

**Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!**  
**Pastor John Knoester**  
**October 6, 2024 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service**

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

*"Here in this place the new light is streaming,"*

Prelude

Welcome

**\*Opening Hymn: LUYH #529 v. 1-4 "Gather Us In"**

1. Here in this place the new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery,  
we are the old who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.
3. Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away—  
here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Words and Music (G A T H E R U S I N 10.9.10.10 D ): Marty Haugen © 1982 G I A  
Publications, Inc. CCLI#678905

\* Opening Prayer

\* Call to Worship: Based on Colossians 1:12-18

Leader: Give thanks to the Father who has enabled you  
to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

**People: He has rescued us from the power of darkness  
and transferred us into the kingdom  
of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption,  
the forgiveness of sins.**

Leader: He is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation;

**People: for in him all things in heaven  
and earth were created,**

Leader: Things visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers

**People: All things have been created through him  
and for him.**

Leader: He himself is before all things,  
and in him all things hold together.

**People: He is the head of the body, the church;  
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,  
So that he might come to have first place  
in everything.**

\* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #15 v. 1-2 *"The First Place"*

1. Jesus, the perfect picture of the unseen God.  
Maker of things we cannot comprehend.  
Wisdom, the earth displays your strength and beauty.  
Sovereign, yes, every throne knows you are God.

*Refrain*

Every inch of this universe belongs to you, O Christ.  
For through you and for you it was made.  
Your creation endures by the order of your hand.  
So you must have in all things the first place.

2. Victor, over sin and death you triumphed.  
Firstborn, you've shown us life beyond the grave.  
Bridegroom, we long for you in expectation.  
Jesus, your church rejoices to proclaim.

*Refrain X 2*

Words and Music: Matthew Westerholm © 1999 Matthew Westerholm;  
arr. Greg Scheer © 1999 Matthew Westerholm; CCLI# 678905

\* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

*"Now is this darkness vanished away;"*

Announcements

Call to Confession: Isaiah 1: 18

"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD.  
"Though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

—Isaiah 1:18, NIV

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel,  
for you are my servant;  
I formed you, you are my servant;  
O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.  
I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud,  
and your sins like mist;  
return to me, for I have redeemed you.

—Isaiah 44:21-22, NRSV

## God's Law

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.  
Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.  
Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer  
and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests  
be made known to God.  
And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable,  
whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing,  
whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence  
and if there is anything worthy of praise,  
think about these things.  
Keep on doing the things that you have learned  
and received and heard and seen in me,  
and the God of peace will be with you.

—Philippians 4:4-9, NRSV

Sung Prayer of Thanksgiving: LUYH #660 v. 1-3

*“Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer”*

1. Jesus, draw me ever nearer  
as I labor through the storm.  
You have called me to this passage,  
and I'll follow though I'm worn.

*Refrain*

*May this journey bring a blessing;  
may I rise on wings of faith;  
and at the end of my heart's testing  
with your likeness let me wake.*

2. Jesus, guide me through the tempest;  
keep my spirit staid and sure.  
When the midnight meets the morning,  
let me love you even more.

*Refrain*

3. Let the treasures of the trial  
form within me as I go,  
and at the end of this long passage  
let me leave them at your throne.

*Refrain*

*May this journey bring a blessing;  
may I rise on wings of faith;  
and at the end of my heart's testing  
with your likeness let me wake.*

Words and Music: Margaret Becker, Keith Getty © 2001 Modern M Music, admin.  
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Offering: General Fund

Offertory Video: "Your Will Be Done" – CityAlight

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

\*Song of Preparation: "Christ Our Wisdom" v. 1-3

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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*"See in this space our fears and our dreamings"*

Scripture Reading: Esther 3

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Mordecai Takes a Stand"***

Time of Prayer

*"Brought here to you in the light of this day."*

\* Hymn of Application: LUYH #170 v. 1-5

*"Man of Sorrows – What a Name"*

1. Man of sorrows— what a name  
for the Son of God,  
who came ruined sinners to reclaim:  
Hallelujah, what a Savior!
2. Bearing shame and scoffing rude,  
in my place condemned he stood,  
sealed my pardon with his blood:  
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

3. Guilty, helpless, lost were we;  
blameless Lamb of God was he,  
sacrificed to set us free:  
Hallelujah, what a Savior!
4. He was lifted up to die;  
“It is finished” was his cry;  
now in heaven exalted high:  
Hallelujah, what a Savior!
5. When he comes, our glorious King,  
all his ransomed home to bring,  
then anew this song we’ll sing:  
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Words: Philip P. Bliss, 1875, alt., P.D.

