

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
May 12, 2024 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

"Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,"

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Mother's Day Prayer

* Call to Worship: Psalm 105:1-3

*"Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
Make known among the nations what he has done.
Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.
Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those
who seek the Lord rejoice."*

* Sung Call to Worship: *"10,000 Reasons"*

Chorus:

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.*

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
it's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.

Chorus

2. You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Chorus

3. And on that day, when my strength is failing,
the end draws near, and my time has come;
still, my soul will sing Your praise unending
ten thousand years, and then forevermore!

Chorus

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.*

*Worship Your holy name.
Worship Your holy name.*

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* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

* Song of Praise: "Raise a Hallelujah"

I raise a hallelujah, in the presence of my enemies
I raise a hallelujah, louder than the unbelief
I raise a hallelujah, my weapon is a melody
I raise a hallelujah, heaven comes to fight for me

I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes, hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive!

I raise a hallelujah, with everything inside of me
I raise a hallelujah, I will watch the darkness flee
I raise a hallelujah, in the middle of the mystery
I raise a hallelujah, fear you lost your hold on me!

I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes, hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive!

Sing a little louder (In the presence of my enemies)
Sing a little louder (Louder than the unbelief)
Sing a little louder (My weapon is a melody)
Sing a little louder (Heaven comes to fight for me)
Sing a little louder (In the presence of my enemies)
Sing a little louder (Louder than the unbelief)
Sing a little louder (My weapon is a melody)
Sing a little louder (Heaven comes to fight for me)
Sing a little louder!

I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes, hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive!

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“There is no shadow of turning with Thee;”

Public Profession of Faith: Kiera Link - GH pg. 964-965

* Song of Confession: *“Goodness of God”*

1. I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days I've been held in your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God.

Chorus:

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God.

2. I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God.

Chorus

Bridge: (2X)

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down I'm surrendered now
I give you everything
Your goodness is running after me
It's running after me

Chorus: (2x)

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* The Assurance of God's Pardon

* Song of Assurance: "God You're So Good"

1. Amazing love that welcomes me
The kindness of mercy
That bought with blood wholeheartedly
My soul undeserving

Chorus

*God You're so good, God You're so good
God You're so good, You're so good to me*

2. Behold the cross age to age
And hour by hour
The dead are raised the sinner saved
The work of Your power

Chorus (2x)

Bridge (2x)

I am blessed I am called
I am healed I am whole
I am saved in Jesus' name
Highly favored anointed
Filled with Your pow'r
For the glory of Jesus' name

3. And should this life bring suffering
Lord I will remember
What Calvary has bought for me
Both now and forever

Chorus (2x)

*God You're so good, God You're so good
God You're so good, You're so good to me*

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

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

"Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-4

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Blessed Are Those Who Mourn"***

Time of Prayer

"As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be."

* Song of Application: LUYH#348 vs. 1-2 *"Great is Thy Faithfulness"*

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH#348 vs. 3 "*Great is Thy Faithfulness*"

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23: Words: Thomas O Chisholm, 1923, © 1923, ren. 1951
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Postlude

Welcome to the House of the Lord! We have come to bring our worship to our God. May we do so in our singing, praying, giving, preaching and listening. May God be glorified. 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: May 12	Next Week: May 19
Sound:	Henry H.	Mardick S.
Projection:	Maddie D.	Caleb L.
Video:	Tim H.	Joel L.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

May 12, 2024

The deadline for announcements is Thursday, 9:00 A.M.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Christian Education Fund: Pledge forms are in your mailboxes for the 2024-2025 school year. The cost of the ministry for the 2024-2025 school year is \$132,500.00. Please return your pledge forms in mailbox #85. Also please remember to pay your pledges for the current school year. For the Christian Education Fund to continue we need to fulfill our pledges for both school years by May 31. If you have any questions regarding your pledges, please contact Katie Jungquist, 428-3818.

Congregational Meeting: Save the date! **Monday, May 20 at 7pm** is the date for our annual Congregational Meeting. Our annual church budget will be presented for approval and informational reports from various church committees will be presented. **Meeting packets will be available to pick up in person in the fellowship hall following our morning service May 12.** All packets not picked up by the 12th will be sent out in the mail on Monday, May 13. The Council presents the following two nominees for the office of elder (2 open spots): Adam Faber and Henry Hammingh. The Council presents the following three nominees for the office of deacon (2 open spots): Brad De Kok, Harmen De Jong, and Jack Van Klaveren. If you have any questions about any items on the agenda, please don't hesitate to contact your district Elder prior to the Congregational Meeting. Absentee ballots can be placed in Beth's mailbox by her office door.

Profession of Faith: At its joint meeting on Monday, April 29 the church council had the privilege of hearing **Kiera Link's** testimony of faith. Kiera will be making her public profession of faith this morning (Mother's Day). We look forward to celebrating this day with her and give thanks to God for Kiera's desire and commitment to live her life for her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Change of Addresses:

Melba DeKok:

908 Heather Circle #3
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Phone number is the same

Bradley and Crystal DeKok:

2325 N. LaVenture Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Bradley's phone number is: 712-540-6240
Crystal's phone number is: 208-819-8743

Kevin Kok has a new email address: kevinkok61@outlook.com

There is choir practice today after the service!

APPLE CRISPS NEEDED! One of the featured desserts for our western GEMS Moms/daughters fun night on Wed. May 15 is "prairie sod with late spring snow" (Apple crisp with ice cream.) Please let Marjo know if you are willing to make one. And thanks in advance!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Our next study is May 19 at 6:30pm!

We still have quite a few baby bottles to fill for this fundraiser! Join C.A.R.E. Medical Center (formerly Pregnancy Choices) for our Baby Bottle Campaign, running from now to Father's Day!

C.A.R.E. Medical is a ministry that serves women and their partners in their medical and personal needs here in the Skagit Valley. Their medical clinic provides free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, and STI testing. Simply pick up a bottle in the foyer, fill it with change, bills, or checks, and return it to the church by Father's Day. Thank you for supporting our community's moms, dads, babies, and children! **Grab your baby bottle today and next Sunday after the service and fill 'er up!**

I received an email about a Yamaha grand piano that is available for **FREE** from a member of our community. If you are interested, please let Beth know and she will put you in contact with her.

Worship Service YouTube Links:

May 5, 2024: <https://youtu.be/bKRyUGvZK4k>

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,

Along with the Ten Commandments, the Twenty-third Psalm, the Lord's Prayer, and a few other passages of Scripture – the Beatitudes of Jesus are some of the more familiar words of Scripture. Together we can affirm them, meditate upon them, and maybe even engrave them on plaques to hang on our walls. Yet, the main question is this: How are we to *live* in response to them?

This is the question that we hope to keep in front of us as we study them together throughout the months ahead. May God bless us as we do so!

In His Grace, Pastor John and Pastor Brad

May 5 – "Intro to the Beatitudes" (Matt. 5:1-12)

May 12 – "Blessed are Those Who Mourn" (Matt. 5:4)

May 19 – "Blessed are the Poor in Spirit" (Matt. 5:3)

May 26 – "Blessed are the Meek" (Matt. 5:5)

June 2 – "Blessed are those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness" (Matt. 5:6)

June 9 – "Blessed are the Merciful" (Matt. 5:7)

June 16 - "Blessed are the Pure in Heart" (Matt. 5:8)

June 23 – "Blessed are the Peacemakers" (Matt. 5:9)

June 30 – "Blessed are Those who are Persecuted" (Matt. 5:10-12)

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts:

May 12: Henry & Jayne H., Jason & Shelby VDK

Next week, May 19: Eric & Theresa VK, Jon & Catherine VK

Worship Team:

May 12: Eliot B., Mandi D., Kiera L, France B.

Next Week, May 19: Greg & Beth B., France B., Emmalyn S.

Nursery:

May 12: Angela S. & Rhyson O.

Next Week, May 19: Catherine & Noah VK

Children in Worship:

May 12: Tim VH, Lexi VDP

Next Week, May 19: Heidi B., Kenzi S.

Womens Bible Study: May 19 and June 2.

This Week:

Weds., May 15, 6:30pm: GEMS Mother/Daughter Western Night

Upcoming Events:

Sun, May 19, 6:30pm: Women's Bible Study

Mon., May 20, 7pm: Congregational Meeting

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

Family Promise Presents "Tea at the Manor", Saturday, May 18, 2024 at Willowbrook Manor 1-3pm. Please visit our website for tickets. www.FamilyPromiseSkagit.org/.events.

Cascade Family Bible Camp – July 4-8 Join us at Warm Beach Camp in Stanwood, WA, for a rejuvenating experience! Embrace fellowship, worship, and camping or lodging in a stunning environment, perfect for revitalizing your daily walk. Engage with thought-provoking speakers, relish in programs tailored for kids of all ages, and indulge in a variety of activities including swimming, mini golf, tennis & basketball courts, volleyball, bocce, climbing wall, rockets, family games, a carnival and more! Secure your spot by registering online today at <https://cascadefamilybiblecamp.org/registration-info>

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Happy Mother's Day! - Today we celebrate the special women in our lives. Women who are healthy – physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually – become Women of Hope. Your gifts to World Renew today can help shape capable, confident women who help to build strong families and communities that flourish and have hope for the future. For more information or to give online, go to worldrenew.net/womenofhope

April Tornadoes Cross the Midwest- World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) is coordinating with other organizations to respond to damage caused by 88 confirmed tornadoes from Texas to Iowa on April 26-30, 2024, and tornadoes that struck the Portage, MI, area on May 7. DRS will initially offer volunteer clean-up services including removing debris and tarping roofs to survivors while plans are made for long-term recovery. Please help families who have lost homes and loved ones in these storms. Donate at worldrenew.net/springstorms2024, call 1-800-552-7972, or send your check made out to World Renew DRS, with "DRS Spring Storms 2024" in the memo line to: World Renew, 8970 Byron Commerce Dr. SW, Byron Center, MI 49315.



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.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Hans Meischke was taken to Evergreen Hospital in Kirkland earlier this week due to some heart concerns. Wednesday morning he had a pacemaker put in and thankfully the surgery went very well. Please pray for a complete recovery for Hans in the days to come so that he can soon return to the Kenmore Senior Living Center. Thank you!

Hank Vander Veen is back at The Bridge and is now on hospice care. He's weak and sleeps quite a bit, but he still appreciates short visits.

Please continue to pray for **Derick and Arnola Roos** and family as Arnola has been diagnosed with ALS.

Continue to remember the families who have recently lost loved ones. May God be close to each one of them as they mourn their loss.

Please continue to pray for **Juli Oostra's** platelet levels!

SHUT INS: *Nell Annema and Marion Ekkelkamp* at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley; *Shirley Boonstra* at Country Meadow Village in Sedro-Woolley, *Marjean DeGroot* at Mountain Glen in Mount Vernon; *Martha Haarsma* at home in Mount Vernon, *Mary Koopmans* at Where the Heart is in Burlington; *Hans Meischke* at Kenmore Living in Kenmore, WA, *Adrianna Swanson*, and *Clarence Vander Griend* at Home Place in Burlington; *Hank 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 May 6 - *World Renew: West Africa*

Praise God that despite security challenges linked to armed and jihadist groups in West Africa, World Renew and partners are able to work well and meet objectives in seeing communities flourish. Pray for political and social stability in West Africa and for God's guidance as we work to extend God's love and hope to communities struggling with hunger and poverty.

Tuesday May 7 - *Resonate: Europe*

Resonate missionaries serving among people from a Muslim background in Europe ask you to pray for a woman they are working with, that she may "grow in her trust of the Lord despite her circumstances as an asylum seeker."

Wednesday May 8 - *Thrive: Children and youth*

Please pray for the spiritual development and protection of children and young people in our congregations. Pray also for children's ministry leaders, youth leaders, parents, and caregivers as they model faith practices and contribute to the faith formation of the next generation.

Thursday May 9 - *ReFrame: Ascension Day*

Today in the worldwide church we begin a season of longing for Jesus' return. Pray that God's people around the world will continue forward with the Great Commission, as found in Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8, sharing the good news of Jesus in all languages.

Friday May 10 - *Resonate: Tennessee*

Give thanks for the way God is working through Phil Covert, a Resonate mission network developer, and his ministry, Reality Co. Through this ministry Phil provides support for artists in Nashville. For many of the musicians connected with Reality Co., Phil has become their pastor, and the Reality Co. community has become their church.

Saturday May 11 - *Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee: Oneness and grace*

Father God, Creator of all of us and of all things, help us to follow your call to be one as you are one. Help us to find things that unite us with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, instead of things that divide. Have patience with us, O Lord, as we struggle to work that out.

Sunday May 12 - *World Renew: Mother's Day*

On this Mother's Day join us in praying for women's rights around the world, that women may make positive changes for their families and communities. As Psalm 146 says, God "upholds the cause of the oppressed" and "sustains the fatherless and the widow." May God bless women everywhere as they contribute to flourishing in his world.