

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester

May 5, 2024 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service

***Please stand in body or in spirit.**

*"It is good to sing your praises and to thank you,
O Most High,"*

Prelude

Welcome

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #513 v. 1-3

"It is Good to Sing Your Praises"

1. It is good to sing your praises
and to thank you, O Most High,
showing forth your loving-kindness
when the morning lights the sky.
It is good when night is falling
of your faithfulness to tell,
while with sweet, melodious praises
songs of adoration swell.
2. You have filled my heart with gladness
through the works your hands have wrought;
you have made my life victorious;
great your works and deep your thought.
You, O Lord, on high exalted,
reign forevermore in might;
all your enemies shall perish,
sin be banished from your sight.
3. But the good shall live before you,
planted in your dwelling place,
fruitful trees and ever verdant,
nourished by your boundless grace.
In his goodness to the righteous
God his righteousness displays;
God, my rock, my strength and refuge,
just and true are all your ways.

PSALM 92; Words: Psalter, 1912, P.D.; Music: J. Leavitt's Christian Lyre, 1831,
P.D.; CCLI #678905

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty!

People: Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.

Leader: Who will not fear you, O Lord,
and bring glory to your name?

**People: For you alone are holy.
All nations will come and worship you!**

* Song 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

*"Showing forth your lovingkindness
when the morning lights the sky."*

Announcements

Introduction to our study of the Beatitudes

Prayer for our Study (Inspired by Matthew 5: 1-12, Luke 6: 20-26)

When you say blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God
do your eyes rest on me in the crowd
and see how weighed down I am with possessions?

When you say blessed are you who are hungry,
for you will be filled
do you place your hand in mine
and know the feasts I have eaten?

When you say blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh
do you anoint my head with oil
and sense that I have laughed long and hard?

Then bless me again Lord,
take my riches, my fullness, my laughter
all that I have in excess
and let it rise up in the poor, the hungry
and those who weep.

That together we may delight in good things
share bread and wine together
open our hearts in joy and sorrow
knowing that together we seek your kingdom
as one body.

~ from *I Am Making All Things New*, written by Rosie Venner.

Beatitude Acclamation

Leader: Wonderful is the God of Christ,
who gathers the poor of the earth.

**People: Glorious is our God, who wipes away
the tears of sorrow.**

Leader: Wonderful is the God of Christ,
who gives inheritance to the meek.

**People: Glorious is our God,
who satisfies the hunger of the just.**

Leader: Wonderful is the God of Christ,
who gives mercy to the merciful.

**People: Glorious is our God,
who gives vision to the pure in heart.**

Leader: Wonderful is the God of Christ,
who adopts the peacemakers.

**People: Glorious is our God,
who lifts high the persecuted.**

Leader: Wonderful is the God of Christ, who finds the lost.

People: Glorious is our God, who awakens the dead.

~ written by Bruce Prewer

Song of Response: 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

Offering: General Fund

Offertory Video: A Surprising New World – The Bible Project

*(Immediately following the offering children ages 3 – 3rd grade
are invited to attend Children and Worship)*

* Song of Preparation: 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

"It is good when night is falling
of your faithfulness to tell,"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "**An Introduction to the Beatitudes**"

Time of Prayer

* Song of Application: LUYH #117 v. 1,2,4,5 "*Blest Are They*"

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
they shall be consoled.

Refrain

Rejoice and be glad!

Blessed are you;

holy are you.

Rejoice and be glad!

Yours is the kingdom of God.

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones;
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst;
they shall have their fill.

Refrain

4. Blest are they who seek peace;
they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith;
the glory of God is theirs.

Refrain

5. Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see.

Refrain

MATTHEW 5:3-12; Words and Music: David Haas (b. 1957), based on Matthew 5:3-12, Descant: Michael Joncas (b. 1951); © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.;
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*"While with sweet, melodious praises
songs of adoration swell."*

* We Profess our Faith: LUYH #306 Let Us Love One Another

Leader: Dear friends, let us love one another,
for love comes from God.

**People: Everyone who loves has been born of God
and knows God.**

**Whoever does not love does not know God,
because God is love.**

Leader: This is how God showed his love among us:
He sent his one and only Son into the world
that we might live through him.

**People: This is love: not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son
as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

Leader: Dear friends, since God so loved us,
we also ought to love one another.

**People: No one has ever seen God;
but if we love one another,
God lives in us and his love is made complete
In us.**

Leader: This is how we know that we live in him
and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.
And we have seen and testify that the Father
has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

**People: If anyone acknowledges that Jesus
is the Son of God,
God lives in them and they in God.
And so we know and rely on the love
God has for us.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #366 v. 1-4 *"My Jesus, I Love Thee"*

1. My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
2. I love thee because thou hast first loved me
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
3. I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,
and say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Acapella

4. In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright.
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Words: William R. Featherstone, ca. 1862, P.D.; Music: Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876, P.D.; CCLI #678905

Postlude

Welcome to the House of God. The Lord is always near to those who gather in his name. Let us eagerly call upon God and make a joyful noise with songs and prayers of praise. Glory be to God! 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: May 5	Next Week: May 12
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry H.
Projection:	Beth B.	Maddie D.
Video:	Caleb L.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

May 5, 2024

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Thank you! “Sally and the Reehorn family would like to thank the congregation for honoring Sally on her 100th birthday. Thank you so much for the cakes, cards and hugs!”

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 on both May 5 and 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 during our morning service on Sunday, May 12 (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:

22325 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 tonight at 6:30pm!

We still have 26 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. Through the Thriving Hearts Program, they personally and directly partner with underprivileged women through one-on-one mentoring relationships with mature women of God. Thriving Heart also provides resources to these women, such as baby clothes, maternity clothes, formula, and home goods. By participating in this Baby Bottle fundraiser, you can support the work of Thriving Heart in directly providing for the needs of these women and their children. We invite you to be a part of this invaluable ministry! 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!**

If you are involved in Children & Worship, there is a NEW SCHEDULE for you in your mailbox.

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.

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)

Worship Service YouTube Links:

April 28, 2024: <https://youtu.be/75qOGX7S5Ek>

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*

CALENDAR

Greeters/Coffee Hosts:

May 5: John & Judy V., Cody & Amy S.

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

Worship Team:

May 5: Henry & Pam VZ, Kayla & Ella VH

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

Nursery:

May 5: Jeannette F. & Adrianna S.

Next Week, May 12: Angela S. & Rhyson O.

Children in Worship:

May 5: Heather VH, Leia V.

Next Week, May 12: Tim VH, Lexi VDP

Womens Bible Study: May 5, 19 and June 2.

This Week:

Sun, May 5, 6:30pm: Women's Bible Study

Upcoming Events:

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

Mon., May 20, 7pm: Congregational Meeting

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Please join Mid-America Reformed Seminary either in-person or via live stream on our YouTube channel as it celebrates its **39th Commencement** exercises on **Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.**, at Redeemer United Reformed Church in St. John, IN. We will be graduating six candidates for the Master of Divinity degree. Refreshments will follow.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - In Whistling in the Dark, Frederick Buechner writes, "'Thy kingdom come . . . on earth' is what we are saying. . . . To speak those words is to invite the tiger out of the cage, to unleash a power that makes atomic power look like a warm breeze." What are we asking when we pray for God's kingdom to come on earth? Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

Celebrate Women Worldwide on Mother's Day - Next week, we celebrate women in our communities of faith near and far. Women who are supported physically, mentally, and spiritually are better equipped to support their own families and communities. On Mother's Day, please consider giving a gift to celebrate a special woman in your life through World Renew. Your gift will honor your loved one – and support other women to flourish fully as well, as God intends for them. For more information or to give online, go to worldrenew.net/womenofhope



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:

Please keep **Jill and Mardick Stevens** in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Jill's brother, Gary McKee.

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 April 29 - ReFrame: English Ministry

Pray for Juan and Joe, who read Today devotions from prison. "I need prayer for guidance and patience," Juan writes. "I would like to pray for my brother-in-Christ, Joe, because he is leaving here and returning to the outside world, where there will be more temptation and influence."

Tuesday April 30 - *World Renew: Ukraine*

Today, more than two years after the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the conflict continues. Ask God for provision for the hungry, safety and shelter for the displaced, and healing for all. May God continue to guide us, our supporters, and our partners to share hope and love with vulnerable people struggling from hunger, poverty, and injustice.

Wednesday May 1 - *Resonate Global Mission: Ontario*

Resonate missionaries Nasser and Sylvie Charliekaram, who serve in Toronto, ask you to pray for refugees worldwide. They especially ask you to pray for their work serving immigrants and refugees who speak Farsi.

Thursday May 2 - *Communications: National Day of Prayer (U.S.)*

Join Christians across the United States today in praying for God's healing and guidance for the nation and the world. May God's will, love, and wisdom guide leaders at all levels for the good of all communities, families, and individuals.

Friday May 3 - *ReFrame Ministries: Japan*

Fumio has been listening to ReFrame's morning devotional programs and journaling each day. He wrote, "The devotional reflections answer the questions I'm worried about on a daily basis and make me feel refreshed." Praise God for Fumio's growing faith.

Saturday May 4 - *Resonate: Mexico*

"Thank God that our former campus ministry students who have graduated are working in social work, business, and for the city," said Resonate missionary James Lee, who works with COMPA campus ministry in Mexico. Please pray for these students as they share the love of Christ in their workplaces. Lee equips them to be missionaries wherever God places them.

Sunday May 5 - *Diaconal Ministries Canada: NewGround Sunday*

God is constantly at work doing new things and making a way for positive change in unexpected places (Isa. 43:19). He calls churches to follow him into their communities to be an active part of their transformation. Pray that more churches may utilize the NewGround program (formerly Operation Manna) to help them in this calling.