



***Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!***  
***Pastor John Knoester***  
***September 22, 2024 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service***

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

*"Amid the thronging worshipers the Lord,  
our God, I bless;"*

Prelude

Welcome

\* Opening Hymn: LUYH #492 v. 1-4

*"Come, Thou Almighty King"*

1. Come, thou almighty King,  
help us thy name to sing;  
help us to praise.  
Father all glorious,  
o'er all victorious,  
come and reign over us,  
Ancient of Days.
2. Come, thou incarnate Word,  
gird on thy mighty sword;  
scatter thy foes.  
Let thine almighty aid  
our sure defense be made,  
our souls on thee be stayed;  
thy wonders show.
3. Come, holy Comforter,  
thy sacred witness bear  
in this glad hour.  
Thou who almighty art,  
rule now in every heart,  
and ne'er from us depart,  
Spirit of power.

4. To thee, great One in Three,  
eternal praises be  
hence evermore!  
Thy sovereign majesty  
may we in glory see,  
and to eternity  
love and adore.

Words: anonymous, 1757, alt., P.D.; Music: Felice de  
Giardini, 1769, P.D.; CCLI #678905

\* Opening Prayer

\* Call to Worship: Based on Psalm 22:22-24

Leader: I will declare your name to my brothers;  
in the congregation I will praise you.

**People: You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!  
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!**

Leader: For he has not despised or disdained  
the suffering of the afflicted one.

**People: He has not hidden his face from him  
but has listened to his cry for help.**

\* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #511 v. 1-3  
*"Amid the Thronging Worshipers"*

1. Amid the thronging worshipers  
the Lord, our God, I bless;  
before his people gathered here  
his name will I confess.  
Come, praise him, all who fear the Lord,  
the children of his grace;  
with reverence sound his glories forth  
and bow before his face.

2. The burden of the sorrowful  
the Lord will not despise;  
he has not turned from those who mourn,  
he listens to their cries.  
His goodness makes me join the throng  
where saints his praise proclaim,  
and there will I fulfill my vows  
with those who fear his name.
3. He feeds with good the humble soul  
and satisfies the meek,  
and they shall live and praise the Lord  
who for his mercy seek.  
The ends of all the earth will hear,  
the nations seek the Lord;  
they worship him, the King of kings,  
in earth and heaven adored.

*Psalm 22; Words: Psalter, 1912, P.D.; Music: Laura A. Tate, 1912, P.D.; CCLI# 678905*

\* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

*"Before his people gathered here  
his name will I confess."*

Announcements

Sunday School Commissioning Litany

Church Education Leader: Our faith is nurtured in community  
as we learn and worship together.

Today we celebrate a new church school season  
as children, youth, and adults begin attending  
Sunday school, small groups, and midweek activities.  
We ask God to prepare our hearts to study the Bible  
and the creeds and confessions of the church.

We commission our teachers and leaders  
for their ministry.

We invite God's Spirit to lead us forward  
on this journey of faith—

transforming each of us into the likeness of Christ.

As we begin this new season of learning, we turn our  
hearts to you, Lord.

**People: Lead us to explore the depths of your love,  
To stand in awe of your wonders,  
To delight in your promises,  
To experience your forgiveness,  
To grow in love for one another,  
To discover our gifts  
And to serve you faithfully.**

Child leader 1: Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see Jesus.

**People: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author  
and perfecter of our faith. (Heb. 12:2a)**

Child leader 2: We want to reach out and touch him,  
and say that we love him.

**People: In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands.  
(1 John 5:3a)**

Child leader 1: Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.

**People: For Jesus said,  
“My sheep listen to my voice;  
I know them, and they follow me.  
I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;  
no one will snatch them out of my hand.”  
(John 10:27-28)**

Child leader 2: Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see Jesus.

**People: No one’s ears have ever heard of a God like you.  
No one’s eyes have ever seen a God  
who is greater than you.  
No God but you acts for the good of those  
who trust in him. (Isa. 64:4, NIV)**

Church Education Leader: Lead us this year to grow  
in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior  
Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever!  
Amen. (2 Pet. 3:18)

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Reformed Church. Used by permission.

\* Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #262 v. 1-3 *"I Love to Tell the Story"*

1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

*Refrain*

*I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

2. I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

*Refrain*

3. I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

Words: A. Catherine Hankey, 1866, P.D.; Music: William G. Fisher, 1869, P.D.;

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

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

\* Hymn 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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*“Come, praise him, all who fear the Lord,  
the children of his grace;”*

Scripture Reading: Esther 2

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“A New Queen”***

Time of Prayer

*“With reverence sound his glories forth  
and bow before his face.”*

\* Hymn of Application: LUYH #427 v. 1-5 *“How Firm a Foundation”*

1. How firm a foundation you saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. “Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
3. “When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,  
for I will be with you in trouble to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

4. "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace all-sufficient shall be your supply;  
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.
5. "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"

Words: Isaiah 43:1-5; J. Rippon's *Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt., P.D.; Music: J. Funk's *A Compilation of Genuine Church Music*, 1832; harm. Dale Grotenhuis (1931-2012), 1985, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources; CCLI #678905

\* Proclamation of our Faith: Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**—Apostles' Creed**

\* God's Blessing



\* Parting Praise: LUYH #965

*“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, P.D.; Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551, P.D. 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: September 22	Next Week: September 29
Sound:	Henry VZ	Mardy S.
Projection:	Brad D.	Tim H.
Video:	Isaac D.	Isaac D.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund



# First CRC Bulletin Announcements

**September 22, 2024**

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

## **OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

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

What did your relationship with Jesus look like 10 years ago?

The first Women's Bible Study studying the book of Luke will be Sunday September 22nd at 6:30 at the church. Books arrived and are in your mailboxes this morning for those who previously signed up. Extras are near the sign-up sheet, please sign up and take one. We welcome all ladies, teenagers too. We can order more books if necessary.

It is a 7 session Bible Study. Our dates are September 22nd, October 6th and 20th, November 3rd and 17th, January 12th and 26th.

**There is a "Harvest Bounty Table"** in the Fellowship Hall, where if you have more food from your garden or trees than you can use, you may place it on the table by the kitchen and share your blessings with others.

**Cadet registration** night will be Wednesday, September 25, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Get Ready! The Youth Group Pumpkin Carving and Chili Contest night approacheth! Sharpen your blades and hone your chili-cooking skills for October 19 from 6-8pm.**

**New Worship Service Schedule:** A new *Worship Service* Schedule will be put together for the months of November-April. The schedule usually includes each week's organist, pianist, worship team vocalists, Scripture reader, sound volunteer, projection volunteer, and video volunteer. If you are currently not on the list of volunteers and would like to volunteer in any one of these roles-please let Beth know no later than Monday, **Sept. 23**. If you are currently on

the schedule and would like to be removed from it please let her know that too. Generally speaking, the Worship Team practices at 9:30 AM on the Sunday morning they are scheduled to sing. Thank you!

## ***Next Week is Communion Sunday!***

***God meets us in the sacraments,  
holy acts that call for our response...  
In the supper our Lord offers  
the bread and cup to believers to  
guarantee our share in his  
death and resurrection,  
and unite us to him and to each other.***

***We take this food gladly,  
announcing as we eat  
that Jesus is our life  
and that He shall come again  
to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.***

From: *Our World Belongs to God* (PH – pg. 1031)

***Come share the fellowship of the forgiven!***

**If someone is missing a very nice white YETI coffee container, please let Rich know!**

Dear Friends,

One of the unique features of the book of Esther is that it doesn't even mention the name of God. Yet, God's sovereignty and intervention is visible throughout the book. The story itself is not so much about the hero herself, but about the Bible's bigger story of how God deals with His people and with the world. The grace of God to the undeserving and outcasts is prominently on display. More importantly, the story points us ahead to Christ as the one in whom grace will fully and finally come to redeem rebellious sinners such as us and make us into God's new people. May God bless us as we study this amazing book of the Bible together!

In His Grace,

- Pastor John

1. Sept. 15 – *"Like a Fiddler on the Roof"* (Esther 1)
2. Sept. 22 – *"A New Queen"* (Esther 2)
3. Oct. 6 – *"Mordecai Take a Stand"* (Esther 3)
4. Oct. 13 – *"For Such a Time as This"* (Esther 4)
5. Oct. 20 – *"Esther's Crafty Plan"* (Esther 5)
6. Oct. 27 – *"Honored By the King"* (Esther 6)

7. Nov. 3 – “The One True King” (Esther 7)  
8. Nov. 17 – “Not Over Yet” (Esther 8)  
9. Nov. 24 – “A Great Reversal” (Esther 9-10)

**Worship Service YouTube Links:**

September 15, 2024: <https://youtu.be/GzBWi3U0S3U>

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](https://firstcrcmv.com/?page_id=1509)*

**CALENDAR:**

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts:**

September 22: Wayne & Rhea Doss, John & Dena K.

Next week, September 29: Spencer & Janelle D., Melba DK (Michelle DK)

**Worship Team:**

Sept. 22: None

Next Week, September 29: Men’s Group

**Nursery:**

September 22: Pam VZ & Maddie D.

Next Week, September 29: Emmalyn S.

**Children in Worship:**

Next Week, September 22: Heather & Emily VH

September 29: Tim VH, Nolan B.

**This Week:**

Tonight: Youth Group starts at 6:30pm!

Tonight: Ladies Bible Study at 6:30pm

Cadet Registration: Wednesday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m.

**Upcoming Events:**

Sun, Sept. 29: Crop Walk here starting at 2:00pm

Sun., Sept. 29: Communion

Weds., Oct. 2: GEMS Theme Night

Sun., Oct. 6: CHURCH POTLUCK RETURNS

Sat., Oct. 19: Youth Group Pumpkin Carving and Chili Contest night! 6-8pm

**ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:**

**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.

Registration will be closing soon for Mid-America Reformed Seminary's **2024 Center for Missions and Evangelism Conference!** Be sure to sign up by Friday, October 4, mark your calendars for October 11-12, and join us at Bethel Church in Lansing, IL, to be inspired by plenary speakers sharing insights on reaching our local communities and the nations with the gospel message. Discover more details at [midamerica.edu/cme/conference](http://midamerica.edu/cme/conference).

### **Heather Village Maintenance Supervisor**

Heather Village, a Christian retirement community in Mount Vernon, has an opening for a **Maintenance Supervisor**. This position is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance operations of the buildings and grounds in the community. To qualify, a candidate must be a Christian and have good interpersonal skills. An ideal candidate would have a working knowledge of electrical and plumbing systems, carpentry and painting skills, and would be expected to be available for on-call emergencies. This is a full-time position that could be shared between two people; pay is dependent on experience. For more information or to submit a resume or list of qualifications, please contact the Heather Village Manager by mail at Heather Village, 925 Heather Circle, Mount Vernon WA 98273 or by email at [hvoffice2021@gmail.com](mailto:hvoffice2021@gmail.com) prior to Monday, September 30.

### **CRC COMMUNICATIONS**

**Groundwork: Dry Bones And God's Promises Of Restoration** - Have you ever felt so hopeless that anything and everything remotely good seems impossible and out of reach? Join Groundwork as we study the hope filled imagery in Ezekiel 37 and 47 to remember God's great love for his people, how seriously he takes his promises, and how deeply we can trust that one day he will fully restore us too. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

<b>Tech Team</b>	<b>Today:</b>	<b>Next Week:</b>
Sound:	Henry VZ	Mardy S.
Projection:	Beth B.	Tim H.
Video:	Isaac D.	Isaac D.
Offering:	General Fund	1 <sup>st</sup> : General Fund 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Benevolence



People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Email the office at [secretary@firstcrcmv.com](mailto: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 continue to pray for **Marilyn Cooke** and her family as they mourn the loss of Marilyn's mother, Helen.

**Jerry Van Vliet** is having heart valve replacement surgery in the next couple of weeks. Please keep him and Barb in your prayers for a successful procedure.

**Amy Stiles** has been diagnosed with heart issues. Please pray for her heart to strengthen and heal.

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

Please continue to keep **Margaret Vander Pol** in your prayers.

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)**

Monday September 16 - *Thrive: Volunteers*

Praise God for the faithful ministries of volunteers who are committed to equipping their local congregations to be safe and accessible worshiping communities.

**Tuesday September 17 - Resonate: Lithuania**

Give thanks for Yana, a student at Resonate partner LCC International University in Lithuania, who decided to follow Jesus last year! Yana became interested in Christianity through interactions with friends, Resonate volunteers, and Resonate missionaries on campus. Please pray for Yana as she continues to grow as a disciple of Christ and shares her faith with the people around her.

**Wednesday September 18 - ReFrame: French ministry**

Pray for opportunities to continue sharing the gospel in a Muslim-majority context in West Africa. Tindano, a faithful listener of our radio broadcasts there, is a Christian and journalist, and she recently asked our French ministry team to expand their broadcast to include non-Christian radio stations so that the message can reach a wider area.

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

**Thursday September 19 - Candidacy Committee: Prayer**

The Candidacy Committee invites you to set an alarm on your phone at 10:02 a.m. each day to pray as Jesus teaches us in Luke 10:2: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

**Friday September 20 - Resonate: Michigan**

Resonate church planters in Michigan ask for prayer for a couple in which the husband is struggling with alcoholism. This has made the couple open to hearing the gospel. Please pray that the husband may be healed and that the couple may find grace and faith in Jesus.

**Saturday September 21 - World Renew: International Day of Peace**

Pray with us as nations around the globe dedicate a day to the ideals of peace, building societies where all people can flourish and be treated equally, regardless of race or background. May we work toward a world free of discrimination, and may the conflicts taking place in many nations be resolved.

**Sunday September 22 - Communications: Ministry shares**

Let's give thanks for ministry shares and the covenant relationship they represent for CRC congregations. Ministry-share funds support