

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
October 15, 2023

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

"My hope is built on nothing less"

Prelude

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn: LUYH #538 v. 1-4**

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

1. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
who wert and art and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye made blind by sin Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Sing acapella

4. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name,
in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Words: Reginald Heber; Music: John B. Dykes;

Descant: David McK. Williams; Public Domain; CCLI# 678905

*Call to Worship

Leader: God is light!

People: In him there is no darkness at all.

Leader: Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.

People: We come seeking the light that guides us to life!

Leader: The Spirit gathers us to worship God
and builds us up in faith, hope, and love.

**People: Glory be to God, who created light
and enables us to walk in the light.**

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #579 v. 1-4

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above,
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

Words: Walter C. Smith, 1867, alt., P.D.; Music: Roberts' Caniadau y Cyssegr,
1839, P.D. CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

"Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;"

Announcements

Call to Confession:

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves
and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just
and will forgive our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

- Based on I John 1:8-9

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance:

Leader: God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**People: For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith,
we have peace with God through
our Lord Jesus Christ.**

—Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:1, NIV

Hymn of Assurance: 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

Offering

Offertory: Holiness – 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)*

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #763 v. 1-3

"Blessed Jesus, At Your Word"

1. Blessed Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you.
By your gospel pure and holy,
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.
2. All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night
with your beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
you must work all good within us.
3. Glorious Lord, yourself impart;
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
open lips and ears and heart;
help us by your Spirit's leading.
Hear the cry your church now raises;
Lord, accept our prayers and praises.

Words: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1663; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt., P.D.; Music:
Johann R. Ahle, 1664, P.D.; CCLI # 678905

"I dare not trust the sweetest frame,"

Scripture Readings: I John 1:5-2:2

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "**Walking in the Light**"

Time of Prayer

"But wholly lean on Jesus' name."

* Hymn of Application: LYUH #772 v. 1-4

"My Hope is Built On Nothing Less"

1. My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Chorus:

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.*

2. When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.

Chorus

3. His oath, His covenant, His blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

Chorus

4. When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found,
dressed in His righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.

Chorus

Words: Edward Mote (1797-1874), Tune: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868),
Public Domain. CCLI# 678905

* Benediction

* Doxology: LUYH #859 v. 1-4 *“Be Thou My Vision”*

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art-
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.
3. Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only first in my heart,
high king of heaven, my treasure thou art.
4. High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Irish hymn, 8th c; tr. Mary E. Byrne; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, Music: Irish melody; arr. Jack Schrader; © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. CCLI#678905

Postlude

Welcome! The psalmist prayed: “Restore us, O Lord God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved” (Psalm 80:19). May all who have come to worship find restoration, inner peace and spiritual strength. After the morning service all are invited to the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Tech Team	Today: 10/15	Next Week: 10/22
Sound:	Henry H.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Emmalyn S.	Tim H.
Video:	Dick G.	Emmalyn S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

October 15, 2023

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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

If you are interested and able to bring cookies to serve after the Reformation Day service, please let Beth know. Thank you! **If you are planning to attend the Reformation Day Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 28 at 4pm, there is a sign-up sheet** by the coffee so that we can give Heather VH a good idea of how much food to prepare. Thank you.

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.

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.

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!

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.

There is a sign-up sheet for ingredients for our Christmas Blessing. We are planning to put together 350 cookie mixes to distribute to our neighbors. More details about date and time we'll be putting together the mixes will be forthcoming in the announcements.

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.

Worship Service YouTube Links:

October 8: NA this week. Sorry!

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: Rich & Elly C., Brandon & Julie S.

Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, Oct. 22: Wayne & Rhea D., John & Dena K.

Children in Worship:

Today: TBD

Next Week: TBD

Worship Team:

Today: Men's Group

Next Week, Oct. 15: Sheri L., Mandi D., Kiera L.

Today:

Choir practice after the service

This Week:

Wed., Oct. 18 6:30-8:30 pm – GEMS

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Tues., Oct. 17, 7:00am – Men’s Bible Study at Shari’s

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

Saturday, Oct. 28 6pm: Reformation Day Service

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) is having their Soup-er Fundraiser Benefit on Friday, November 3 at 6 pm at 1000 Fountain Street, Burlington. Please RSVP to CEF Skagit at 360-424-1014.

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.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Kids Corner: God's Provision Gives Us Hope - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. God promises to give us better gifts (Matthew 7:9-11), and he promises to “take care of all [our] needs” (Philippians 4:19). This week’s devotion is all about trusting God to provide, even when God’s gifts might not look the way we expect. (Just think how he saved us from our sins!) Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible story podcast “Wilderness Journey.”

Groundwork: God is in Charge, Now and Forever - God revealed truths about the End Times to Daniel through complex images and symbolism. Join our Groundwork conversation as we conclude our study of Daniel with the dreams and prayer we find in chapters 7-12 where we discover a reassuring message from God: God is in charge and only God’s kingdom will endure forever. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



How can we **PRAY** for you?

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:

Congratulations to Greg, Beth and Kera Boon on the birth of Asher William Evans, born to Tim and Kylie Evans. He joins big sister Olivia and tips the scales at 8.42 ounces!

Please pray for the family of **Trudy Van Dyke**, who passed away this past Sunday. The Memorial Service is scheduled for October 24, at 10 AM.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please keep **Jill Klunder** in your prayers as she is having open heart surgery on Weds. this week. Pray that the surgery will go well and the Lord will grant her quick healing.

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

Pray for continued healing for **Margaret VanderPol** strives to get her strength back with physical therapy.

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

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 9 – *World Renew: Thanksgiving (Canada)*

Through the Free a Family program we come alongside families as they holistically change their story and journey away from hunger, poverty, and injustice. On this Canadian Thanksgiving we join program participants in thanking God for individuals, churches, organizations, and government agencies that supporting this amazing work.

Tuesday October 10 - *Resonate: Nicaragua*

Nicaragua Christian Academy is in need of teachers. Please pray for Resonate missionaries and their colleagues who are taking on extra responsibilities to fill in the gaps during this school year, and ask God to send the right candidates to step into these teaching roles.

Wednesday October 11 - *Thrive: Safe Church: Awareness*

October and November are domestic violence awareness months in the U.S. and Canada, respectively. Pray for people suffering physical or emotional harm from those who claim to love them. Ask God to bring an end to abusive situations and to comfort those who are being abused, helping them to see their worth and to know they are loved.

Thursday October 12 - *ReFrame: North America*

Pray with Mahnaz, who shared a request with our prayer team, saying, "I'm having marital problems. My husband is not a practicing Christian, and he prioritizes the needs of his parents and sisters. I need my husband to come to his senses, turn life around, take God's Word, and realize the emotional abuse he is inflicting on me and our son."

Friday October 13 - *World Renew: Southern Africa*

Because of agricultural production shortfalls, high food prices, and the effects of Cyclone Freddy, the United Nations expects ongoing food insecurity across most of southern Malawi. Pray for God's provision for the people in this area, and ask for guidance as we work to address hunger, poverty, and injustice, seeking to share Christ's love in southern Africa.

Saturday October 14 - *Resonate: Uganda*

After her husband left, Rose wasn't sure how she was going to provide for herself and her children. Give thanks for the Timothy Leadership Training that we facilitated in her community in Uganda. Rose now has a steady job as a seamstress!

Sunday October 15 - *Thrive: Disability and Accessibility: Disability Awareness Sunday*

Please pray for churches and worship leaders as they mark Disability Awareness Sunday today. May our churches' observance of this day lead to greater belonging for people with disabilities throughout the year.