

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
October 13, 2024 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

*"You are salt for the earth, O people;
salt for the kingdom of God!"*

Prelude

Welcome

* Opening Hymn: LUYH #521 v. 1-3

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

1. Come, thou Fount of every 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 God's unchanging love.
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering 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 that grace now like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt., P.D.; Music: J. Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813, P.D.; CCLI # 678905

* Opening Prayer

*Call to Worship: Based on Psalm 103

Leader: Praise the LORD, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

**People: Praise the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.**

Leader: Praise the LORD, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.

**People: Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.**

Leader: Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere
in his dominion.

People: Praise the LORD, O my soul.

—Psalm 103:1-2, 20-22, NIV

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #560 v. 1-3

“We Praise You, O God”

1. We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.
2. We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through life’s storm and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o’ertake us, you never forsake us.
And with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.
3. With voices united our praises we offer;
our songs of thanksgiving to you we now raise.
Your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us.
To you, our great Redeemer, fore’er be praise!

Words: Julia C. Cory, 1902, alt., P.D.; Music: a. Valerius, *Nederlandschtch Gedenckclandk*, 1626, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

* God’s Greeting / We Greet Each Other

"Share the favor of life, O people:
life in the kingdom of God."

Announcements

Call to Confession: Psalm 51:1-2

Prayer of Confession

Sung Prayer of Confession: LUYH #623 v. 1-2

"God Be Merciful to Me"

1. God, be merciful to me;
on your grace I rest my plea.
My transgressions I confess;
grief and guilt my soul oppress.
Wash me, make me pure within;
cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.
2. Gracious God, my heart renew;
make my spirit right and true.
In your presence let me stay;
by your Spirit show the way.
Your salvation's joy impart,
steadfast make my willing heart.

Words of Assurance

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

—Psalm 103:8-13, NRSV

God's Law

For you were once darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord.
Live as children of light
(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness,
righteousness, and truth)
and find out what pleases the Lord.
Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness,
but rather expose them.
For it is shameful even to mention
what the disobedient do in secret.
But everything exposed by the light becomes visible,
for it is light that makes everything visible.
—Ephesians 5:8-14, NIV

* Sung Prayer of Thanksgiving: LUYH #623 v. 3-5
"God Be Merciful to Me"

3. So shall sinners be restored
and return to you, their Lord;
Savior, all my guilt remove,
and my tongue shall sing your love;
touch my silent lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall praise accord.
4. Not the formal sacrifice
has acceptance in your eyes;
broken hearts are in your sight
more than sacrificial rite;
contrite spirit, pleading cries,
you, O God, will not despise.
5. Prosper Zion in your grace
and her broken walls replace:
then our righteous sacrifice
shall delight your holy eyes;
free-will offerings, gladly made,
on your altar shall be laid.

Words: Psalter, 1912, alt., P.D

Offering: General Fund

Offertory Video: *"Wealth and Worry"* – The Bible Project

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

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #899 v. 1-3 *"Seek Ye First"*

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.
2. Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

Sing acapella

3. We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia.

Words and Music: Matthew 6:33, 7:7, 4:4; para. Karen Lafferty, 1972,
© 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin Music Services; CCLI #678905

*"Bring forth the kingdom of mercy;
pray for the kingdom of peace;"*

Scripture Reading: Esther 4

Prayer of Illumination

Message: *"For Such a Time as This"*

Time of Prayer

*"Work for the kingdom of justice;
hope for the city of God!"*

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #739 v. 1-3 *"I Surrender All"*

1. All to Jesus I surrender,
all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him,
in his presence daily live.

Refrain

*I surrender all, I surrender all;
all to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.*

2. All to Jesus I surrender,
make me, Savior, wholly thine;
let me feel thy Holy Spirit, truly know
that thou art mine.

Refrain

3. All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to thee;
fill me with thy love and power,
let thy blessing fall on me.

Refrain

Words: Judson W. VanDeVenter, P.D. 678905

* Proclamation of our Faith: Our Hope in the Age to Come

Leader: God saves the world through Jesus.
Those who call on that name will have life.

**People: Christ's hand reaches out beyond those
who say "Lord" to the infants
who live in the atmosphere of faith,
even to the farthest stars and planets
of all creation.**

Leader: The boundaries of God's love are not known;
the Spirit works at the ends of the world
before the church has there spoken a word.

**People: God will renew the world through Jesus,
who will put all unrighteousness out,
purify the works of human hands,
and perfect their fellowship in divine love.**

Leader: Christ will wipe away every tear;
death shall be no more.

**People: There will be a new heaven and a new earth,
and all creation will be filled with God's glory.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: Sing! #123 v. 1-3 *"Bring Forth the Kingdom"*

1. You are salt for the earth, O people:
salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
Life in the kingdom of God!

Refrain

*Bring forth the kingdom of mercy;
pray for the kingdom of peace;
work for the kingdom of justice;
hope for the city of God!*

2. You are a light on a hill, O people:
light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people;
shine for the kingdom of God!

Refrain

3. You are a seed of the Word, O people:
live for the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
grow in the kingdom of God!

Refrain

*"Bring Forth the Kingdom" Words and Music: Mary Haugen; based on Matt. 5:13-16,
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Postlude

Welcome! We cordially welcome all who worship with us today. With joyful hearts let us approach God and share kindness toward one another. 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: October 13	Next Week: October 20
Sound:	Henry VZ	Tim H.
Projection:	Henry H.	Maddie D.
Video:	Brandon S.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

October 13, 2024

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

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

Describe a cross-cultural experience you've had. How did that experience make you feel?

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 Takes 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 meet Sunday, October 13 at 9:30 am.

Choir will meet October 13 following the A.M. service.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study will meet at IHOP on Tuesday, October 15 at 7:00 am. We are studying Galatians. If you have any questions, please reach out to Greg Boon.

GEMS will meet this Wednesday, October 16 at 7:00 pm.

A new **Worship Service Schedule** is in the mailboxes for those who volunteer during the worship service for November – May. Be sure to pick up your copy today.

Worship Service YouTube Links:

October 6, 2024: <https://youtu.be/TAPzq12wl3c>

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

Cookies or bars will be served after the Reformation Day evening service On October 27. If you are willing to bake, please sign up on the sheet provided on the coffee table. Thanks so much.

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.

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.

Rides Needed: There is a sign up sheet on the coffee table to sign up to pick up Shirley Boonstra for churches for November – January. Thanks for your willingness.

Fountainview Academy Choir and Orchestra is coming from Lillooet, British Columbia, Canada to Mount Vernon First Christian Reformed Church on **December 4 at 7:00 p.m.** Come and enjoy a free concert of up to 100 young people praising God with voices and instruments as they perform a variety of Christmas carols and classics. We hope to see you there and feel free to invite friends.

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts: October 13

Terri & Mandi D, Jill R, Simon LC.

Next week: October 20

Randy & Juli O, Randy & Katie F.

Worship Team: October 13

Greg B, Mandi D, Franchesca B, Emmalyn S.

Next Week: October 20

Julie Speck, Henry VZ, Adriana / Tessa S.

Nursery: October 13: Brook K, Myra VDB

Next Week: October 20 – Kayla VH, Lauren VDB

Children in Worship: October 13 - Heidi B, Ella VH

Next Week: October 20 – Heather VH, Landon L.

This Week:

Sunday: October 13

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 Service

Monday: October 14 – Council at 6:30 pm

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

Wednesday: October 16 – GEMS at 7:00 pm

Upcoming Events:

Sunday: October 20 at 6:30 pm - Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday: Cadets at 7:00 pm

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

Sunday: October 27—6:30 pm - Reformation Day Service

Wednesday: December 4—Fountainview Academy Choir

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

Kids Corner: Beatitude 2: Blessed By Sadness? - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. As Jesus taught his followers in the Sermon on the Mount, He said, “God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort!”. Grieving means someone is really, really sad. When you think about someone grieving, how do you think God blesses them? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible Story Podcast Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

Groundwork: What it Means to be God's Chosen People - When we’re through challenging times, we may find ourselves wondering: “Does my life matter? Am I making a difference?” Join Groundwork as we study 1 Peter 2:4-25 to see how Peter comforts Christians experiencing suffering by affirming their identities in Christ and their intrinsic value as God’s chosen people. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Hurricane Milton Response - World Renew Disaster Response Services is working with our partners in Florida to coordinate a response to Hurricane Milton. World Renew is already present in Sarasota to assist after hurricanes Debby (Aug) and Helene (Sept). Pray for comfort, recovery, and hope for hurricane survivors in Florida and the southeastern US. Please give generously to World Renew DRS Hurricane Milton response at worldrenew.net/hurricanemilton, call 1-800-552-7972, or mail a check made out to World Renew DRS, with “DRS Hurricane Milton” in the memo line, to: World Renew, 8970 Byron Commerce Dr., SW, Byron Center, Michigan, 49315.

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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.

Brad and Crystal De Kok thank everyone for the prayers that were said when Crystal's son Eric had his accident.

Amy Stiles thanks you for your continued prayers. She is happy to report that her heart has begun to show a slight improvement due to your prayers, new medication and small lifestyle changes. There will be more cardiology appointments in the future, but she knows that God is the greatest physician and puts her trust in Him.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

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

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

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 October 7- ReFrame: Japan - Praise God for Mariko in Japan, whose faith journey began through ReFrame's Asa no Kotoba ("Morning Word") audio program. A broadcast on peacemaking and 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 led Mariko to explore Scripture, attend church, and be baptized. Pray for her continued growth and for the program's ongoing impact.

Tuesday October 8: Resonate: Ontario -Andrew, Lisa, and their son, Alec, decided to follow Christ after becoming part of Living Hope Community Church, a Resonate partner church plant in Ontario. Praise God! Please pray for this family as they continue to grow as disciples of Christ.

Wednesday October 9: World Renew: New staff - We recently welcomed some new staff members, including Christi Schaeffbauer as chief finance and investment officer and Garry Mayhew as head of humanitarian and emergency affairs. Please pray for all staff members and for smooth transitions for all who have moved into new roles within World Renew. May God guide them to thrive in their roles.

Thursday October 10: ReFrame: Ministry - Pray for staff who work in various ways to create broadcasts and podcasts and other resources, for people who interact with listeners requesting prayer, and for volunteers who help in the ministry of ReFrame. Thank God for their contributions, and may the Holy Spirit continue to touch hearts and lives through this ministry.

Friday October 11: GEMS Girls' Clubs - On this International Day of the Girl, pray for God's blessing and protection for all GEMS clubs around the world. May GEMS continue to provide safe places for girls everywhere to belong, to be loved, and to discover who Jesus is and how they can have a living, dynamic relationship with him.

Saturday October 12: Resonate: California - David wrestled for a long time with depression and thoughts of suicide. Though a Christian, he didn't feel worthy of God's love and grace—but then he found Church of Refugia, a Resonate partner church plant in California. Give thanks for the way God is working in David's life.

Sunday October 13: Thrive: Clergy appreciation - We thank God for the faithful pastors he has placed across our denomination to shepherd, disciple, serve, and council CRCNA congregations and others who need to hear of Christ's love.