

***Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!***  
***Pastor John Knoester***  
***November 24, 2024 ♦ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service***

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

*“Trusting in the Father,”*

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 GIA  
Publications, Inc. CCLI#678905

\* Opening Prayer

\* Call to Worship: Based on Psalm 46

Leader: God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.

**People: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,  
though it's waters roar and foam  
and the mountains quake with their surging.**

Leader: There is a river whose streams make the glad  
the city of God, His holy place where the Most High  
dwells.

**People: God is within her, she will not fall;  
God will help her at break of day.**

Leader: Be still and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations.  
I will be exalted in the earth.

**People: The Lord Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

\* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #532 v. 1-3 *“Be Still, for the Presence”*

1. Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.  
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found; we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

2. Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.  
He burns with holy fire; with splendor he is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.
3. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.  
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him; in faith receive from him.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Words and Music: David Evans (b.1957) ©1986,

Kingsway's Thankyou Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing; CCLI# 678905

\* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

*"Hearts are fully blest,"*

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

God's Law: Colossians 3:12-15

\* Hymn of Thanksgiving: 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; CCLI #678905

Offering: General Fund

Offertory Video: Book of Esther

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

*"Finding as he promised,"*

Scripture Reading: Esther 9-10

Prayer of Illumination

Message: **"A Great Reversal"**

Time of Prayer

## *"Perfect peace and rest."*

\* Song of Application: LUYH #370 v. 1-3 *"My Soul Finds Rest"*

1. My soul finds rest in God alone,  
my rock and my salvation;  
a fortress strong against my foes,  
and I will not be shaken.  
Though lips may bless and hearts may curse,  
and lies like arrows pierce me,  
I'll fix my heart on righteousness;  
I'll look to him who hears me.

### *Refrain*

*O praise him, hallelujah,  
my delight and my reward;  
everlasting, never failing,  
my Redeemer, my God.*

2. Find rest, my soul, in God alone  
amid the world's temptations;  
when evil seeks to take a hold,  
I'll cling to my salvation.  
Though riches come and riches go,  
don't set your heart upon them;  
the fields of hope in which I sow  
are harvested in heaven.

### *Refrain*

3. I'll set my gaze on God alone  
and trust in him completely;  
with every day pour out my soul,  
and he will prove his mercy.  
Though life is but a fleeting breath,  
a sigh too brief to measure,  
my King has crushed the curse of death,  
and I am his forever.

### *Refrain (2x)*

Words and Music: Psalm 62:1-2, 4-8, 10, 12; Galatians 3:13, Aaron Keyes, Stuart Townend © 2008 ThankYou Music (PRS), admin. worldwide at EMICMGPublishing.com (excl. Europe admin. by Kingswaysongs) CCLI #678905

\* Proclamation of our Faith: From “Our Song of Hope”

– Our hope in the church

Leader: Christ elects the church to proclaim the Word  
and celebrate the sacraments, to worship God’s name,  
and to live as true disciples.

**People: He creates this community to be a place of prayer,  
to provide rest for the weary,  
and to lead people to share in service.**

Leader: The Holy Spirit sends the church to call sinners  
to repentance, to proclaim the good news  
that Jesus is personal Savior and Lord.

**People: The Spirit sends the church out in ministry  
to preach good news to the poor,  
righteousness to the nations,  
and peace among all people.**

Leader: The Holy Spirit builds one church,  
united in one Lord and one hope,  
with one ministry around one table.

**People: The Spirit calls all believers in Jesus to respond  
in worship together, to accept all the gifts  
from the Spirit, to learn from each other’s traditions,  
to make unity visible on earth.**

Leader: Christ places baptism in the world  
as a seal of God’s covenant people,  
placing them in ministry,  
assuring them of the forgiveness of sins.

**People: God knows those who are baptized in Jesus’ name,  
guiding the church gently to lead us,  
calling us back when we go astray,  
promising life amid trials and death.**

Leader: Christ places the Lord’s table in this world.  
Jesus takes up our bread and wine to represent  
His sacrifice, to bind his ministry to our daily work,  
to unite us in his righteousness.

**People: Here Christ is present in his world  
proclaiming salvation until he comes,  
a symbol of hope for a troubled age.**

\* God's Blessing

\* Parting Praise: LUYH #699 v. 1-2 *"Like a River Glorious"*

1. Like a river glorious is God's perfect peace,  
over all victorious in its bright increase:  
perfect, yet still flowing fuller every day;  
perfect, yet still growing deeper all the way.

*Refrain*

*Trusting in the Father,  
hearts are fully blest,  
finding, as he promised,  
perfect peace and rest.*

2. Hidden in the hollow of his mighty hand,  
where no harm can follow, in his strength we stand.  
We may trust him fully all for us to do;  
those who trust him wholly find him wholly true.

*Refrain*

*Words: Frances R. Havergal, 1878, alt., P.D.; Music: James Mountain, 1876, P.D.  
CCLI #678905*

Postlude

**Welcome!** A hearty welcome to all who have come to worship. We gather in gratitude before our loving Creator and Sustainer. Let us approach God with purity of heart and reach out to each other with care and joy. 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 November 24	Thanksgiving Eve November 27	Next Sunday December 1
Sound:	Henry H.	Mardick S.	Tim H.
Projection:	Maddie D.	Isaac D.	Beth B.
Video:	Isaac D.	Tim H.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	Designated	General Fund

# First CRC Bulletin Announcements

**November 24, 2024**

*The deadline for announcements this next week is Wednesday, 9:00 A.M.*

## **OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

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

What does following Jesus mean to you in your current season of life?

**Beth will be OUT of the OFFICE** Nov. 28 & 29. If you have a Bulletin Announcement or Prayer Guide item to be put into the bulletin for Dec. 1, please have it to be by the morning of Weds., Nov. 27. Thank you!

With the Christmas season upon us, it's that time to bless children in our community through **ANGEL TREE**. Angel Tree is a program of Prison Fellowship that serves incarcerated parents by providing a pathway for strengthening and restoring their relationships with their children and families. As a church, this gives us the opportunity to share Christ's love by purchasing Christmas gifts for the children on their parent's behalf. Each child receives a gift valued at around \$35. On December 1st following the service, Angel Tree tags with the child's name, age and suggested gift ideas will be available for you to pick up. Any questions? Please reach out to Catherine Vander Kooy 360-982-8429.

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

9. Nov. 24 – “A Great Reversal” (Esther 9-10)

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** will meet on Tuesday, November 26 at 7:00 am at IHOP.

**Worship Service YouTube Links:**

AM November 17, 2024: <https://youtu.be/kUR55Hs0rOw>

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)

**A Big Thank you** to all who volunteered to pick up and drive Shirley Boonstra to and from church! We have the calendar filled through January!

There is **NO CHOIR PRACTICE** this morning after church. Please be at church by 6:30 pm Nov. 27 for Thanksgiving Eve service practice.

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

***Creation groans***

*waiting for the children of God to be revealed*

***Creation groans***

*waiting to be born again;*

*waiting to be released from the bondage  
of sin and decay.*

***Creation groans***

*in wars and rumors of war, in signs and wonders.*

*These are the birth pangs that  
come before all things are made new.*

***Creation groans***

*in expectation of being fully restored,  
renewed, and reborn.*

***We groan too***  
*for the Spirit of God is in us*  
*And moving toward all that is yet to be.*

***Come Celebrate!***  
***Christ has died, Christ is Risen,***  
***Christ will come again!***

***We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper at our Thanksgiving Evening Service.***

**Save These Dates!**

1. **Candlelight Service** - Sunday, Dec. 22 at 6:30 PM
2. **Christmas Day Service** - Wednesday, Dec. 25 at 10 AM (Note earlier time)
3. **Post High School Pizza Night:** Thursday, Dec. 26 at 6pm and Coconut Kenny's. Please RSVP to Pastor John ([jknoes0812@gmail.com](mailto:jknoes0812@gmail.com)) or to Beth at ([secretary@firstcrmv.com](mailto:secretary@firstcrmv.com))
4. **Movie Night at Church** - Friday, Jan. 24 (Title of movie yet to be determined!)

**CALENDAR:**

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts:** November 24

Mardy & Kristi S., Katie J.

Next week: December 1: Greg & Tish A., Randy & Peggy B.

**Worship Team:** November 24: Eliot B., Heidi B., France B., Emma S.

Next Week: December 1: Henry VZ, Julie S., Adriana & Tessa S.

**Nursery:** November 24: Glenda K & France B.

Next Week: December 1: Jeannette F., Ella VH

**Children in Worship:** November 24: Heather VH, Kenzie S.

Next Week: December 1: Heidi B., Jennaya B.

### **This Week:**

**Sunday:** November 24

Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Youth Group: 6:30 pm

Ladies Bible Study at 6:30 pm

Monday, Nov. 25, 5:30 pm: Faith CF Thanksgiving dinner; 6:15 pm service

**Wednesday:** November 27, 7 pm Thanksgiving Worship

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Wednesday:** December 4 at 7:00 pm Fountainview Academy Choir

**Sunday, December 1: CHURCH POTLUCK**

**Friday:** December 6 at 7 pm NOËL Ensemble

**Friday:** December 13 at 7 pm: Sonshine Singers Christmas Concert

**Sunday,** December 22 at 6:30 pm: Candlelight Service

**Wednesday,** December 25 at 10:00 am: Christmas Day Service

**Thursday,** December 26, 6 pm: Post-High School Pizza Night at Coconut Kenny's in Burlington

Friday, January 24: Movie Night at Church

### **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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. Invite your friends.

The NOËL ensemble bringing the magic and the mystery of a medieval Christmas with harps, flute, strings, and poetry will be held. No tickets required . . . a free event with a freewill offering to benefit New Earth Recovery. Will be held **Friday December 6, 2024 @ 7:00 pm at Bethany Covenant Church at 1318 S. 18th Street - Mount Vernon, WA** . Warm yourself with song and story, support men and women in recovery, and prepare your heart for the season.

**You are invited to The Sonshine Singers Christmas Concert** here at First CRC on Friday, December 13 At 7:00pm. Please join them for a night of joy-filled song as we gather to celebrate the Christmas season!

**CRC COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Groundwork: Your Questions about Christmas** - Did the Christmas story really happen? Wasn't Christmas originally a pagan holiday? Why do some churches celebrate Advent? Join Groundwork as we study Luke 2:1-7, John 1:5, Isaiah 53:4-6, and Psalm 78:1-6 to let Scripture guide our discussion answering questions we've received about Christmas and Advent. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - This week try playing the alphabet game using the topic "Things I'm grateful for." Prayers can take many forms, and naming things A-Z is a great way to remember that "every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17, NIV). Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)



How can  
we  
**PRAY**  
for you?

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.

**NEW REQUESTS:**

Congratulations to **Juliana LeClair** on her recent engagement to **Josh Holsopple!** <3

**Joan DeVries'** surgery went well Tuesday, and she is now waiting for biopsy results. We thank God for a successful surgery! Please pray for good answers from the doctor.

**John Velasquez** was recently diagnosed with a serious lung disease. He is currently on oxygen full-time and is currently waiting to get into therapy for greater improvement. Please pray that he can get into therapy soon and that it will be effective!

**CONTINUING REQUESTS:**

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.

**OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)**

**Monday November 18 - ReFrame: Spanish ministry**

Please pray for Nancy, who recently shared that our Cada Día devotions have been a blessing in her life, as she and her family gather at night to study them together. May this family continue to grow in wisdom and understanding through the Word of God.

**Tuesday November 19 - Kuyper College: Mission**

Please pray for us as we fulfill our mission to form lifelong learners for purposeful lives of work and service to God and neighbor. May our community of biblical higher education be guided by God's wisdom, empowering students to grow in knowledge, faith, and love as they serve others, seeking to advance his kingdom.

**Wednesday November 20 - Resonate: Uganda**

Resonate missionary Anastaze Nzabonimpa asks for prayer for the refugees he is working with in Uganda. Pray for encouragement for them, asking God to assure them that he is there for them.

**Thursday November 21 - Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee: Relationships**

Please pray for wisdom as the CRC's Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee sorts relationships with Reformed Christian groups that are close partners with the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

**Friday November 22 - *World Renew: Laos***

Northern Laos has recently experienced heavy flooding, leading to damaged homes, school closures, livestock losses, and other forms of devastation. Please pray for speedy recovery efforts in Laos as well as in other areas inundated by Typhoon Yagi in early September. May people living near rivers and in low-lying areas remain alert and receive God's protection.

**Saturday November 23 - *Thrive: Leadership***

Please pray for pastors, chaplains, and all church staff who work tirelessly to lead their congregations. May they find rest, encouragement, and wisdom through the support and resources we provide, and may they experience renewed strength in their calling.

**Sunday November 24 - *Resonate: Ministry leaders***

Please pray for our missionaries, campus ministers, and church planters who are shining a light for Christ in more than 40 countries throughout the world, including Canada and the United States. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance, wisdom, and opportunities to share God's love.