

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

October 8, 2023

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

*** Please stand if you are able.**

*“No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;”*

Prelude

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn: LUYH #581 v. 1-3 *“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”***

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!
2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ, our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933), P.D.; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827, 1824, adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867, alt. P.D.CCLI #678905

* Call to Worship

Leader: As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, O God.

People: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

Leader: All who thirst, come to the water.
Come, all who are weary;
come, all who yearn for forgiveness.

**People: The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ
has washed over us, and our gracious and holy God
beckons and blesses us.**

Leader: Drink deeply of these living waters.

People: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

* Opening Song of Praise: P.P. #246 v. 1-3 *"As the Deer"*

1. As the deer panteth for the water,
so my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship Thee.

Chorus:

*You alone are my Strength, my Shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship Thee.*

2. You're my friend and You are my brother
even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other,
so much more than anything.

Chorus

3. I want You more than gold or silver,
only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver,
and the apple of my eye.

Chorus

"As the Deer" Psalm 42:1 Martin Nystrom, ©1984 Maranatha! Music CCLI# 678905

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

*"From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny."*

Announcements

Call to Confession:

We know that nothing is able to separate us
from the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done.

- Romans 8:39

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance:

Leader: Hear the good news!

Who is in a position to condemn?
Only Christ, and Christ died for us,
Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us,
Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

People: Thanks be to God.

—based on Romans 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Hymn of Assurance: LUYH #17 v. 1-4 *"Beautiful Savior"*

1. Beautiful Savior! King of creation!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

3. Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.

Acapella

4. Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

Words: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1873, P.D;

Music: Schleissche Volkslieder, 1842, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

Introduction to our Series on I John

Offering

Offertory: I John – The Bible Project

*(Immediately following the offering 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 invited to attend Children and Worship)*

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #749 v. 1-2 *"Spirit of the Living God"*

1. Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
2. Spirit of the living God,
move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind,
make us one in love;
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God,
fill our lives with love.

Words: st. 1 Daniel Iverson, 1926, © 1994 Birdwing Music, admin.

EMICMGPublishing.com; st. 2 Michael Baughen, 1982, © 1982 The Jubilate

Group, admin. Hope Publishing Company; Music: Daniel Iverson 1926,

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"No power of hell, no human plan,
can ever pluck me from his hand;"

Scripture Readings: I John 1:1-4

Prayer of Illumination

Message: **"The Word of Life"**

Time of Prayer

"Til he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!"

- * Song of Application: LYUH #1. In Christ alone my
hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.
- 2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on the cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.
- 3. There in the ground His body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then, bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am His and He is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no human plan,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'til He returns or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

"In Christ Alone" Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend,
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CCLI# 678905

* Benediction

* Doxology: LUYH #604 v. 1-3 *"To God Be the Glory"*

1. To God be the glory, great things he has done;
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he has done.*

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

3. Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875, alt., P.D.; Music: William H. Doane, 1875, PD.; CCLI
678905

Welcome! We invite all of you to praise God with hearts and hands and voices. Let us be mindful of the wonders God has given us. Come rejoice in God and together sing praises to His name. Reach out in warmth to all who have gathered in the house of the 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.

Tech Team	Today: 10/8	Next Week: 10/15
Sound:	Henry H.	Tim H.
Projection:	Emmalyn S.	France B.
Video:	Dick G.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

October 8, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

No Sunday School this Sunday! We will resume Oct. 15.

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. By phone: (616) 570-4771.

Choir: Join us for choir after today's service!

Every summer we enjoy the beautiful flowerbeds along the front and sides of our church which Clarence and Eleanor Klunder so lovingly plant and care for. We heartily thank them for their many years of providing this loveliness for us. Now they would like to pass on this task to someone else who loves flowers and wants to add beauty to our church. Anyone desiring to do this task starting next spring, please contact Dave Visser or a member of the building committee.

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 2nd and 4th 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 22nd 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 no later than Wednesday, October 25. You don't need to rsvp if you are going to just attend the presentation or evening service.

The First CRC Chili Cookoff and Pumpkin Carving Contest FUNDRAISER hosted by our own Youth will be **Friday evening, Oct. 27 from 6-8pm.** If you love to make chili, bring a pot to be judged by your fellow church family. If you just love to EAT chili, come and eat! For the pumpkin carving contest, we are hoping to have pumpkins available, but check with Beth or Julie Speck beforehand to be sure. Don't forget to bring your checkbook to support our church's youth group!



Worship Service YouTube Links:

October 1: <https://youtu.be/Rvetmm0o1CA>

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

Dear Friends,

The main purpose of John’s letters to the early church is to lead those who already believe to a deeper understanding of faith and to greater assurance of salvation. In addition, John is also writing to combat the various false teachers and teachings that had infiltrated the church.

No doubt John’s letters to the early church is just as relevant and applicable for the church today. Therefore, in the months to come, we are going to spend some significant time studying this particular book of the Bible. The purpose of doing so is not only for deeper understanding of faith and greater assurance, but so that such faith will be evident through both obedience to God’s commands and greater love for one another. ... May God bless us as we engage in this important study together.

In His Grace,

Pastor John and Pastor Brad

Tentative Sermon Schedule (Texts & Titles to be added as we go):

1. October 8 (I John 1:1-4) – *“Introduction to I John and The Word of Life”*
2. October 15 (I John 1:5-2:2) – *“Walking in the Light”*
3. October 22 (I John 2:3-11) – *“A Profound Obedience”*
4. November 12 (I John 2:12-14) – *“Christian Assurance”*
5. Nov. 19 (I John 2:15-17) – *“Loving the World”*

Calendar:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts today: Joe LeClair, Juliana LeClair, Brad & Crystal De Kok

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, Oct. 15: Rich & Elly C., Brandon & Julie S.

Children in Worship:

Today: TBD

Next Week: TBD

Worship Team:

Today: Kevin & Glenda Kok, Kayla Van Hofwegen, Ella Van Hofwegen

Next Week, Oct. 15: Men’s Group

Today:

Choir practice after the service

This Week:

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

Tues., Oct. 10, 7:00am – Men’s Bible Study at Shari’s

Wed., Oct. 11 7:00-9:00 pm – Cadets Registration Night

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Friday, Oct. 27, 6pm: Chili Cookoff and Pumpkin Carving, hosted by the Youth Group

Saturday, Oct. 28 6pm: Reformation Day Service

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: God's Presence Gives Us Hope - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Sometimes, life isn’t easy. This week’s devotion is all about how wonderful it is to know that God is there in good times and bad times. He is with you and he loves you. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Kids in Action video “Wherever You Go.”

Revelation: A Comfort for Believers - Groundwork has a new Bible study ebook and podcast, called “Revelation: A Comfort for Believers.” It’s a six-episode series that answers some of our biggest questions about the book of Revelation. It’s great for personal or group study. Get it when you subscribe to Groundwork at groundworkonline.com/revelation.

Groundwork: Trusting God When Evil Abounds - Unfair realities are part of life. But when those circumstances threaten our way of life, it can be tempting to compromise our beliefs and values to preserve ourselves. Join Groundwork as we study the story of Daniel in the Lion’s Den in Daniel 6 to give us the courage to trust God even when evil seems to be winning. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork’s weekly emails for future episodes.



People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Email the office at secretary@firstcrmv.com or call the church office at (336-2405) by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

NEW REQUESTS:

Please keep Jill Klunder in your prayers as she prepares to have open heart surgery on Wednesday, October 18. Pray too for the doctors and nurses who will be performing the surgery on that day. Pray that the entire surgery will go well and for God's peace to be prevalent throughout the weeks ahead. Thank you!

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

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.

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 since 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 October 2 - *CRC Communications: Clergy appreciation*

Many churches mark October as clergy appreciation month. Pray that ministers serving in various places and ways will feel valued and be refreshed and encouraged as they are reminded that their work makes a difference.

Tuesday October 3 - *Resonate Global Mission: Dominican Republic*

Haitian immigrants and people of Haitian descent are being deported from the Dominican Republic in record numbers. Resonate missionaries are working with local ministry partners to help secure legal status for those who need help. Please pray for these efforts.

Wednesday October 4 - *Global Coffee Break: Retreats*

Three Global Coffee Break women's retreats are coming up soon: in Michigan (Oct. 6), in Connecticut (Oct. 20), and in Maryland (Nov. 11). Please pray for participants, planners, and speakers as together they seek to understand what it means to be "Favored" by God.

Thursday October 5 - *World Renew: Disaster Response*

Wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, and more have left communities around the world reeling. Ask God to guide our staff as they respond in these communities, and pray for healing and restoration for all people affected by disasters.

Friday October 6 - *Resonate: Michigan*

Give thanks that people are finding a faith community through Kavod Fellowship, a Resonate partner church plant in Michigan. "Pray that we will continue to reach people who are lost, unchurched, and dechurched so that they may become committed Christ followers," asks church planter Paula Seales.

Saturday October 7 - *Thrive: Women's Leadership: Wisdom*

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we pray for women serving your church as teachers, mentors, and coaches. Give them wisdom as they discern how to advance the spiritual, intellectual, and physical health of the ones entrusted to them. Grant them deep and trusting relationships as they lead others and grow as disciples. Triune God, may their souls find rest and refreshment in you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Sunday October 8 - *ReFrame Ministries: Egypt*

Pray for young people and church leaders who will be attending training from our Arabic ministry partners. May these participants be well equipped to use videography effectively and to use social media for evangelism and discipleship.