

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

August 25, 2024 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

*“My soul finds rest in God alone,
My Rock and my salvation;”*

Prelude

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn: “Come Thou Fount” v. 1-4 (Sovereign Grace version)**

1. Come Thou fount of ev'ry blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love
2. Hitherto Thy love has blessed me
Thou hast brought me to this place
And I know Thy hand will bring me
Safely home by Thy good grace
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wand'ring from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood
3. Oh to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart O take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

4. Oh that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face
Full arrayed in blood-washed linen
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace
Come my Lord no longer tarry
Bring Thy promises to pass
For I know Thy pow'r will keep me
Till I'm home with Thee at last

Acapella

Come my Lord no longer tarry
Bring Thy promises to pass
For I know Thy pow'r will keep me
Till I'm home with Thee at last

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* Call to Worship: I Peter 1:3-4

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.
This inheritance is kept in heaven for you.

* Opening Song of Praise: *“Living Hope”* v. 1-3

1. How great the chasm that lay between us.
How high the mountain I could not climb.
In desperation I turned to heaven
and spoke Your name into the night.
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
tore through the shadows of my soul.
The work is finished, the end is written.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.
2. Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
to wear my sin and bear my shame.
The cross has spoken; I am forgiven.
The King of kings calls me His own.
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Chorus (2x)

*Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain.
There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.*

3. Then came the morning that sealed the promise,
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
declared the grave has no claim on me.
(REPEAT)
Jesus, Yours is the victory!

Chorus (2x)

Ending

Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Oh God, You are my living hope. Words and Music by Phil Wickham and Brian Johnson; © 2017 Phil Wickham Music / Simply Global Songs / Sing My Songs / Bethel Music Publishing; All rights reserved. CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

*"A fortress strong against my foes,
And I will not be shaken."*

Announcements

Call to Confession

This is the message we have heard from him
and declare to you:
God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.
If we claim to have fellowship with him
yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.
But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

—1 John 1:5-7, NIV

Prayer of Confession

Song of Confession: LUYH #437 v. 1-2 *“Day by Day”*

1. Day by day and with each passing moment,
strength I find to meet my trials here;
trusting in my Father’s wise bestowment,
I’ve no cause for worry or for fear.
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure
gives unto each day what he deems best—
lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
mingling toil with peace and rest.
2. Every day the Lord himself is near me,
with a special mercy for each hour;
all my cares he gladly bears and cheers me,
he whose name is Counselor and Power.
The protection of his child and treasure
is a charge that on himself he laid:
“As your days, your strength shall be in measure”—
this the pledge to me he made.

Words of Assurance

* Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #437 v. 3 *“Day by Day”*

3. Help me then in every tribulation
so to trust your promises, O Lord,
that I lose not faith’s sweet consolation
offered me within your holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
e’er to take, as from a father’s hand,
one by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
till I reach the promised land.

Words: Carolina Sandell Berg (1865); tr. Andrew L. Skoog, 1931, alt. P.D

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

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

* Song of Preparation: *"Christ our Wisdom" (Sovereign Grace) v. 1-4*

1. Christ our wisdom we are humbled
When You hide Your ways from us
You have purposes unnumbered
Each one good and glorious
Help us trust when we grow weary
Free us from our anxious thoughts
Give us grace to see more clearly
You are God and we are not
2. Christ our wisdom be our gladness
When we fail to understand
You ordain all joy and sadness
To fulfill Your perfect plan
Help us know You rule with power
Over every raging flood
In our most uncertain hour
You are God and we are loved
3. Christ our wisdom we will follow
Though the way ahead is veiled
As we journey through the shadows
Grant us faith where sight has failed
Help us cling to Your commandments
Strengthened by Your faithful Word
We will never be abandoned
You are God and we are Yours
4. Christ our wisdom we adore You
For the beauty of the cross
Once in foolishness we scorned You
But Your blood has ransomed us
Help us sing the endless mercies
Of Your humble heart to save
Christ our wisdom Christ our glory
You are God forever praised

Tag

Help us sing the endless mercies
Of Your humble heart to save
Christ our wisdom Christ our glory
You are God forever praised

*“Though lips may bless and hearts may curse,
And lies like arrows pierce me,”*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10:24-33

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Christ’s Mission – No Fear”***

Time of Prayer

*“I’ll fix my heart on righteousness,
I’ll look to Him who hears me.”*

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #370 v. 1-3
“My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone” (Psalm 62)

1. My soul finds rest in God alone,
my rock and my salvation;
a fortress strong against my foes,
and I will not be shaken.
Though lips may bless and hearts may curse,
and lies like arrows pierce me,
I’ll fix my heart on righteousness;
I’ll look to him who hears me.

Refrain

O praise him, hallelujah,
my delight and my reward;
everlasting, never failing,
my Redeemer, my God.

2. Find rest, my soul, in God alone
amid the world’s temptations;
when evil seeks to take a hold,
I’ll cling to my salvation.
Though riches come and riches go,
don’t set your heart upon them;
the fields of hope in which I sow
are harvested in heaven.

Refrain

3. I'll set my gaze on God alone
and trust in him completely;
with every day pour out my soul,
and he will prove his mercy.
Though life is but a fleeting breath,
a sigh too brief to measure,
my King has crushed the curse of death,
and I am his forever.

Refrain

O praise him, hallelujah,
my delight and my reward;
everlasting, never failing,
my Redeemer, my God.

Words and Music: Psalm 62:1-2, 4-8, 10, 12; Galatians 3:13, Aaron Keyes, Stuart Townend © 2008 ThankYou Music (PRS), admin. worldwide at EMICMGPublishing.com (excl. Europe admin. by Kingswaysongs) CCLI #678905

* Proclamation of our Faith: Psalm 46

Leader: God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**People: Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

Leader: There is a river whose streams make glad
the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**People: God is in the midst of the city;
it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.**

Leader: The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

**People: The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Leader: Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

**All: “Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.”
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

—Psalm 46, NRSV

* God’s Blessing

* Parting Praise: 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! 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: August 25	Next Week: September 1
Sound:	Henry H.	Mardick S.
Projection:	Maddie D.	Caleb L.
Video:	Isaac D.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

August 25, 2024

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

This Week's Deep Q's with PB & J:

The Holy Spirit is our helper, comforter, advocate, intercessor, and guide. What role of the Holy Spirit is most meaningful to you, and why?

THE NEW COMMITTEE LISTS ARE HERE! They are on the shelves by the church mailboxes. Please pick one up today. There are a few changes, so be sure to look to see if you might have been added to a new committee.

If you are on the Fellowship Committee, plan to meet after church next week, Sunday, September 1, in the Council Room for a brief meeting.

*"Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord,
O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long
as I live; I will sing to my God while I
have my being"*

Psalm 146:1-2

We would like to invite you to join choir! Our first rehearsal will be September 15. We look forward to an awesome year of ministering to the congregation through our music. Any questions, contact Joni Beezhold.

We are still in need for 3 volunteers to fill in dates for Sept. 15, Oct. 20 & 27 to pick up and bring Shirley Boonstra to church Sunday mornings. The sign up sheet is by the coffee. Thank you!

Beth is gearing up to put out a NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY. This is your last chance to get any address/phone/email/picture changes to her. We will be using a new and exciting way of making the books. We will be using a 3-ring binder system, where any changes that happen during the year will mean just printing out a new page and removing and adding that page to your personal binder during the year. Then you will have each change in your book, printed and looking great a week after any change. **Please get any new info to Beth by September 1. Thank you!**

Dear Friends,

In our recent study of the Beatitudes we observed how these teachings provide an excellent blueprint for how a person initially becomes a Christian and then through the power of the Holy Spirit begins to mature in the faith. One of the important pieces in our spiritual maturity is how we carry out Christ's mission in the world around us. The latter part of Matthew 9 and all of Matthew 10 provide us with some important instructions on how to engage in this important mission together. In the weeks to come we're going to take a closer look at some of these instructions and then apply them to our own lives here today. May God lead and guide us in our study together.

In His Grace, Pastor John

July 21 – “Christ’s Mission – Recognizing the Need” (Matthew 9:35-10:10)

July 28 – “Christ’s Mission – Ministry Expectations” (Matthew 10:11-23)

Aug. 4 – “What Are You Wearing” – Colossians 3:1-17

Aug. 11 – “Christlike Love” – Romans 12:9-13

Aug. 18 – “Love that Overcomes Evil” – Romans 12:9-21

Aug. 25 – “Christ’s Mission – No Fear” (Matthew 10:24-33)

Sept. 1 – “Disobedience and Reluctance” (Jonah 1:1-16)

Sept. 8 – “Christ’s Mission – Costly Discipleship” (Matthew 23:1-12)

Worship Service YouTube Links:

August 18, 2024: https://youtu.be/-wutGU8Vx_4

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:

August 25: Sarah Z., Bob DG, Sheri L.

Next week, September 1: Dave & Nancy V., Bob P., Simon LC

Worship Team:

August 25: Men's Group

Next Week, September 1: Julie, Adriana & Tessa S.

Nursery:

August 25: Mandi D. & Adriana S.

Next Week, September 1: Jeannette F., France B.

Children in Worship:

August 25: Angela S., Emmalyn S.

Next Week, September 1: Tim VH, Myra VDB

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

Mid-America Reformed Seminary invites friends and supporters to the opening **Convocation for the 2024-2025 academic year on Wednesday, August 28th, at 7:00 PM** at Lynwood United Reformed Church, 1990 Glenwood Dyer Rd., Lynwood, IL. The event will feature Dr. Alan Strange delivering an Interim President installation address titled "Steady as She Goes" based on Psalm 27. Those unable to attend in person can join via livestream, with the link to be provided in the coming weeks.

Join us in walking to End Hunger in 2024!

The 2024 CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, Sept. 29 at 2:00 pm. Please note the new starting location will be at First Christian Reformed Church, which is across the street from the Mt. Vernon Christian School where we have previously started. The 3.4 mile route will be the same, as we will walk through historic downtown Mt. Vernon up to the Lions Park and back along the riverwalk. There will also be a 1-mile family walk. Strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Groundwork: Called To Be God's Prophet - It can be hard, even shocking to follow God's call on our lives and share his message. Join Groundwork as we study Ezekiel 1-3 to learn from Ezekiel's experience and discuss what it means to be called, to be a prophet, and to speak truth. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Kids Corner: Why Did God Give Me Gifts? - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Take a moment to think about some of the gifts that God has given you. What are you especially good at? What are some of your favorite things that you own? What are some more things that you are thankful for? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible Story Podcast The Parable of the Talents.

Family Fire - 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.

August is National Make-A-Will Month - You don't have to be wealthy to establish an estate plan. If you own a house, have any investments or special collections, you should have a plan. August is National "Make A Will" Month and a great annual reminder to set up a trust or gift a charity in your will. The CRC has resources to help. Learn more by visiting the CRC Heritage website at crcna.org/foundation

Job Opening - Information Technology Director - The CRCNA is hiring an Information Technology Director. The IT Director is responsible for establishing and executing the IT strategy, ensuring its integration with the mission strategy of the Christian Reformed Church (CRC), enabling the CRC to extend the reach of its mission. The IT Director participates in and contributes to the overall organization's operating model by bringing current knowledge and future vision of leveraging information and technology in service of the organization's mission. Apply now at <https://crcna.pinpointhq.com/>



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.

NEW REQUEST:

Amy Stiles was recently diagnosed with heart issues. Please pray for her heart to strengthen and heal.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

"I am feeling better every day and want to thank you for all your prayers and acts of kindness of food and flowers." **Eleanor Klunder**

Please keep **Crystal DeKok's** son Eric in your prayers as he heals from his dirt bike accident and subsequent surgery.

Please keep **Margaret Vander Pol** in your prayers, as she is home recuperating from a blood clot. Pray for Larry as he continues to walk alongside and care for Margaret.

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

Please continue to pray for **Arnola Roos**.

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; **Clarence Vander Griend** at Home Place in Burlington; **Sally Reehoorn** at Creekside in Burlington; **Bev Van Slageren** with family in Grandview, WA.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

Friday August 16 - Thrive: Leaders and volunteers

Please pray for wisdom, discernment, and strength for pastors, leaders, and volunteers in congregations across the U.S. and Canada.

Saturday August 17 - *Resonate: Detroit*

Word Encounter Church, a Resonate church plant partner in Detroit, Michigan, is hosting Jazz on the Grass today. This yearly event provides an opportunity for the church to engage with the local community and connect with people. Please pray that the community may experience the love of Christ through this event.

Sunday August 18 - *Communications: Annual Day of Justice*

Today is the CRC's Annual Day of Justice. Pray for churches as they reflect on how to meet the needs of people in their communities and "do away with the yoke of oppression." Pray that the CRC's Faith Practices Project may be a blessing to churches as they seek to engage in doing justice.

Monday August 19 - *World Renew: Peace and stability*

We pray for peace in Kenya, where recent decisions on taxes led to escalated protests. May God bring comfort to the families of persons who were killed or injured. Pray for stability in other tumultuous regions, including some where entire villages have been displaced by extremist groups.

Tuesday August 20 - *Resonate: Middle East*

A Resonate missionary serving in the Middle East asks for prayer for the member care center she is leading, as it provides pastoral care for missionaries on the field. Pray that missionaries find encouragement through this ministry so that they can continue their work of sharing Christ's love.

Wednesday August 21 - *ReFrame: India*

Our Hindi ministry partners recently published a new book about Daniel. Pray that this book may touch many lives, bringing biblical truth and inspiration to the people who read it. Ask God to bless the efforts of our Hindi ministry team as they continue to serve him through Christian literature and other media.

Thursday August 22 - *Thrive: Disability Advocates*

Disability Advocates serve congregations by advocating with and for people with disabilities and working to address barriers to full inclusion. Please pray for the advocates in your local congregation.