

***Welcome to Mount Vernon  
First Christian Reformed Church!  
Pastor John Knoester  
Sept. 17, 2023***

**Morning Service – 10:30 AM**

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

*“Behold him there! The risen Lamb,  
my perfect, spotless, righteousness;”*

Prelude

Welcome

**\* Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 95)**

Leader: Come! Let us sing for joy to the Lord.  
Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation.

**People: Let us come before Him with thanksgiving  
and extol Him with music and song.**

Leader: The Lord is the great God. He is the greatest king.

**People: In His hand are the depths of the earth  
and the mountain peaks belong to Him.**

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship,  
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

**People: For he is our God and we are the people  
of his pasture, the flock under his care.**

**\* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #330 v. 1-4**

*“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us;  
much we need your tender care.  
In your pleasant pastures feed us,  
for our use your fold prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have bought us, yours we are.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have bought us, yours we are.

2. We are yours; in love befriend us,  
be the guardian of our way.  
Keep your flock, from sin defend us,  
seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear your children when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear your children when we pray.
3. You have promised to receive us,  
poor and sinful though we be;  
you have mercy to relieve us,  
grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
early let us turn to you.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
early let us turn to you.
4. Early let us seek your favor,  
early let us do your will;  
blessed Lord and only Savior,  
with your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have loved us, love us still.

Words: Hymns for the Young, 1836; attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, P.D.;  
Music: William B. Bradbury, P.D. CCLI #678905

\* God's Greeting

\* We Greet Each Other

\* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #251 v. 1-2, 4-5  
*"The Church's One Foundation"*

1. The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
she is his new creation  
by water and the Word.  
From heaven he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.

2. Elect from every nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth;  
her charter of salvation:  
one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with every grace endued.
  
4. 'Mid toil and tribulation  
And tumult of her war  
She waits the consummation  
Of peace forevermore  
Till with the vision glorious  
Her longing eyes are blest  
And the great Church victorious  
Shall be the Church at rest
  
5. Yet she on earth has union  
with God the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly,  
may live eternally.

Words: Samuel J. Stone, 1866, P.D.; Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864, P.D.  
CCLI #67895

*"The great unchangeable "I AM,  
the King of glory and of grace!"*

## Announcements

### Sunday School Commissioning Litany

Church Education Leader: Our faith is nurtured in community  
as we learn and worship together.  
Today we celebrate a new church school season  
as children, youth and adults begin attending  
Sunday school, small groups, and midweek activities.  
We ask God to prepare our hearts to study the Bible  
and the creeds and confessions of the church.

We commission our teachers and leaders  
for their ministry.

We invite God's Spirit to lead us forward  
on this journey of faith—transforming each of us  
into the likeness of Christ.

Sung Response: SNC #80 v. 1-2 *"Open Our Eyes, Lord"*

Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.  
Open our ears, Lord; and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus.

*"Open Our Eyes, Lord"* Text and Music: Bob Cull (b. 1949); arr. David Allen  
(B. 1941) ©1976 Maranatha Music, admin. The Copyright Company, CCLI# 678905

Church Education Leader: As we begin this new season  
of learning, we turn our hearts to you, Lord.

**People: Lead us to explore the depths of your love,  
To stand in awe of your wonders,  
To delight in your promises,  
To experience your forgiveness,  
To grow in love for one another,  
To discover our gifts  
And to serve you faithfully.**

Child leader 1: Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see Jesus.

**People: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter  
of our faith. (*Heb. 12:2a*)**

Child leader 2: We want to reach out and touch him,  
and say that we love him.

**People: In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands.  
(*1 John 5:3a*)**

Child leader 1: Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.

**People: For Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice;  
I know them, and they follow me.  
I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;  
no one will snatch them out of my hand."  
(*John 10:27-28*)**

Child leader 2: Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see Jesus.

**People: No one's ears have ever heard of a God  
like you. No one's eyes have ever seen a God  
who is greater than you.  
No God but you acts for the good of those  
who trust in him. (Isa. 64:4, NIV)**

Church Education Leader: Lead us this year to grow  
in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior  
Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever!  
Amen. (2 Pet. 3:18)

*Reformed Worship 88 @ June 2008* Worship Ministries of the Christian  
Reformed Church. Used by permission.

\* Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #262 v. 1-3  
*"I Love to Tell the Story"*

1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

*Refrain*

*I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

2. I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

*Refrain*

3. I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

Words: A. Catherine Hankey, 1866, P.D.; Music: William G. Fisher, 1869, P.D.;

*(During the singing of the last verse the children are invited forward  
for the Children's Message)*

Children's Message – Mrs. Marjo Rouw

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

Offering

Offertory: Sacrifice and Atonement – The Bible Project

*“One with himself I cannot die,  
my soul is purchased by his blood;”*

Scripture Readings: John 6:35-40, John 10:14-18

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“TULIP Faith – Intentional Atonement”***

Time of Prayer

\* Hymn of Application: 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

*“My life is hid with Christ on high,  
with Christ, my Savior and my God,”*

\* We Confess our Faith: Belgic Confession Article 21 – The Atonement

Leader: We believe that Jesus Christ is a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek—made such by an oath—and that he presented himself in our name before his Father, to appease his Father’s wrath with full satisfaction by offering himself on the tree of the cross and pouring out his precious blood for the cleansing of our sins, as the prophets had predicted.

For it is written that “the punishment that made us whole” was placed on the Son of God and that “by his bruises we are healed.”

**People: He was “like a lamb that is led to the slaughter”; he was “numbered with the transgressors” and condemned as a criminal by Pontius Pilate, though Pilate had declared that he was innocent.**

Leader: So he paid back what he had not stolen, and he suffered— “the righteous for the unrighteous,” in both his body and his soul— in such a way that when he sensed the horrible punishment required by our sins “his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.” He cried, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And he endured all this for the forgiveness of our sins.

**People: Therefore we rightly say with Paul that we know nothing “except Jesus Christ, and him crucified”; we “regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus [our] Lord.”**

Leader: We find all comforts in his wounds and have no need to seek or invent any other means to reconcile ourselves with God than this one and only sacrifice, once made, which renders believers perfect forever.

**People: This is also why the angel of God called him Jesus— that is, “Savior”— because he would save his people from their sins.**

*With Christ, my Savior and my God,”*

\* God’s Blessing

\* Parting Praise: LUYH #659 v. 1-4

*“Nearer, Still Nearer”*

1. Nearer, still nearer, close to thy heart,  
draw me, my Savior, so precious thou art.  
Fold me, O fold me close to thy breast;  
shelter me safe in that haven of rest,  
shelter me safe in that haven of rest.
2. Nearer, still nearer, nothing I bring,  
naught as an offering to Jesus, my King—  
only my sinful, now contrite heart;  
grant me the cleansing thy blood doth impart,  
grant me the cleansing thy blood doth impart.
3. Nearer, still nearer, Lord, to be thine,  
sin with its follies I gladly resign,  
all of its pleasures, pomp and its pride;  
give me but Jesus, my Lord crucified,  
give me but Jesus, my Lord crucified.

**Acapella**

4. Nearer, still nearer, while life shall last,  
till safe in glory my anchor is cast;  
through endless ages, ever to be  
nearer, my Savior, still nearer to thee,  
nearer, my Savior, still nearer to thee.

*Words and Music: Lelia N. Morris (1862-1929), P.D.; CCLI# 678905*

\* Postlude

**Welcome!** “O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things” (Psalm 98:1, NRSV). We gather to sing to the Lord and celebrate his work in our lives. 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: 9/17	Next Week: 9/24
Sound:	Henry VZ	Mardick S.
Projection:	Tim H.	Maddie D.
Video:	Brandon S.	France B.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

# First CRC

## Bulletin Announcements

### September 17, 2023

#### OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

The adult education team is excited about starting a new education year. However, we are postponing its beginning until October due to scheduling conflicts. We will announce the start date soon. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Pastor Brad.

**Mark your calendars for October 1** for our first choir rehearsal. New members are always welcome! We practice on Sundays after coffee time! Any questions, contact Joni Beezhold (425) 248-0287.

**Tish and I and the family** would like to say thank you for the cards and prayers sent in the passing of Mom. It is a joy to have a family that Loves and shares in time of Joy and sadness. *“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.” John 5.24*

**Please join us** for the kick-off Women’s Bible Study Hosted Dessert Social on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 at church. We will discuss and decide our Bible Studies and calendar for the upcoming year.

**2023 Skagit Crop Walk** is scheduled for Sunday, September 24, 2:00pm. Meet at the MVC School parking lot adjacent from the church. Go online to donate! Search for 2023 Crop Hunger Walk. Type in team name: First CRC Mt. Vernon Feat First in the search box located in the upper right corner of the web page and it will take you directly to the donation page.

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](https://firstcrcmv.com/?page_id=1509)

**Worship Service YouTube Links:**

September 10: <https://youtu.be/rIV2CiG84vM>

**Beth will be out of the office Sept. 21-Sept 29. Sylvia Van Zanten will be filling in during the interim. If you have bulletin announcements for next week please get them to Beth by Weds. the 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. The regular bulletin announcement deadline is Thursday 9 am.**

**Hymnbooks:** We currently have about 100 blue Psalter Hymnals and 100 red Power and Praise songbooks **FREE** for the taking in the Fellowship Hall.

**Did you forget to sign up** for the meet and greet with Pastor Brad, or you couldn't because of all those fun summer activities? No worries! Pastor Brad is always up for meeting, whether over a cup of good old liquid sunshine (coffee), a meal, or dessert. Feel free to reach out to Pastor Brad to set something up! You can reach Pastor Brad via email: [brad.diekema@gmail.com](mailto:brad.diekema@gmail.com). By phone: (616) 570-4771.

**Come see and hear Corrie Ten Boom!** Heather Village Community Center is sponsoring Susie Boer, as she brings Corrie Ten Boom alive with her true-to-life impersonation skills. September 22, 1:00pm. Refreshments are provided, donations welcomed. Please call Marjo Rouw at 360-428-5693 to let her know you are planning to attend.

**October 1 we will be having a potluck after the service. Please join us in food and fellowship!**

Dear Friends,

The acrostic T.U.L.I.P. is often used to describe the five main points of Calvinism - Total Depravity, Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Irresistible Grace, Perseverance of the Saints. The 'history' of this acrostic arose out of the political and theological turmoil taking place in the Netherlands in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In fact, one of our confessions – The Canons of Dordt – was specifically written as a result of this turmoil.

Yet, for those who encounter it for the first time the Canons can be a little confusing and perplexing. Thus, in recent decades, many Reformed theologians have been using F.A.I.T.H. as a summary acrostic instead. In a nod to both the historical and the more recent acrostics – I'll use both as we make our way through each of these five main points of Reformed theology.

The following is a tentative schedule of our study. May God bless us as we make our way through these treasured doctrines together. In His Grace, - Pastor John

1. August 27 – TULIP Faith: Human Nature and our Fallen Humanity
2. September 10 – TULIP Faith: Adopted by God
3. September 17 – TULIP Faith: Intentional Atonement
4. September 24 – TULIP Faith: Transformed by the Holy Spirit
5. October 1 – TULIP Faith: Held by God

**Calendar:**

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts today:** Henry & Sharon K., Cody & Angela S.

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, 9/24:** Bob DG, Sheri L. family

**Children in Worship:**

Today: Heather VH, Nellie VDH

Next Week: Heidi B., Myra VDB

**Worship Team:**

Today: Stan B., Julie, Adriana & Tessa S.

Next Week, 9/24: Greg B., Julie S., Kayla & Ella VH

**This Week:**

**Weds., Sept. 20, 6:30pm** – GEMS Registration Night

**Upcoming Dates to Note:**

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

**Sunday, Sept. 24, 7:00pm:** Women's Bible Study Dessert Social

**Tues., Sept. 26, 7:00am –** Men's Bible Study at Shari's

**Oct. 1:** Communion

**Oct. 1:** Church Potluck!

**Sat., Oct. 8 6pm:** Reformation Day Service

**CRC COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Kids Corner: God Gives Relief** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). STRESS! This is a pword you might hear a lot. It seems like everyone is stressed about something. What can you do about the stress in your life? Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) like the KC's Liz and Friends Podcast "Homework Alert."

**Groundwork: God is Sovereign Over All** - We will find ourselves in many different situations throughout our lives. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study the dreams of King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2 and 4 to remember that in all things, no matter the situation, God is sovereign and in control. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Volunteer with World Renew DRS this October!** - Come enjoy the sun and service - World Renew DRS needs volunteers and On-Site Managers for our first reconstruction team in Sarasota, Florida! If you or someone you know can volunteer with DRS October 7th-28th, contact Diana at [dmarquez@worldrenew.net](mailto:dmarquez@worldrenew.net) to sign up or with questions.

**All Nations Heritage Sunday is October 1** - In two weeks, we will celebrate All Nations Heritage Sunday. In preparation, learn more about Thrive's Multicultural Scholarship Fund that provides financial assistance for students of various ethnic minorities in the CRC. Check out the website: [crcna.org/AllNations](http://crcna.org/AllNations) for more information.

**Abuse Awareness Sunday - September 24** - Next week, the CRCNA invites congregations to imagine a more holistic approach to nurturing a safe and healthy church community where abuse itself becomes unthinkable and where survivors feel supported and safe. Learn more about "The Power of a Trauma-Informed Church" and consider giving to support Thrive's ministry that empowers all CRCs. Learn more at [crcna.org/SafeChurch](http://crcna.org/SafeChurch)



How can  
we  
**PRAY**  
for you?

People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Email the office at [secretary@firstcrcmv.com](mailto: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 continue to pray for those members who have lost loved ones recently.

Pray for **Keith Rasmussen** as he continues to have tests to determine the cause of his illness.

Pray for continued healing for **Margaret VanderPol** as she recovers from her back surgery.

Please keep **Juli Oostra** in your prayers for stable platelet levels.

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

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

**Greg Boon's mother, Yvonne Boon**, has been doing very well and is nearly halfway through the isolation period after her transplant.

Continue to pray for **Maxine Greidanus** while she continues fighting cancer.

**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*; *Grace Feddema and Sally Reehoorn* at Creekside in Burlington; *Bev Van Slageren* with family in Grandview, WA.

### **OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)**

Monday September 11 - *Candidacy Committee: Harvest workers*  
In Luke 10:2 Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few," and we experience this reality as we find many churches seeking a pastor and many communities in desperate need of Christian witness. Please join us in prayer, asking God to draw many hearts toward paths of candidacy and other pastoral ministry in the CRCNA.

Tuesday September 12 - *ReFrame: Bangladesh*  
Pray for Ronok, who was worried about his job security and the health of his family when he sent in a request to our prayer ministry team. "It relieves my heavy anxiety and the sorrow that I carry. God assures me that he loves and cares for me in all respects!" he shared after receiving a response.

Wednesday September 13 - *World Renew: West Africa*  
Please pray for the families of 29 young people who were killed while demonstrating against unconstitutional practices in Senegal. Despite major challenges linked to armed and jihadist groups in the region, however, our West Africa teams have been able to work well and see many communities flourish. Pray for World Renew staff as they navigate the complexities of working in a volatile region.

Thursday September 14 - *Resonate: Preparations*  
Pray for Resonate missionaries and volunteers preparing to leave for on field assignments. Ask God to provide the connections they will need to build a strong community of prayer, care, and financial support in their ministries.

Friday September 15 - *Thrive: Disability and Accessibility: Training*  
Please pray that word will spread about our training on disability and theology in October. Join us in asking God that pastors, worship leaders, and youth leaders who've never connected with our ministry will sign up.

Saturday September 16 - *Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee: Connections*

Father God, we thank you for the connections our denomination can make with other Christian churches worldwide. We praise you for the work of your Holy Spirit that we see across the globe. Please bless these connections and the upcoming EIRC meeting in October. May we do your will for your glory.

Sunday September 17 - *Resonate: Mission Emphasis Week wraps up*  
As Mission Emphasis Week comes to a close, pray that we will be open to opportunities to share the love of Christ with the people God has placed in our lives. Pray for Resonate missionaries, campus ministers, church planters, and other ministry leaders as they spread the gospel in the communities where God has called them.