

***Welcome to Mount Vernon
First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
August 6, 2023***

Morning Service – 10:30 AM

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

“Sing to the Lord, sing his praise, all you peoples”

Prelude

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #515 v. 1,2,6
*“Sing to the Lord, Sing His Praise”***

1. Sing to the LORD, sing his praise, all you peoples;
new be your song as new honors you pay.
Sing of his majesty, praise him forever,
show his salvation from day to day.

2. Tell of his wondrous works, tell of his glory
till through the nations his name is revered.
Praise and exalt him, for he is almighty;
God over all, let the LORD be feared.

6. Let heaven and earth be glad; oceans, be joyful;
forest and field, exultation express.
For God is coming, the judge of the nations,
coming to judge in his righteousness.

Psalm 96; Words: Psalter, 1912, alt., P.D.; Music: Lowell Mason (1792-1872),
1830, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

*** Call to Worship: Based on Psalm 96**

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**People: Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
Proclaim his salvation day after day.**

Leader: Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

People: For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

* Song of Praise: LUYH #513 v. 1-3

"It Is Good to Sing Your Praises"

1. It is good to sing your praises
and to thank you, O Most High,
showing forth your loving-kindness
when the morning lights the sky.
It is good when night is falling
of your faithfulness to tell,
while with sweet, melodious praises
songs of adoration swell.
2. You have filled my heart with gladness
through the works your hands have wrought;
you have made my life victorious;
great your works and deep your thought.
You, O Lord, on high exalted,
reign forevermore in might;
all your enemies shall perish,
sin be banished from your sight.
3. But the good shall live before you,
planted in your dwelling place,
fruitful trees and ever verdant,
nourished by your boundless grace.
In his goodness to the righteous
God his righteousness displays;
God, my rock, my strength and refuge,
just and true are all your ways.

PSALM 92; Words: Psalter, 1912, P.D.; Music: J. Leavitt's Christian Lyre, 1831,
P.D.; CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

"New be your song as new honors you pay."

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: (Based on Psalm 103)

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.
For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.
But the steadfast love of the LORD
is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.

—Psalm 103:8, 13-14, 17-18, NRSV

Responding in Gratitude - Offering:

1st: General Fund/2nd: Benevolence

Offertory

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

* Hymn 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

"Sing of his majesty, praise him forever,"

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:13-21, Colossians 3:12-17

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Created to Worship – Music"***

Time of Prayer

* Song of Application: LUYH #7 v. 1-4

"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

3. Where music is made, let rhythms abound:
let cymbals and drums add weight to the sound;
with dance that is graceful and words that are clear,
bring joy to the God you adore and revere.

Refrain

Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Halle! Hallelujah!

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: Swee Hong Lim, Singapore © 2000 and arr. © 2010 Swee Hong Lim, admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik; All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-711218

(During the singing of this hymn the children will be returning from Children and Worship and the elders are invited forward to serve communion)

“Show his salvation from day to day.”

We Celebrate Communion Together

Declaration of God’s Invitation and Promises

(Based on Luke 13:29, 24:30-31)

Summary of Scriptural Teaching: (Based on HC Q&A 79)

Leader: Christ calls the bread his body and the cup his blood,
or the new covenant in his blood.

People: Christ has good reasons for these words.

**He wants to teach us that as bread and wine
nourish our temporal life, so too his crucified body
and poured-out blood truly nourish our souls
for eternal life.**

Leader: But more important, he wants to assure us,
by this visible sign and pledge, that we,
through the Holy Spirit's work,
share in his true body and blood as surely as
our mouths receive these holy signs
in his remembrance,

**People: and that all of his suffering and obedience
are as definitely ours as if we personally had suffered
and paid for our sins.**

Preparing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Invitation

Distribution: *(As the elements are being served)*

1. LUYH #443 v. 1-4 *"My Life Flows on in Endless Song"*
 1. My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain

*No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?*

2. Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

3. What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth.

Refrain

4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

*No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?*

Words: Robert Lowry (1826-1899), P.D.; Music: Robert Lowry, alt., P.D.;
CCLI #678905

2. LUYH #363 v. 1-3 "*Blessed Assurance: Jesus is Mine*"
 1. Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

3. Perfect submission: all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

Words: Fanny Crosby, 1873, P.D.; Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873, P.D. CCLI
#678905

3. LUYH #568 v. 1-4 *"I Will Sing of My Redeemer"*

1. I will sing of my Redeemer
and his wondrous love to me;
on the cruel cross he suffered,
from the curse to set me free.