\* 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.**

—Our World Belongs to God, st. 5-6

\* God's Blessing

\* Parting Praise: LUYH #659 v. 1-4 *"Nearer, Still Nearer"*

1. Nearer, still nearer, close to thy heart,  
draw me, my Savior, so precious thou art.  
Fold me, O fold me close to thy breast;  
shelter me safe in that haven of rest,  
shelter me safe in that haven of rest.
2. Nearer, still nearer, nothing I bring,  
naught as an offering to Jesus, my King—  
only my sinful, now contrite heart;  
grant me the cleansing thy blood doth impart,  
grant me the cleansing thy blood doth impart.
3. Nearer, still nearer, Lord, to be thine,  
Sin with its follies I gladly resign,  
all of its pleasures, pomp and its pride;  
give me but Jesus, my Lord crucified,  
give me but Jesus, my Lord crucified.

**Acapella**

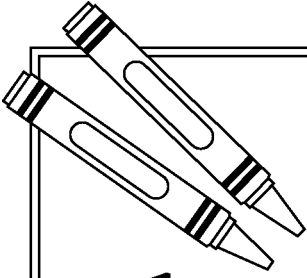
4. Nearer, still nearer, while life shall last,  
till safe in glory my anchor is cast;  
through endless ages, ever to be  
nearer, my Savior, still nearer to thee,  
nearer, my Savior, still nearer to thee.

*Words and Music: Lelia N. Morris (1862-1929), P.D.; CCLI# 678905*

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.





# Just for **KIDS**

## For everyone

Every day we should be thankful for God's love and for the gift of his Son, Jesus. Complete the maze below to help people from all directions hear about this good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read the words to John 3:16, NIV.

perish but have eternal life." **N** "For God so loved the world that [E] he gave his one and only Son, that **S** whoever believes in him shall not [W]

**John 3:16,**  
NIV

First CRC Bulletin Announcements  
**October 6, 2024**  
***The deadline for announcements is Thursday,  
9:00 A.M.***

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY :**

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

What is one thing you would change about your neighborhood?

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)

**Sunday School** will **NOT** meet Sunday, October 6 but will resume on October 13 at 9:30 am.

**Choir** will **NOT** meet this morning following the service.

The **Ladies Bible Study** will meet tonight at 6:30 pm.

**Worship Service YouTube Links:**

September 29, 2024: [https://youtu.be/\\_oo0MsLAqaE](https://youtu.be/_oo0MsLAqaE)

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)

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.

**Men's Breakfast Bible Study:** IHOP at 7:00 am every other Tuesday for Bible study (we've started Galatians), fellowship and, of course, breakfast. The next gathering is this Tuesday, 10/15. If you have any questions, please reach out to Greg Boon.

**From the Deacons:** An annual Veteran's Food Drive is being organized. Our church will be participating by having a donation box at the church from October 1 – November 11. You are encouraged to bring nonperishable food and household items. All donations will be distributed to Veterans in Skagit County.

You're invited to the **Fall Dinner from Skagit Valley Pregnancy Care Center**. It will be held on Thursday, October 10 at 6:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Mount Vernon. Free to attend. Please RSVP to 360-428-4777 or visit [www.skagitpregnancycare.org](http://www.skagitpregnancycare.org).

Get Ready! The **Youth Group Pumpkin Carving and Chili Contest** night approacheth! Sharpen your blades and hone your chili-cooking skills for Friday, October 25 from 6-8pm.

Come and bring your family and friends to the **Reformation Day Service** at the First CRC of Mount Vernon on **Sunday, October 27, at 6:30 PM**. Rev. Matt Borst of Faith Community Fellowship CRC will be proclaiming God's Word to us this year. The offering that evening will be for Didachem Ministry. There will also be a Reformation Choir that will be singing during the offertory. Those interested in being a part of the choir are asked to arrive at 5:30 PM that evening to practice ahead of time. Coffee and refreshments will be served following the service and a nursery will be provided.

### **CALENDAR:**

#### **Greeters/Coffee Hosts:**

October 6: Harmen & Sue DJ., Karen S., Jeannette F.

Next week: October 13 – Terri & Mandi D, Jill R, Simon LC.

#### **Worship Team:**

September 29: October 6 - Henry & Pam VZ, Kayla & Ella VH

Next Week: October 13 - Greg & Beth B, Franchesca B, Emmalyn S.

