

# **Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!**

**Pastor John Knoester**

**February 2, 2025 ♦ 10:30am Service**

\* Please stand in body or in spirit

*"Find rest my soul in God alone,  
amid the world's temptations;"*

Prelude

Welcome

\* Sung Call to Worship: 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;  
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\* 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 Song 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.*

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\* Opening Prayer

\* Song of Response: *"O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer"* v. 1-3

1. O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Greatest treasure of my longing soul  
My God, like You there is no other  
True delight is found in You alone  
Your grace, a well too deep to fathom  
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach  
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom  
My highest good and my unending need
  
2. O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Strong defender of my weary heart  
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver  
And my shield against his hateful darts  
My song when enemies surround me  
My hope when tides of sorrow rise  
My joy when trials are abounding  
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night
  
3. O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Gracious Savior of my ruined life  
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders  
In my place You suffered bled and died  
You rose, the grave and death are conquered  
You broke my bonds of sin and shame  
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
May all my days bring glory to Your Name

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\* God's Greeting

\* We Greet Each Other

*"When evil seeks to take ahold,  
I'll cling to my salvation."*

Announcements

## Invitation to Transformed Living:

### Call to Confession

Our Lord Jesus said:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it:

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

On these two commandments hang all the law  
and the prophets.”

As God has instructed us in these great commandments,  
and because we have not lived in full obedience,  
let us now confess our sins to God,  
trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord.

—based on Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV

### Prayer of Confession

Video Teaching: *“Generosity”* – The Bible Project

### Words of Assurance

“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.  
We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”

\* Song of Thanksgiving: *“Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor”* v. 1-4

1. Christ the sure and steady anchor  
In the fury of the storm  
When the winds of doubt blow through me  
And my sails have all been torn

#### *Chorus 1*

*In the suffering in the sorrow  
When my sinking hopes are few  
I will hold fast to the anchor  
It shall never be removed.*

2. Christ the sure and steady anchor  
While the tempest rages on  
When temptation claims the battle  
And it seems the night has won

*Chorus 2*

*Deeper still then goes the anchor  
Though I justly stand accused  
I will hold fast to the anchor  
It shall never be removed*

3. Christ the sure and steady anchor  
Through the floods of unbelief  
Hopeless somehow O my soul now  
Lift your eyes to Calvary

*Chorus 3*

*This my ballast of assurance  
See His love forever proved  
I will hold fast to the anchor  
It shall never be removed*

4. Christ the sure and steady anchor  
As we face the wave of death  
When these trials give way to glory  
And we draw our final breath.

*Chorus 4*

*We will cross that great horizon  
Clouds behind and life secured  
And the calm will be the better  
For the storms that we endured.*

*Chorus 5*

*Christ the shore of our salvation  
Ever faithful ever true  
We will hold fast to the anchor  
It shall never be removed.*

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## Offertory

*(Following the offertory children ages 3-3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited to make their way to Children in Worship in the Fellowship Hall)*

\* Song of Preparation: LUYH #746 v. 1-3

*"Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"*

1. Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,  
breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord  
to renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause your Word to come alive in me;  
give me faith for what I cannot see;  
give me passion for your purity;  
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.
  
2. Holy Spirit, come abide within,  
may your joy be seen in all I do.  
Love enough to cover every sin,  
in each thought and deed and attitude.  
Kindness to the greatest and the least,  
gentleness that sows the path of peace.  
Turn my striving into works of grace;  
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.
  
3. Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,  
giving life to all that God has made,  
show your power once again on earth,  
cause your church to hunger for your ways.  
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;  
lead us on the road of sacrifice,  
that in unity the face of Christ  
may be clear for all the world to see.

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*"Though riches come and riches go,  
don't set your heart upon them."*

Scripture Readings: Luke 12:13-21

## Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“The Parable of the Rich Fool”***

Time of Prayer

*“The fields of hope in which I sow  
are harvested in heaven.”*

\* 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*

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

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

\* We Proclaim our Faith:

Leader: God has shown us the meaning of generosity  
in the beautiful diversity of creation,  
in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ,  
in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit.

