

**Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!**  
**Pastor John Knoester**  
**October 20, 2024 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service**

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

*“Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,”*

Prelude

Welcome

**\* Opening Hymn: LUYH #579 v. 1-4**

*“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above,  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

Words: Walter C. Smith, 1867, alt., P.D.; Music: Roberts' Caniadau y  
Cyssegr, 1839, P.D. CCLI #678905

**\*Opening Prayer**

\* Call to Worship: Based on Psalm 150:1-2

Leader: Hallelujah! Praise!

Praise God in the temple, in the highest heavens!

**People: Praise! Praise God's mighty deeds and noble majesty.**

Leader: All that is alive, praise!

**People: Praise the Lord. Hallelujah!**

\* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #559 v. 1-3

*"Ten Thousand Reasons"*

*Refrain*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;  
worship his holy name.*

*Sing like never before, O my soul;  
I'll worship your holy name.*

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;  
it's time to sing your song again.  
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,  
let me be singing when the evening comes.

*Refrain*

2. You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger.  
Your name is great, and your heart is kind.  
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing—  
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

*Refrain*

3. And on that day when my strength is failing,  
the end draws near, and my time has come;  
still, my soul will sing your praise unending—  
ten thousand years and then forevermore!

*Refrain*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;  
worship his holy name.*

*Sing like never before, O my soul;  
I'll worship your holy name,*

*worship your holy name, worship your holy name.*

Words and Music: Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman © 2011 Shout! Publishing, sixsteps Music, Said and Done Music and Thankyou Music (PRS), admin. in the United States and Canada at EMICMGPUBLISHING.com, sixsteps Music and Said and Done Music admin. at

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EMICMGPUBLISHING.com excluding Europe which is admin. at Kingswaysongs CCLI #678905

\* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

*"Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;"*

Announcements

Call to Confession: Based on Romans 8:39

Prayer of Confession

Sung Prayer of Confession: LUYH #682 v. 1-3

*"Before the Throne of God Above"*

1. Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea,  
a great High Priest whose name is Love,  
who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on his hands,  
my name is written on his heart;  
I know that while in heaven he stands  
no tongue can bid me thence depart,  
no tongue can bid me thence depart.
  
2. When Satan tempts me to despair  
and tells me of the guilt within,  
upward I look and see him there  
who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died,  
my sinful soul is counted free;  
for God the Just is satisfied  
to look on him and pardon me,  
to look on him and pardon me.
  
3. Behold him there! The risen Lamb,  
my perfect, spotless righteousness;  
the great unchangeable "I AM,"  
the King of glory and of grace!  
One with himself I cannot die,  
my soul is purchased by his blood;  
my life is hid with Christ on high,  
with Christ, my Savior and my God,  
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

Words: Charitie Lees DeCheney Bancroft (1841-1923), P.D.; Music: Vikki Cook,  
1997, ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship, admin. EMICMGPublishing.com;  
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## Words of Assurance

### God's Law

#### \* Song of Thanksgiving: "Wonderful Merciful Savior" v. 1-3

1. Wonderful merciful, Savior,  
precious Redeemer and Friend;  
Who would have thought that a Lamb  
could rescue the souls of men?  
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

#### *Chorus*

*You are the One that we praise,  
You are the One we adore,  
You give the healing and grace  
our hearts always hunger for,  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.*

2. Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,  
Spirit we long to embrace;  
You offer hope when our hearts  
have hopelessly lost the way,  
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.

#### *Chorus*

3. Almighty, infinite Father,  
faithfully loving Your own;  
Here in our weakness You find us  
falling before Your throne,  
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.

#### *Chorus*

Words and Music by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse; ©1989 Word Music,  
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### Offering: General Fund

### Offertory

*(Immediately following the offering children ages 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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

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*“Thy justice like mountains high soaring above,”*

Scripture Reading: Esther 5

Prayer of Illumination

Message: *“Esther’s Crafty Plan”*

Time of Prayer

*“Thy clouds which are fountains  
of goodness and love.”*

\* Hymn of Application: LUYH #443 v. 1-4

*“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”*

1. My life flows on in endless song;  
above earth’s lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.

*Refrain*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I’m clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?*

2. Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?

*Refrain*

3. What though my joys and comforts die?  
The Lord my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth.

*Refrain*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?*

4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing?

*Refrain*

Words: Robert Lowry (1826-1899), P.D.; Music: Robert Lowry, alt., P.D.; CCLI  
#678905

\* Proclamation of our Faith:

Leader: We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

**People: In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image,  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.**

Leader: But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

**People: Ignoring God's commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature.  
We deserve God's condemnation.**

Leader: Yet God acts with justice and mercy  
to redeem creation.

**People: The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves  
and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the church.**

Leader: The same Spirit who inspired the prophets  
and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men  
to all ministries of the church.

**People: In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ  
as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom,  
and peace.**

\* God's Blessing

\* Parting Praise: LUYH #938 *"My Friends, May You Grow in Grace" 2X*

My friends, may you grow in grace  
and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.  
My friends, may you grow in grace  
and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory, now and forever,  
now and forever, amen.

To God be the glory, now and forever,  
now and forever, amen.

Words: 2 Peter 3:18; Timothy James Meaney (b. 1965) and Sean Diamond (b. 1968);  
rev. Gregg DeMey b. 1972) and Gregory Kett (b. 1970) © 1991, 2001 Wiseman Music  
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Postlude

**Welcome!** Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them  
ever sing for joy." Those are the words of the psalmist in  
Psalm 5:11. Whoever you are, wherever you are from, we  
welcome you and we invite you to "be glad" with us about  
God's goodness and mercy. Let us "ever sing for joy" and  
praise God with profoundly grateful hearts. 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.



# First CRC Bulletin Announcements

**October 20, 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 time when you experienced a sense of God's absence or abandonment. What spiritual practices helped you through that season?

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 20 at 9:30 am.

**Choir** will meet October 20 following the A.M. service.

**Cadets** will meet this Wednesday, October 23 at 7:00 pm.

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

### **Worship Service YouTube Links:**

October 13, 2024: <https://youtu.be/o65gZjFoN5U>

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)*

**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.

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.

**Cadet Pancake Dinner Fundraiser** will be held on Wednesday, November 13 from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Come and support the Cadets!!

If you are able to pick up **Shirley Boonstra** so she can worship with us on Sunday morning for the months November – January, please sign up on the sheet provided on the coffee table in the fellowship hall. 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 20

Randy & Juli O, Adam & Katie F.

Next week: October 27

Jeff & Monica D, John & Judy V.

**Worship Team:** October 20

Julie Speck, Henry VZ, Adriana S. / Tessa S.

Next Week: October 27 – AM Service

Eliot B, Mandi D, Kayla VH, Ella VH

October 27 PM Service

Henry & Pam VZ, Greg B, Heidi B.

**Nursery:** October 20: Kayla VH, Lauren VDB

Next Week: October 27 AM: Marissa VK, Tessa S.

October 27 PM Service: Adriana S, Tessa S.

**Children in Worship:** October 20

Heather VH, Landon L.

Next Week: October 27

Angela S, Tess VDH

**This Week:**

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

**Wednesday:** October 23 at 7:00 pm - Cadets

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

**Upcoming Events:**

**Sunday:** October 27 at 6:30 pm

Reformation Day Service

Youth Group after the Reformation Day Service

**Tuesday:** October 29 at 7:00 am

Men's Breakfast Bible Study at IHOP

**Sunday:** November 3 - Youth Group

**Sunday:** November 10 – No Youth Group

**Wednesday:** November 13 from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Cadet Pancake Dinner Fundraiser

**Wednesday:** December 4 at 7:00 pm

Fountainview Academy Choir

### **ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:**

**Kids Corner: Beatitude 3: Lead Like Jesus** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). "Humble Leader." Does that sound impossible? A humble leader makes decisions because it will help everyone who looks up to them to get better at something, feel better about themselves, or grow more confident in their abilities. Being a humble leader means we don't want "to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45). Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like the Liz and Friend Story Podcast: At Your Service.

**Kids in Action** - Do you know a kid doing a special ministry or a group of young people doing God's work right now? Maybe an artist, justice-seeker, or tree planter? Nominate them to be featured in a new Kids in Action video. Do you or a friend have a story to share? We would love to hear your story. Contact us at [kidscorner@reframemedia.com](mailto:kidscorner@reframemedia.com). Check out all our Kids in Action seasons at [kidscorner.net/kids-in-action](http://kidscorner.net/kids-in-action)

### **Groundwork: Encouragement When We Suffer for Being**

**Christians** - Have you ever been tempted to hide your faith for fear of judgment or ridicule? Join our Groundwork conversation as we study 1 Peter 3 to find courage in the grace of Jesus Christ to remain faithful to the gospel in the face of injustice and suffering. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - Today is Disability Awareness Sunday. First Corinthians 12 describes the church as the body of Christ—a body with many parts that play different roles. As you think about your role within your church or community, which body part(s) do

you think you might be? Perhaps you are the eyes and heart, sharing empathy and kindness where you see hardship and struggle. Maybe you are the big toe, providing stability and balance. Are you like blood vessels gifted at connecting and linking others? Thank God for how God made you and how each person in God's kingdom is essential. Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)



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 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)**

**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.

**Monday October 14 - World Renew: Thanksgiving Day (Canada)** - With thankful hearts we acknowledge God's goodness and provision as we work to help people break the cycle of poverty in many settings around the world. May the God of mercy bless families and individuals with good health, nourishment, justice in their communities, relief from disasters, and opportunities to thrive.

**Tuesday October 15 - ReFrame: Family Fire** - Pray for Tessa, a woman who is facing marital reconciliation challenges. Her ex-husband is willing to try again but struggles with negativity. Ask for healing in their relationship and wisdom to navigate this difficult time. May God's will prevail amid spiritual warfare.

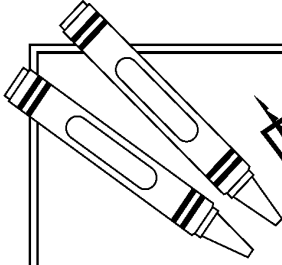
**Wednesday October 16 - Resonate: Disability awareness** - Give thanks for the many individuals and families who have found a church home through City Hope GR, a Resonate partner church plant in Grand Rapids, Mich., that serves people of all abilities. Please pray for this church as they continue to reach more people.

**Thursday October 17 - ReFrame: India** - Praise God for a successful cake-baking training attended by 25 participants. The training session combined gospel sharing with income-generating skills. Ask that the bonds formed during this event may strengthen the community and deepen their walk with Christ.

**Friday October 18 - World Renew: Maternal and child health** - The well-being of mothers and children can determine the health of a community for the future. World Renew works to provide maternal and child health training and resources for communities worldwide. Pray for the continuation of this work so that every mother can access the care she needs and every child can have a healthy start.

**Saturday October 19 - Resonate: Hungary** - When Hanis moved from Nigeria to Budapest to attend university, he struggled to find community—until he met Resonate missionaries Jeff and Julie Bouman. Hanis found friends who helped him grow through International Student Fellowship, and he is serving with Resonate's Cohort Europe this year. Please pray for him as he continues to follow God's call in his life.

Tech Team	Today: October 20	Next Week: October 27
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry H.
Projection:	Maddie D.	Maddie D.
Video:	Brandon S.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund



# PUZZLE

## SIGNS OF *Rebirth*

Isaiah 35 describes the rebirth of a dry land when Jesus returns, as well as the signs of God's beautiful creation at springtime.

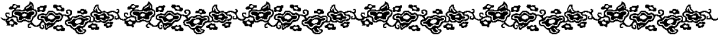
**Directions:** Solve each math problem. Then write the words in order, from smaller numbers to larger numbers, in the spaces below.

bloom  $6+1=$  \_\_\_ blossom  $2 \times 2=$  \_\_\_ rejoice  $4 \times 2=$  \_\_\_

burst  $3+3=$  \_\_\_ wilderness  $2+1=$  \_\_\_ joy  $5+5=$  \_\_\_

crocus  $3+2=$  \_\_\_ desert  $1 \times 0=$  \_\_\_ parched  $0+1=$  \_\_\_

glad  $2 \times 1=$  \_\_\_ shout  $10-1=$  \_\_\_



"The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ land will  
be \_\_\_\_\_ ; the \_\_\_\_\_ will rejoice  
and \_\_\_\_\_. Like the \_\_\_\_\_,  
it will \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_ ; it  
will \_\_\_\_\_ greatly and \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_."

*Isaiah 35:1-2, NIV*

Answers:  
"The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy."