

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
September 15, 2024 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

“Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;”

Prelude

Welcome

* Opening Hymn: LUYH #551 v. 1,3,4,5,6
“All Creatures of our God and King”

All Sing

1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice with us and sing:
alleluia, alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam,
and shining moon with silver gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Women Only

3. Cool flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear;
alleluia, alleluia!
Fierce fire, so masterful and bright,
providing us with warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Men Only

4. Earth ever fertile, day by day
bring forth your blessings on our way,
alleluia, alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
let them his glory also show:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All Sing

5. All you who are of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part;
alleluia, alleluia!
All you who pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on him cast your care:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All Sing

6. Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
alleluia, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Francis of Assisi; Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams. Public Domain; CCLI #678905

Opening Prayer

- * Call to Worship: Based on Psalm 19

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

**People: Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display knowledge.**

Leader: There is no speech or language
where their voice is not heard.

**People: Their voice out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.**

- * Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #21 v. 1-3

"This is My Father's World"

1. This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

2. This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me everywhere.

3. This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King, let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let the earth be glad.

Words: Maltbie D. Babcock (1858-1901) P.D.; Music: English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard (1852-1930), P.D.; CCLI #678905 Music (TERRA BEATA 6.6.8.6 D): English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard (1852-1930), P.D.

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

"Naught be all else to me, save that thou art--"

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance:

Leader: In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,
we are assured that there is no sin so terrible
that God cannot forgive, no hurt so terrible
that God cannot heal.
God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free.
Receive the forgiving love of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

God's Law and Our Response of Gratitude:

* Song of Thanksgiving: 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

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”* 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

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“Thou my best thought, by day or by night;”

Scripture Reading: Esther 1

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Like a Fiddler on the Roof”***

Time of Prayer

“Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.”

* Hymn of Application: 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

* Proclamation of our Faith: Our World Belongs to God, st. 5-6

Leader: God holds this world in sovereign love.

He kept his promise, sending Jesus into the world.

He poured out his Spirit and broadcast his news

that sinners who repent and believe in Jesus

can live and breathe and move again

as members of the family of God.

**People: We rejoice in the goodness of God,
renounce the works of darkness,
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.**

Leader: As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience,
and set free for joyful praise,
we offer our hearts and lives
to do God's work in his world.
With tempered impatience,
eager to see injustice ended,
we expect the Day of the Lord.

**People: And we are confident
that the light that shines in the present darkness
will fill the earth when Christ appears.
Come, Lord Jesus! Our world belongs to you.**

* 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! “Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go,” the psalmist prayed (Psalm 71:3). May we all find that God is a “rock of refuge” where we find help for every hour of need. A hearty welcome to all who have come to worship our Creator. 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 15	Next Week: September 22
Sound:	Henry H.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Maddie D.	Beth B.
Video:	France B.	Isaac D.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

September 15, 2024

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

This Week’s Deep Q’s with PB & J:

When’s the last time you had a conversation with your neighbor or a visitor at church? What did you learn from that conversation?

Education Committee Meeting TODAY! There will be a brief Education Committee meeting immediately following the morning service today (Sept. 15). The main purpose of the meeting is to simply touch base before the various education ministries begin, encourage/pray for the season ahead, and also see if there are any pressing needs. If you are on the Education Committee please meet in the council room immediately following the service so that those who are also in choir can make their way there in time.

GEMS registration is **Wednesday, September 18 at 6:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. All girls must be accompanied by a parent / guardian to complete / update the Registration Form which requires a parent/ guardian signature. The \$30 dues per girl may be paid with check or cash. A schedule for the GEMS year will be handed out and other information about GEMS will also be given. GEMS leaders and helpers for each grade will be introduced followed by an Ice Cream Social which will give everyone a time to get acquainted. If you have questions call Marjo Rouw 360 428-5693.

Thank you for those of you who signed up to bring Shirley Boonstra to and from church. We have filled the schedule through the end of October. You are so appreciated!

Choir practice starts up THIS MORNING after the service!

Sunday School starts next Sunday morning!

The first 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.

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

New Worship Service Schedule: In a few weeks 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!

Pastor John's Email Address: jknoes0812@gmail.com

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. Sept. 29 – *"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 8, 2024: <https://youtu.be/FHNkYdB2U74>

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:

Sept 15: Rich & Elly C., Julie & Brandon S.

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

Worship Team:

Sept. 15: Greg B., Mandi D., Kayla & Ella VH

Next Week, Sept. 22: ?

Nursery:

Sept. 15: Angela S. & Nellie VDH

Next Week, September 22: Pam VZ & Maddie D.

Children in Worship:

Sept. 15: Heidi B., Evan V.

Next Week, September 22: Heather & Emily VH

This Week:

Choir resumes this morning after the service.

Weds., Sept. 18, 6:30pm: GEMS Registration Night!

Upcoming Events:

Sun., Sept. 22, 9:30am: Sunday School Resumes

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

Sun., Oct. 6: CHURCH POTLUCK RETURNS

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.

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 prior to Monday, September 30.

Groundwork: Understanding God's Judgment - Judgment and consequences can feel unfair and mean. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Ezekiel 14 and 22 to better understand God's judgment: where it comes from, what it means, why it's necessary, and why it's also a source of grace. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Kids Corner: Heart Checkups - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. As you sit in church or go to Sunday School, try to listen for something you can do during the week to come. God does not wait to use you until you are older, so as you are listening for something you can do, listen for someone you can encourage this week as well! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Church in Action comic book.



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 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 was recently 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 and subsequent surgery.

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 9 - ReFrame: Japan

Pray for Yuki, who listens to our Japanese ministry programs faithfully and wants to share them with her loved ones. Pray for courage to share God's Word, and pray that Yuki's family will be open to hearing the good news of Jesus.

Tuesday September 10 - Thrive: Ministry

Pray for Thrive ministry consultants as they work closely with congregations across the denomination. Please pray also for your congregation's worship leaders and planners, asking God to fill them with energy, with joy in their work, and with ample times of rest.

Wednesday September 11 - Resonate: Mission emphasis

Please pray for churches and small groups who are walking through our Witness: Equipped to Share the Good News study. Ask the Holy

Spirit to guide these individuals and small groups as they take steps to share the love of Christ in their neighborhoods.

Thursday September 12 - *World Renew: Volunteers*

Praise God with us for volunteers! We are grateful for all the individuals who contribute to our work of living out justice, loving mercy, and serving Christ. May God's strength sustain all who give of their time and resources to serve with us in our offices, with Disaster Response Services, on Discovery Tours, or in their churches and communities.

Friday September 13 - *ThereforeGo Ministries: SERVE*

Give thanks with us for a safe and fruitful summer of growth for our students through SERVE. Please pray for churches deciding to host SERVE next summer and for those making plans to send students on SERVE. May the Lord begin to prepare their hearts and minds to explore our next theme: "Beautiful and Broken."

Saturday September 14 - *Resonate: Campus ministry*

Resonate partner campus ministries throughout Canada and the United States kicked off fall semester programming with small groups, Bible studies, weekly dinners, worship gatherings, and more. Ask the Holy Spirit to work through all of these ministries to draw students, faculty, and staff into a relationship with Christ.

Sunday September 15 - *ReFrame: Kids Corner*

Praise God for Chandler, a nine-year-old who recently shared with his congregation a song that he enjoys on ReFrame's Kids Corner website and podcast. Praise God for Chandler's growing faith and for the opportunity he took to share his faith with others.