**People: God has abundantly blessed us and called us  
to be a community that honors each other,  
to serve others with joy,  
to share our love and material possessions.**

\* Call to Service:

Leader: Go into the world: dance, laugh, sing, and create.

**People: We go with the assurance of God's blessing.**

Leader: Go into the world: risk, explore, discover, and love.

**People: We go with the assurance of God's grace.**

Leader: Go into the world: believe, hope, struggle,  
and remember.

**People: We go with the assurance of God's love.**

\* God's Blessing

\* Parting Praise: LUYH #302 v. 1-2 "*Hear Our Praises*"

1. May our homes be filled with dancing,  
may our streets be filled with joy.  
May injustice bow to Jesus  
as the people turn and pray.

*Refrain*

*From the mountain to the valley,  
hear our praises rise to you.  
From the heavens to the nations,  
hear our singing fill the air.*



2. May your light shine in the darkness  
as we walk before the cross.  
May your glory fill the whole earth  
as the water over the seas.

*Refrain x2*

*From the mountain to the valley,  
hear our praises rise to you.  
From the heavens to the nations,  
hear our singing fill the air.*

Words and Music: Reuben Morgan © 1998 Hillsong Publishing (APRA), admin. US  
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Postlude

**Welcome!** We invite all of you to praise God with hearts and hands and voices. Let us be mindful of the wonders God has given us. Come rejoice in God and together sing praises to His name. Reach out in warmth to all who have gathered in the house of the Lord. 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.

<b>Tech Team</b>	<b>Today February 2</b>	<b>Next Sunday February 9</b>
Sound:	Mardick S.	Henry VZ
Projection:	France B.	Tim H.
Video:	Tim H.	France B.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

# First CRC Bulletin Announcements

## February 2, 2025

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

### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

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

**What is one thing you've learned from a neighbor?**

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** will meet on Tuesday, February 4 at 7:00 am at IHOP.

**There is NO choir practice after the morning service today.**

**Don't forget to sign up as a volunteer to drive Shirley Boonstra to and from church. The sign-up sheet is by the coffee in the fellowship hall.**

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** Our new women's Bible Study will start Sunday February 16th at 6:30 PM at the church. We will study the "Psalms of Ascen"t with Beth Moore. It is a Bible Study of Psalms 120-134. Traveling pilgrims sang these psalms both on the way to great festivals and as key elements of festival worship. Our Lord Jesus sang these songs on his way to Jerusalem's festivals. We will explore the major feasts of Israel with themes of unity, joy, gratitude, redemption, repentance, and more. Please join us for an introductory session on the 16th. Home study is optional as Beth Moore has an in depth lesson we'll see each week and discuss. It will be a 7 session study ending mid May.

A sign up sheet for books will be in the fellowship hall.

For information or online registration please contact Jill Rouw at [jillrouw@gmail.com](mailto:jillrouw@gmail.com) or 360-333-2600.

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

AM January 26, 2025: <https://youtu.be/YUL3sVB21Sq>

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)



Luke 16:19-31

16. Apr. 13      *"The Persistent Widow"* Luke 18:1-8

17. Apr. 18      *"The Parable of the Tenants"*

Luke 20:9-19

**Ministry Associate Position Update:** Pastor Brad's term call is coming to an end at the end of June. We are grateful for his years of service with us and trust that God will open the necessary doors for further ministry service in the weeks and months ahead. Please keep Pastor Brad and the various churches he is conversing with in your prayers.

In the meantime, we recently began advertising the Ministry Associate position again and are grateful that we have already received four applications. At the last joint elders and deacons meeting the following council and congregational members were asked and/or appointed to serve on the interview team: Joni Beezhold, Harmen De Jong, Henry Hammingh, Katie Jungquist, Jill Rouw, Jon Vander Kooy, Dave Visser, and Pastor John.

