

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Guest Pastor Jeff Bos
July 9, 2023

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

"All praise to the Father,"

Prelude

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn: LUYH #351 v. 1-3 *"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"***

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee with thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747, P.D.; Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1831, P.D.

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being,
praise his holy name.

**People: Praise the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.**

Leader: Praise the LORD, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.

**People: Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.**

Leader: Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere
in his dominion.

People: Praise the LORD, O my soul.

—Psalm 103:1-2, 20-22, NIV

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #560 v. 1-3

"We Praise You, O God"

1. We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.
2. We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you never forsake us.
And with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.
3. With voices united our praises we offer;
our songs of thanksgiving to you we now raise.
Your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us.
To you, our great Redeemer, fore'er be praise!

Words: Julia C. Cory, 1902, alt., P.D.; Music: a. Valerius, Nederlandsch
Gedenckclandk, 1626, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

"From whom all things come,"

Announcements

Call to Confession: Based on Romans 8:39

Our Lord Jesus said: “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it:

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

As God has instructed us in these great commandments, and because we have not lived in full obedience, let us now confess our sins to God, trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord.

—based on Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: Psalm 103:8-13

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

—Psalm 103:8-13, NRSV

God’s Will for Our Lives: Colossians 3:12-15

As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom he loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond.

And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts,
because it is for this that you were called together in one body.
Always be thankful. —Colossians 3:12-15, NJB

Song of Response: *“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”* v. 1-3

1. How deep the Father’s love for us,
how vast beyond all measure
that He should give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss.
The Father turns His face away
as wounds which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.
2. Behold the Man upon a cross,
my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life.
I know that it is finished.
3. I will not boast in anything:
no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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Offering

Offertory

* Song of Preparation LUYH #746 v. 1-3

"Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"

1. Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause your Word to come alive in me;
give me faith for what I cannot see;
give me passion for your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

2. Holy Spirit, come abide within,
may your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin,
in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace;
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

3. Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
giving life to all that God has made,
show your power once again on earth,
cause your church to hunger for your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;
lead us on the road of sacrifice,
that in unity the face of Christ
may be clear for all the world to see.

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend; ©2006 Thankyou Music,
CCLI# 678905

"And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son"

Scripture Readings: Deuteronomy 10:12-22, Luke 6:27-36

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Keeping it Strange: From Xenophobia to Philoxenia"***

Time of Prayer

"And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us all one."

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #256 v. 1-4

“They’ll Know We are Christians”

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.
2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.
3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we’ll guard each one’s dignity and save each one’s pride.
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.
4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us all one.
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

Words: Peter Scholtes (b. 1938) © 1966, 1967 F.E.L. Church Publications, Ltd.,
assigned 1991 to Lorenz Corporation CCLI #678905

* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 4,5, 8, 21

Q & A 4

Leader: Q. What does God’s law require of us?

People: A. Christ teaches us this in summary in Matthew 22:

**“You shall love the Lord your God with all
your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.’**

This is the greatest and first commandment.

“And a second is like it:

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

**“On these two commandments hang
all the law and the prophets.”**

Q & A 5

Leader: Q. Can you live up to all this perfectly?

People: A. No. I have a natural tendency to hate God and my neighbor.

Q & A 8

Leader: Q. But are we so corrupt that we are totally unable to do any good and inclined toward all evil?

People: A. Yes, unless we are born again by the Spirit of God.

Q & A 21

Leader: Q. What is true faith?

People: A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #540 v. 1-4

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

1. Holy God, we praise your name;
Lord of all, we bow before you.
Saints on earth your rule acclaim;
all in heaven above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain;
everlasting is your reign.
2. Hark, the glad celestial hymn
angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim,
in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heavens with sweet accord:
"Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

3. Lo, the apostolic train
joins your sacred name to hallow;
prophets swell the glad refrain,
and the white-robed martyrs follow;
and from morn to set of sun,
through the church the song goes on.

ACAPELLA

4. Holy Father, holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name you,
though in essence only one;
undivided God, we claim you,
and, adoring, bend the knee
while we own the mystery.

Words: Te Deum, 4th c.; vers. Ignaz Franz, ca. 1774; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1853, alt., P.D. Music: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774; desc. Emily R. Brink, 1986, ©1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources, CCLI # 678905

Postlude

Welcome to the House of God. The Lord is always near to those who gather in his name. Let us eagerly call upon God and make a joyful noise with songs and prayers of praise. Glory be to God! 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: 7/9 | Next Week: 7/16 |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Sound: | Mardick S. | Mardy S. |
| Projection: | Tim H./Isaac D. | Beth B. |
| Video: | Dick G. | Brandon S. |
| Offering: | General Fund | General Fund |

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

July 9, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

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!

Please pick up your copy of the new committee list on the shelf by the mailboxes!

Beth will be OUT OF THE OFFICE next Thursday, the 13th. If you have a prayer chain addition or an announcement for next week's bulletin, please get it to me by Wednesday the 12th at 9:00 am. Thank you!

Men's Breakfast Bible Study: We are going to take a summer break from gathering at Shari's on Tuesday mornings. We hope to gather again later in the summer. If you'd like to join us, keep an eye on the bulletin for an announcement.



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!**

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:

July 2: <https://youtu.be/tJzvzD3nOBQ>

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:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, 7/16:

Brooke K., Jack & Trudy VK

Children in Worship:

Today: No Children’s Worship

Next Week:

Worship Team:

Today: TBD

Next Week, 7/16: Henry, Pam & Sylvia VZ, Adriana & Tessa S.

Upcoming Dates to Note:

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:

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: Anxious About What's Next - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Do you think Joseph felt anxious while living in Egypt? He had been sold into slavery by people he trusted—his brothers! He was accused of a crime he didn't commit and thrown in jail. Joseph no doubt worried about what might happen next, but he trusted that God had called him and was with him in the midst of his anxiety and fear. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible story podcast "The Story of Joseph."



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 pray for **Rinie and Jill Rouw**, as Rinie had a successful TAVR procedure on Monday and had a pacemaker put in on Wednesday. Pray for God's healing mercies as his body heals from both procedures.

Pray also for **Judy and John Velasquez**, as she had a heart procedure this Thursday at Swedish Hospital in Seattle. We pray it corrects the problem with her heart and she can heal quickly and return home soon!

Please continue to pray for **Juli Oostra, Grace Feddema** and **Trudy Van Dyke**.

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 July 3 - *Resonate Global Mission: Europe*

Resonate recently launched Cohort Europe, an opportunity for young adults to serve in a ministry, live in community, and engage in spiritual formation. Pray for the young adults preparing to engage in this cohort. Ask God to build up a strong support network for them.

Tuesday July 4 - *Communications: Independence Day (U.S.)*

Today we pray for the United States of America and its people. May God's will be done in decisions made at all levels of government and influence. May everyone in the U.S. find freedom in Christ, faith in his promises, and healing in his love.

Wednesday July 5 - *ReFrame Ministries: Brazil*

ReFrame's Portuguese-language ministry team hosts a conference for young families every year. Pray that this year's event will reach even more people with the gospel and allow parents and children to engage in the good news in new ways.

Thursday July 6 - *World Renew: Administration*

While World Renew serves with God's people around the globe, much of our administrative work takes place in our Canadian and U.S. offices. Please lift up our teams in prayer as they respond to the needs of our neighbors, collaborate with trusted foundations who help to make our work possible, and more.

Friday July 7 - *Resonate: Philippines*

Resonate missionaries Charles and Hensel Oh ask for prayer for Timothy Leadership Training in the Philippines. Ask the Holy Spirit to work through leaders who participate in this training to help strengthen churches and transform communities.

Saturday July 8 - *Calvin Theological Seminary: Students*

Over 40 percent of our students are international students. Please pray for them as they make plans for travel, border crossings, and transitions. Pray also for plans being made this summer to welcome all students back in the fall.

Sunday July 9 - *Thrive: Chaplains: Seafarer chaplain*

Our chaplain for seafarers serves in coastal areas, ministering to the crews of merchant ships and cruise vessels. Often these crew members are from distressed areas of the world and are away from home for months at a time. A kind word, a listening ear, or a search for medical care can create an opportunity to discuss God's love and grace. Pray that gospel-filled connections in this work may bear fruit each day.