023.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Kids Corner: Being God's Copycat - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. God wants us to copy him. As Christians, we're called to "be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:24) every single day. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Image Bearer Picture Frame.

Healing Hearts Transforming Nations Retreat - Register Today! -

Sunday, July 30 - Thursday, August 3 This three-day workshop aims to equip Christian leaders to be agents of healing and reconciliation. A combination of interactive teaching, group sessions, ministry times and participant interaction are used. The workshop seeks to bring healing

and reconciliation to communities suffering from division and hatred. People from differing backgrounds are invited to encounter God and one another at heart level. Register here: <https://shorturl.at/lnxEK>



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:

Trudy Van Dyke is now receiving hospice care. Please pray for continued healing and renewed strength in the weeks to come.

Greg Boon's mother, Yvonne, started her journey to receive stem cells for her leukemia recently and has had a lot of tests in preparation for the transplant. Please pray that the process goes smoothly and she will experience and quick and complete recovery.

Please continue to pray for **Juli Oostra** as she fights to regain her platelet levels.

Pray for **Grace Feddema**, who continues at Life Care Center and is turning 100 YEARS OLD THIS WEEK!

Please continue to pray for **Marilyn Cooke's** 3-year-old grandson, her 13-year-old grandson, and for Marilyn's pain in her right foot. It has been worse recently.

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 **Maxine Greidanus** while she continues fighting cancer and for **Margaret VanderPol** as she recovers from surgery.

SHUT INS: ***Nell Annema and Marion Ekkelkamp*** at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley; ***Shirley Boonstra*** at Country Meadow Village 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*** with family in Grandview, WA.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

Monday June 26 - from: Raise Up: Educational Care: Training
Praise God for a rich season of Educational Care training taking place in Uganda. Teachers in the Obongi Refugee Settlement have been planning among themselves for months to make the training there possible.

Tuesday June 27 - from: Chaplaincy and Care: Workplace chaplains
Our workplace chaplains work in the industrial or corporate world, serving the needs of employees affected by grief, trauma, and crises at home or at work and who may not have a spiritual support network. Please pray for these chaplains and the people they serve.

Wednesday June 28 - from: Resonate: Kenya
Give thanks for the fruitful Helping without Hurting training that Resonate missionary Anthony Sytsma led recently in Nairobi, Kenya, in collaboration with World Renew staff. Pray that the participants may put into practice what they have learned.

Thursday June 29 - from: ReFrame: Burkina Faso
Oumarou is a faithful listener to our French-ministry programs. He recently visited our ministry office in Burkina Faso to share his gratitude to God for his miraculous recovery after a surgical procedure on his leg. Pray for Oumarou's continued healing and ask that he may continue to grow in his faith.

Friday June 30 - from: World Renew: Disaster response
In February, Cyclone Freddy made landfall in southeastern Africa, resulting in landslides and flooding and claiming the lives of over 700 people across Mozambique, Madagascar, and Malawi. Please pray for all who have lost loved ones, homes, and crops, and are depending on humanitarian aid to survive. Pray also for the wisdom and safety of our staff and partners as they work to share Christ's hope.

Saturday July 1 - from: Communications: Canada Day
We pray today for Canada and its people. Pray for God's guidance for Canada's leaders, legislators, educators, and all who help to shape its culture and legacy. Pray also for Canada's people in all their diversity.

Sunday July 2 - from: The King's University: Students
The King's University (Edmonton, Alta.) is looking for student enrollment growth this fall. Please pray for our recruitment and admissions teams as they work faithfully. Please also pray for the students preparing to begin or resume their studies at King's. Classes start Aug. 31, 2023, and we look forward to welcoming students to campus!