Refrain

*Sing, oh, sing of my Redeemer,
with his blood he purchased me;
on the cross he sealed my pardon,
paid the debt, and made me free.*

2. I will tell the wondrous story,
how my lost estate to save,
in his boundless love and mercy
he the ransom freely gave.

Refrain

3. I will praise my dear Redeemer,
his triumphant power I'll tell,
how the victory he giveth
over sin and death and hell.

Refrain

4. I will sing of my Redeemer
and his heavenly love to me;
He from death to life has brought me,
Son of God, with him to be.

Refrain

Words: Philip P. Bliss, 1878; Music: James McGranahan; Public Domain,
CCLI #678905

Sharing of the Bread:

Take, eat, remember and believe that the body
of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness
of all our sins.

Take, drink, remember and believe the precious blood of our
Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness
of all our sins.

Response of Praise and Prayer

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #575 v. 1, 2, 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?

Acapella

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

Postlude

Welcome to everyone! We are so glad you chose to worship with us this Lord's Day. Today, we are having Holy Communion. Please reflect in reverence as we symbolize the body of Christ and His redemption for us. *The Lord's Supper is a table of grace. All those who have received the grace of Christ and confess Him as Lord and Savior of their life are warmly invited to participate. Yet, know too that there is also 'grace' from this community of faith for those who do not yet confess Christ as Lord. And if that's the case then we encourage you not to partake until you have the genuine desire to receive God's grace and are ready to proclaim Christ as your Lord.* After joining us in worship, please join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Tech Team	Today: 8/6	Next Week: 8/13
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry VZ
Projection:	France B.	Tim H., Emmalyn S.
Video:	Brandon S.	Dick G.
Offering:	General Fund/ Benevolence	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements August 6, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

If you have any address or phone number changes, please let Beth know so she can update the new directory. Thank you!

90th Birthday Celebration: The Trudy Van Dyke family is inviting the congregation to a "nearly 90" birthday celebration on **Saturday, August 12 from 2-5 PM** at the Heather Village Clubhouse. Trudy's actual 90th birthday is on November 2, but schedule wise it works much better to celebrate it a little early! So come and enjoy a wonderful fellowship time together as we celebrate God's faithfulness in Trudy's life!

Grace Feddema has moved to assisted living at Creekside. She is slowly gaining some strength in her left arm and leg. She also wants to express her thanks for all the 'get well' and birthday cards she received. They are much appreciated!

It's that time of year again! Say CHEESE! If you would like your **church directory picture OR OTHER INFORMATION** updated, please bring or send Beth your picture. If you would like a picture taken, Beth will have her camera here for the first **3 WEEKS ONLY in AUGUST** after the morning service. If you are hankering for your piece of "cheese!", please let Beth know what Sunday to expect you. If you are a long-time visitor, we would also love to add you to our directory! Thank you!

Synod 2023: FAQ summary documents of Synod 2023 are currently available on the shelf near the church mailboxes.

Meet-n-Greet Dessert Nights with Pastor Brad: There are still nights open, so feel free to still sign up!

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 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”*

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 31: <https://youtu.be/1yLeqfLyTV0>

Calendar:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts today: Greg & Tish A., Sarah Z., Juliana LC

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, 8/13: Jeremy & Shanna V, Greg & Beth B.

Children in Worship:

Today: ?

Next Week: also ?

Worship Team:

Today: Men's Group

Next Week, 8/13: Stan B., Julie, Adriana & Tessa S.

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Sunday, Sept. 24, 2:00pm: Skagit County Crop Hunger Walk

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Kids Corner: Worship God - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. What are the different ways that you and your family worship God throughout the day? We can worship God anywhere, anytime: at the park, in the car, and at the supper table. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Kids in Action video "Puppet Movie Making."

Groundwork: You Belong To Jesus! Act Like It. - In 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul writes to believers about sexuality and sexual immorality, accountability in the life of the church, and lawsuits or disagreements among believers. Join Groundwork as we study 1 Corinthians 5-6 to discover why Paul admonished believers to remember their identity as those baptized in Christ and to act accordingly. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Serve in Central America - Are you a young adult looking for what's next? Resonate is recruiting for Cohort Central America! Cohort is an opportunity for young adults to live in community, serve in a grassroots ministry, and engage in deep spiritual formation. Learn more at www.resonateglobalmission.org/cohort

Passionate about church ministry? Come work for The Network! - The CRCNA has an online community dedicated to helping ministry leaders from local congregations connect. We are looking for an Online Community and Content Manager to help us keep The Network (crcna.org/Network) running smoothly. This 15 hour/week position can be done remotely from anywhere across the United States or Canada, and will play a key role in connecting people with stories, conversations, and other content of interest. Learn more and apply at crcna.org/careers.



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 pray for the **Vega and Kuipers** families as they mourn the loss of Michelle's mother **Adelaida** this week. Please pray for God's comfort and peace in the midst of their grief.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please keep **Juli Oostra** and her family in your prayers. Juli's platelet levels have dropped back down to 15,000. She is back on the high dose of steroids and going in for additional IV steroid treatments over the next several days. Please pray for strength, perseverance, peace and healing for Juli. Pray too for her family as they anxiously journey with her. "Thank you" in advance for all your many prayers in the days to come.

Continue to pray for the **Rouw family** as they mourn the loss of Rinie.

Please keep **Judy Velasquez** in your prayers as she will have a heart clip procedure done on August 16, at Swedish Hospital in Seattle.

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

Please continue to pray for **Marilyn Cooke** and her family members.

Please pray for **Greg Boon's mother, Yvonne Boon**, who is recovering from her stem cell transplant. Pray that her body will accept the new cells in the next week and there will be no rejection of them.

Continue to pray for **Maxine Greidanus** while she continues fighting cancer and for **Margaret VanderPol** as she will require another 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 31 - *Resonate: Toronto*

"Pray for recent graduates as they transition," asks Ruth Hofman, a Resonate partner campus minister at Logos Christian Community at York University in Toronto. Pray that these graduates will find Christian communities where they can continue to grow and serve.

Tuesday August 1 - *Thrive: Racial Reconciliation: Burton family*

Pastor Jerome Burton of Coit Community CRC in Grand Rapids, Mich., passed away July 6, 2023. His love for the church, passion for people to meet Jesus, and commitment to racial reconciliation were well known and valued by all who closely worked with him. The Race Relations team was blessed by his humble, dedicated service. Please keep his family and the Coit community in your prayers.

Wednesday August 2 - *World Renew: Human trafficking prevention*

World Renew programs in communities and churches seek to prevent human trafficking through education, awareness, and support. We lament that so many people are vulnerable to trafficking. Ask the Lord to guide them and to inspire our churches and communities to intervene and protect all who are at high risk both locally and globally.

Thursday August 3 - *ReFrame Ministries: Japan*

Pray for seekers in Japan like Ayuto, who recently received a CD of audio programs from our partners in Japan. "After listening to this CD, I prayed, 'Please give me the courage to go to church,'" Ayuto said. "I continue to feel strongly that Jesus loves me and does not let go."

Friday August 4 - *Timothy Leadership Training: Philippines*

During August and September, Resonate missionary Charles Oh and his colleagues will be leading Timothy Leadership Training in Iloilo and Bukidnon in the Philippines. "Pray for wisdom and guidance," asks Charles.

Saturday August 5 - *Resonate: Tanzania*

Resonate missionary Renita Reed-Thomson, who leads Discipling Marketplace leaders, gives thanks for a church partner in Tanzania. The church has baptized several people and is growing. Please pray for this church as it continues to grow and serve the surrounding community.

Sunday August 6 - *Thrive: Worship: New ministry season*

As summer comes to a close, pray for church leaders gearing up for fall ministry. This is a particularly busy time, and preparation begins long before members return from summer travels. Pray for creative energy, wisdom in decision making, and Spirit-filled joy in this work.