#### **Nursery:**

October 6: Catherine & Noah VK

Next Week: October 13 - Brook K, Myra VDB

#### **Children in Worship:**

October 6: Riley VV

Next Week: October 13 - Heidi B, Ella VH

### **This Week:**

**Sunday:** October 6

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 Service

Potluck after the service

6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study

**Wednesday:** October 9 – Cadets at 7:00 pm

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Monday:** October 14 — Council at 6:30 pm

**Tuesday:** October 15 — 7:00 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

**Sunday:** October 20 at 6:30 pm — Ladies Bible Study

**Friday:** October 25: Youth Group Pumpkin Carving and Chili Contest night! 6-8 pm

**Sunday:** October 27 at 6:30 pm - Reformation Day Service

**ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:**

***Kids Corner: Beatitude 1:*** Depend on God - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Matthew 5:3 is all about dependence. But what does it mean to depend on God? Can you think of one way to practice relying on God this week? Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like the Liz and Friend Story Podcast: Change of Plans.

***Groundwork:*** Live a Holy Life Set Apart for God - When the culture we live in makes our faith feel restrictive, the apostle Peter encourages believers to embrace a new perspective. Join Groundwork as we study 1 Peter 1:13-2:3 to learn what it means to live a holy life, set apart by God for his purposes, and how God's Word provides the spiritual sustenance we need to maintain an active faith in all circumstances. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

***Thrive Faith Formation Tip*** - Today is All Nations Heritage Sunday! To celebrate and give thanks to God for the beautiful gift of diversity, learn how to say "Thank you, God" in a new language every day this week.

***World Renew Hurricane Helene Response*** - World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) is preparing to respond to Hurricane Helene in the most affected communities from Florida to North Carolina. You can help people whose homes and property have been flooded or destroyed since Helene made landfall on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024. Please give generously to World Renew DRS as we help families rebuild and recover their lives. Donate online at [worldrenew.net/hurricanehelene](http://worldrenew.net/hurricanehelene), call 1-800-552-7972, or make out your check to World Renew DRS, with Hurricane Helene written in the memo line, and mail to: World Renew, 8970 Byron Commerce Dr., SW, Byron Center, MI, 49315.



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:**

**Jerry Van Vliet** had heart valve replacement surgery and a pacemaker put in recently. Pray that God will give him complete healing.

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

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)**

**Sunday September 29: Resonate: Nicaragua** - Missionaries Jesse and Jari Rodriguez, who work with farmers in Nicaragua, are helping a neighborhood by providing garden boxes. Many families in this neighborhood search through trash for things to sell and recycle, and these garden boxes can help to provide fresh food. Pray that God's message of love and hope will transform people's hearts in this community.

**Monday September 30: Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee: Truth and Reconciliation** - Today is the annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. Please pray for the CRC's Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee as it seeks to reconcile the church with Indigenous people. Pray also for everyone participating in the learning journey of Hearts Exchanged.

**Tuesday October 1: ReFrame Ministries: French ministry** - Pray for Sanata, a Muslim-background believer in Burkina Faso who is forbidden by her father to attend church. Ask for wisdom as she balances faith and family. May God give her strength in her new Christian walk and work in the hearts of her father and other family members as well.

**Wednesday October 2: Thrive: Refugees** - Lord, open our eyes to see the needs of refugees; open our ears to hear people's cries for justice; open our hearts to help sojourners near and far. Show us where love, hope, and faith are needed. Guide us to protect people who are disadvantaged and to defend those who are poor, that we may be able to do some work of peace.

**Thursday October 3: Resonate Global Mission** - All nations give thanks for the ways God is working in and through Resonate to spread the gospel to people of all nations. We support more than 140 missionaries working in over 40 countries, and we work alongside more than 60 church plants and over 30 campus ministries throughout North America that reflect diverse cultures, languages, and backgrounds.

**Friday October 4: World Renew -Haiti** - Our hearts go out to people living in Haiti, where gang-related violence has escalated this year. We ask God to intervene and bring peace in Haiti and in other countries where chaos and unrest persist. Please pray for God's protection over our staff and partners in areas experiencing violence and conflict.

**Saturday October 5: Centre for Public Dialogue - Grace and justice** - In a U.S. election year and as the Canadian Parliament resumes, we pray for our polarized society. May political leaders have wisdom and may the church model graciousness and discernment. May leaders take seriously their responsibilities to address poverty and to act justly in the months and years ahead.

<b>Tech Team</b>	<b>Today: October 6</b>	<b>Next Week: October 13</b>
Sound:	Mardick S.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Isaac D.	Henry H.
Video:	Tim H.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund