

***Welcome to Mount Vernon  
First Christian Reformed Church!***

***Pastor John Knoester***

***October 1, 2023***

**Morning Service – 10:30 AM**

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

*“Neither life nor death shall ever  
from the Lord his children sever;”*

Prelude

Welcome

**\* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #495 v. 1-3**

*“Come, All You People, Praise Our God”*

1. Come, all you people, praise our God  
and tell his glorious works abroad,  
who holds our souls in life;  
who never lets our feet be moved  
and, though our faith has often proved,  
upholds us in the strife.
2. We come with offerings to God’s house,  
and here we pay the solemn vows  
we uttered in distress;  
to him our all we dedicate,  
to him we wholly consecrate  
the lives his mercies bless.
3. Come, listen, all who fear the Lord,  
while I with grateful heart record  
what God has done for me;  
I cried to him in deep distress,  
and now his wondrous grace I bless,  
for he has set me free.

PSALM 66; Words: Psalter, 1912, P.D.;

Music: Charles H. Gabriel, (1856-1932), P.D. CCLI #678905

\* Call to Worship: Based on Psalm 36:5-9

Leader: O God, your constant love reaches to the heavens,  
your faithfulness extends to the skies.

**People: Your righteousness towers like the mountains,  
your justice is deeper than the sea.**

Leader: All find protection under the shadow of your wings.  
We feast on the abundance you provide.

**People: You are the source of all life,  
and in your light, we see light.**

\* Song of Praise: LUYH #529 v. 1-4 *"Gather Us In"*

1. Here in this place the new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery,  
we are the old who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.
3. Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away—  
here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Words and Music (GATHER US IN 10.9.10.10 D ): Marty Haugen © 1982 G IA  
Publications, Inc. CCLI# 678905

\* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

*"For to them his grace revealing,  
he turns sorrow into healing."*

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

\* Song of Thanksgiving: *"His Mercy is More"*

1. What love could remember no wrongs we have done  
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more
2. What patience would wait as we constantly roam  
What Father so tender is calling us home  
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more
3. What riches of kindness He lavished on us  
His blood was the payment His life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

*Chorus*

*Praise the Lord His mercy is more*

*Stronger than darkness new every morn*

*Our sins they are many His mercy is more*

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*(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

\* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #43 v. 1-3

*"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"*

1. Guide me, O my great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but you are mighty;  
hold me with your powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,  
where the healing waters flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,  
ever be my strength and shield,  
ever be my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever sing to you,  
I will ever sing to you.

Words: William Williams, 1745; st. 1 tr. Peter Williams, 1771, alt; st. 2-3 tr.  
William Williams, 1772, alt., P.D.; Music: John Hughes, 1907, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

*"God has given, he has taken,  
but his children ne'er forsaken;"*

Scripture Readings: John 10:22-30, Ephesians 1:11-14,  
Romans 8:31-39

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"TULIP Faith: Held by God"***

Time of Prayer

- \* Hymn of Application: LUYH #23 v. 1-4  
*"Children of the Heavenly Father"*

1. Children of the heavenly Father  
safely in his bosom gather,  
nestling bird nor star in heaven  
such a refuge e'er was given.
2. God his own shall tend and nourish,  
in his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil powers he spares them;  
in his mighty arms he bears them.
3. Neither life nor death shall ever  
from the Lord his children sever;  
for to them his grace revealing,  
he turns sorrow into healing.
4. God has given, he has taken,  
but his children ne'er forsaken;  
his the loving purpose solely  
to preserve them pure and holy.

Words: Carolina Sandell Berg (1832-1903); tr. Ernst W. Olson (1870-1958); © 1925 Board of Publication Lutheran Church in America; admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: Swedish folk tune; 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)*

*“His the loving purpose solely  
to preserve them pure and holy.”*

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)**

God meets us in the sacraments,  
holy acts in which his deeds elicit our response.  
In the supper our Lord offers the bread and cup to believers  
to guarantee our share in his death and resurrection,  
and to unite us to him and to each other.  
We take this food gladly, announcing as we eat  
that Jesus is our life and that he shall come again  
to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.  
—from *Our World Belongs to God*, st. 40

**Preparing the Bread and the Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Invitation**

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

◆ LUYH #833 v. 1-3 *“There is a Redeemer”*

1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son;  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

*Chorus:*

*Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;  
and leaving Your Spirit ‘til the work on earth is done.*

2. Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.

*Chorus*

3. When I stand in glory, I will see His face;  
there I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.

*Chorus*

*Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;  
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.*

Words and Music: Melody Green (b. 1946)©1982 Birdwing Music(ASCAP)/BMG  
Songs (ASCAP)/ Ears to Hear Music (ASCAP), admin. EMICMGPublishing.com  
CCLI# 678905

◆ LUYH #844 v. 1-5 *"Lift Up Your Hearts Unto the Lord"*

1. Lift up your hearts unto the Lord,  
lift up your hearts unto the Lord.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;  
lift up your hearts unto the Lord!
2. In Christ the world has been redeemed,  
in Christ the world has been redeemed.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;  
in Christ the world has been redeemed.
3. His resurrection sets us free,  
his resurrection sets us free.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;  
his resurrection sets us free.
4. Therefore we celebrate the feast,  
therefore we celebrate the feast.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;  
therefore we celebrate the feast.
5. Sing alleluia to the Lord,  
Sing alleluia to the Lord.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;  
Sing alleluia to the Lord.

Words: st. 1-4 from early Christian liturgy; st. 5 Linda Stassen, 1974, © 1974  
Linda Stassen; Music: Linda Stassen, 1974; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986, © 1974,  
1986 Linda Stassen; CCLI #678905

◆ *"We Will Feast in the House of Zion"*

*Chorus*

*We will feast in the house of Zion  
We will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things we will say together  
We will feast and weep no more*

1. We will not be burned by the fire  
He is the Lord our God  
We are not consumed by the flood  
Upheld protected gathered up

*Chorus*

2. In the dark of night before the dawn  
My soul be not afraid  
For the promised morning oh how long  
Oh God of Jacob be my strength

*Chorus*

3. Every vow we've broken and betrayed  
You are the faithful one  
And from the garden to the grave  
Bind us together bring shalom

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**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 #691 v. 1-5 *"Amazing Grace"*

1. Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!



3. The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.
4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

Words: st. 1-4 John Newton, 1779, st. 5 A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, P.D.  
Music: Virginia Harmony, 1831; adapt. and harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

## Postlude

**Welcome!** Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life." Our Savior invites us to His table, a table of love that has been prepared for us. Jesus, Our Savior, lived, died and lives again for each one of us. Let us worship our God today and praise Him for His love. After the worship service, we invite you to join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Tech Team	Today: 10/1	Next Week: 10/8
Sound:	Mardy S.	Henry H.
Projection:	Beth B.	Emmalyn S.
Video:	Tim H.	Dick G.
Offering:	General Fund/ Benevolence	General Fund

# First CRC Bulletin Announcements

**October 1, 2023**

**The Lord's Supper:** This morning, we will commemorate Jesus' death and resurrection as we celebrate the Lord's Supper. By faith, Jesus' death fully covers all our sin and by His resurrection power He gives us everlasting life. May Christ's Spirit strengthen us in faith, hope, and love as we draw near to Christ Jesus through His Spirit. *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, join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.*

**Sunday School** will not meet on October 8.

## **Worship Service YouTube Links:**

September 24: <https://youtu.be/n52xiYP2-Ho>

Due to technical issues only the latter half of the 9/24 service is available for viewing.

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)*

**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.

## **OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

**Potluck:** We will be having a potluck after the service this Sunday, October 1. Please join us in food and fellowship!

**Choir:** Our first choir rehearsal will begin today, October 1 after the potluck. New members are always welcome! We practice on Sundays after coffee time! Any questions, contact Joni Beezhold (425) 248-0287.

**GEMS** will meet on Wednesday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m.

**Classis Meeting and Exam:** Please pray for the classis Pacific Northwest meeting that will be taking place here at our church on **Thursday, October 5**. Pray too for Pastor Brad as he will be examined for ordination at this meeting. The exam itself will likely take place around 1:30 PM and usually lasts about 90 minutes. Friends and guests are welcome to attend!

**Cadets:** Registration night which includes an ice cream social is on **October 11** from 7-9 p.m. This night is a time when you can register your boys, get to know the counselors, watch how we run an abbreviated meeting and then enjoy some ice cream before departing.

As in years past, our regularly scheduled meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 7 until 9 pm. Looking ahead, please reserve the following dates for our cadet meetings: Oct 11 and 25. We are doing a fundraiser PANCAKE DINNER NIGHT on Nov 8 from 5 -7 and no meeting after. A few years have gone by since we have gone swimming with our male parental figures, but if this is something the guys want to do, I will try to set something up in November to take the place of our November 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting (church has services that evening for Thanksgiving). We will do a "regular" meeting on Dec 13, picking up again on January 10 and 24, February 14 and 28, March 13 and 27, April 10 and then the last meeting will be on the 24th. I hope to schedule the annual Pinewood Derby race for Saturday March 16 or on our meeting night of the 13th.

**The adult education team** is excited about starting a new education year. It is scheduled to tentatively start on October 15. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Pastor Brad.

**Women's Bible Study:** This year we will study the book *"The Gospel on the Ground"* which is about the grit and glory of the early church in Acts. We will meet on Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the council room on October 15, 29, November 12, 26. Books are in the mailboxes of those who signed up. If you still would like to join the group 2 extra books are available in the church office.

**Family Promise** is having a fundraiser "Night without a Bed" on October 21 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. This will be held at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. More information can be found on bulletin boards.

Come and bring your family and friends to the **Reformation Day Service at the First CRC of Mount Vernon on Saturday, October 28, at 6:00 PM.** Rev. Zach King will be proclaiming God's Word to us this year. Rev. King is currently serving as the General Secretary of the CRC. Coffee and refreshments will be served following the service and a nursery will be provided. .... In addition to the evening service, Rev. King will also be making a denominational ministry presentation at 2 PM that day. This will be followed by a time of Q&A and an early evening meal at 4 PM. For dinner preparation purposes we kindly ask that you rsvp to [secretary@firstcrcmv.com](mailto:secretary@firstcrcmv.com) no later than Wednesday, October 25. You don't need to rsvp if you are going to just attend the presentation or evening service.

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:** Dave & Nancy Visser, Bob Pippel, Simon LeClair

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week,** Oct. 8: Joe LeClair, Juliana LeClair, Brad & Crystal De Kok

**Children in Worship:**

Today: Someone

Next Week: Someone

**Worship Team:**

Today: Eliot B., Heidi B., Franchesca B.

Next Week, Oct. 8: Kevin & Glenda Kok, Kayla Van Hofwegen, Ella Van Hofwegen

**Today:**

**Sunday, October 1:** Communion, Church Potluck and Choir Rehearsal after the potluck

**This Week:**

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

**Wed., Oct. 4 at 6:30 pm** - GEMS

**Thurs., Oct. 5, 1:00pm:** Classis PNW Meeting/Pastor Brad's Ordination

**Upcoming Dates to Note:**

**Monday, October 9 at 6:30 pm-** Council meeting

**Tues., October 10, 7:00am –** Men's Bible Study at Shari's

**Wednesday, October 11 at 7:00pm** Cadets

**Saturday, Oct. 28 6pm:** Reformation Day Service

**CRC COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Kids Corner: God's Peace Gives Us Hope** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Can you feel God's peace even when your life doesn't look peaceful? This week's devotion is all about how you can put your hope and trust in God, knowing that he will walk alongside no matter what is going on. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) like the Bible story podcast "Jesus Anointed With Perfume."

**Groundwork: A Lesson in Accountability and Consequences** - "Every action has a reaction." "Cause and effect." "Actions have consequences." There is truth in these common phrases, but, it is easily forgotten in the moment. Join Groundwork as we study the story of the writing on the wall in Daniel 5 to learn about the relationship between accountability, consequences, and our faith. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Fill a vital role with World Renew DRS!** - Want to escape to some warmer weather in the upcoming months? Fill a vital role with World Renew Disaster Response Services! Join an Unmet Needs Assessment in Fort Myers, Florida, from October 14 - 28, or volunteer on a reconstruction team in Boutte, Louisiana, throughout March and April! Contact Diana at [dmarquez@worldrenew.net](mailto:dmarquez@worldrenew.net) to get started.

**Today is All Nations Heritage Sunday** - We celebrate the diverse and multicultural church of Christ today. You can support ethnic minority leadership in the church by giving to the special Scholarship Fund established by the CRCNA. It provides financial assistance to students of various ethnic minority cultures who attend universities affiliated with the CRC. Please give at: [crcna.org/Race/Donate](http://crcna.org/Race/Donate)



# 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.

## **NEW REQUEST**

We express our sympathy to **Nell Annema & Family** in the recent passing away of Larry Annema. May God give them comfort be close to them in the days ahead.

## **CONTINUING REQUESTS:**

Please continue to pray for those members who have lost loved ones recently.

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.

**Greg Boon's mother, Yvonne Boon**, has been doing very well and is 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 25** -from: Resonate: Ontario

Give thanks for God's work through Momentum Campus Ministries, a Resonate partner in Ontario. "I have grown in my faith in God and have been

working on an intimate relationship with him,” a student shared. “I hope that God will use me to pour into other people's lives.”

**Tuesday September 26** - from: Thrive: Chaplains: Mental health Chaplains minister in psychiatric hospitals, behavioral health units, and forensic hospitals. Special training, skills, love, and perseverance are required despite often-limited resources to provide holistic care for patients in emotional, spiritual, and mental crisis. Please pray that our chaplains in these situations may receive overflowing measures of grace and wisdom for the people entrusted into their care.

**Wednesday September 27** - from: ReFrame: India Pray for Wani, a radio program producer who is part of our Hindi ministry team and has been facing a lot of social pressure because of his outspoken Christian faith. “Pray that God will protect his family and give them peace and strength,” said our Hindi ministry leader.

**Thursday September 28** - from: Resonate: Boston, Mass. Pray for Resurrection Church, a Resonate partner church plant in Boston, Mass. Ask God to continue working in and through this faith community so that people will grow in their relationship with Christ.

**Friday September 29** - from: World Renew: Kenya After many contentious election cycles the political situation in Kenya has calmed recently, and we praise God. Harvests continue to be unpredictable because they are dramatically affected by droughts and flooding. Pray for our Kenya team as they bring God’s love in action to program participants through local churches.

**Saturday September 30** - from: Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee: Truth and reconciliation - Today is the annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. Please pray for Indigenous people affected by intergenerational trauma, and for the church as it seeks to live out a better way forward. Pray for all who are participating in the intentional learning journey of Hearts Exchanged.

**Sunday October 1** - Thrive: Racial Reconciliation: All Nations Heritage Sunday - Lord, humble us. Make us weak so that your strength will prevail. Help us see that we can do nothing apart from your grace and power. In the battle to end racism and racial inequality, please clothe us with Christlike humility in everything we do and say. Help us, Lord! (Adapted from Make Us One, a prayer journal by Niko Peele and Jonathan Graf.)