Lord willing, the hope is that the interview team will make a recommendation to the church council by early April. Afterwards, if approved by council, we hope to bring the recommended individual to Mount Vernon to meet the congregation sometime at the end of April and/or early May. Congregational approval is needed to extend a call and our hope is that this will be an item on the agenda of our May 19 congregational meeting. If you have any questions and/or concerns - please don't hesitate to reach out to a council member. In the meantime, please keep the interview team in your prayers throughout the week ahead.

### **CALENDAR:**

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts:** Today, February 2: Brooke K., Harmen & Sue DJ

Next Week, February 9: Hank & Sylvia VZ, Fred F.

**Worship Team:** Today, February 2: Men's Group

Next Week, February 9: Eliot B., Heidi B., Kayla & Ella VH

**Nursery:** Today, February 2: Angela S., Ella VH

Next Week, February 9: Catherine VDK & Noah VDK

**Children in Worship:** Today, February 2: Jenny VV., Myra VDB

Next Week, February 9: Tim VH, Macy VDP

**This Week:**

**Sunday:** February 2

Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Church Potluck after morning service

No choir practice

Youth Group

**Upcoming Events:**

**Friday, March 14:** "Taste of Asia"! Please sign up to come or bring an entrée in the Fellowship Hall.

**ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:**

**Leanna Crawford**  
STILL WATERS TOUR

Featuring **Cade Thompson**

28  
FEB

SCAN FOR  
TICKET INFO

7:00  
PM

Compassion

A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR MOUNT VERNON CHRISTIAN PTF

**CRC COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Kids Corner: God Created Me** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). God deliberately designed each one of us. This means we fit together in God's story like pieces in a giant puzzle. Being part of a huge family means we will always have someone we can help or someone who can teach us. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like KC's Valentine Cards.



## A "Taste of Asia" is Coming to First CRC in March!

Friday, March 14, 2025.

There are two sign-up sheets  
in the fellowship hall.

One sign-up sheet is for attending.

The second sign-up sheet  
is if you plan to bring a dish.

Please sign up by February 23, 2025.



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.

### CONTINUING REQUESTS:

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

**SHUT INS:** *Nell Annema* and *Shirley Boonstra* at Birchview Memory Care 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)

**Sunday January 26 - Cadets: Cadets and counselors**

Our "Lead the Way" theme, inspired by 1 Timothy 4:12, encourages cadets and counselors to become leaders in their clubs, churches, and communities. We ask for your prayers for counselors as they guide boys to grow in Christ,

and for cadets to boldly live out their motto: “Living for Jesus.” Let’s prayerfully support the next generation of Christ-centered leaders!

**Monday January 27 - Thrive: Chaplains**

When events like floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes strike communities, active and retired chaplains from across North America are often called upon to provide emergency support, critical incident debriefing, and spiritual care. Some also assist police and fire departments in the wake of car accidents, suicides, and shootings. Please pray for chaplains providing such support in communities that are suffering.

**Tuesday January 28**

***Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee: Fellowship***

Thank God for the members willing to serve on this committee. May he grant wisdom and insight as they interact with churches from many denominations worldwide. Ask God to use this committee to encourage and strengthen bonds with these churches on behalf of the CRC, that together we may learn from each other how best to serve our living Lord.

**Wednesday January 29 - Resonate: Berlin**

Pray for the WillkommensGemeinde, a church that missionaries David Kromminga and Mary Buteyn have planted with and for refugees in Berlin. Not only are newcomers to the city finding faith and a supportive community through this church, but local Germans are too.

**Thursday January 30 - GEMS Girls' Clubs: Welcome**

Please pray for unchurched girls in GEMS who may be hearing about Jesus for the first time. May they all feel welcome in their local club and experience God’s love for them. Pray that they may receive Jesus as their Savior, develop godly friendships, and experience positive discipleship relationships with their GEMS leaders.

**Friday January 31 - ReFrame: Indonesia**

ReFrame’s Indonesian ministry team’ just launched two programs for young people on YouTube, Dongeng Anak (“Children’s Stories”) and Film Anak (“Children’s Movies”). Pray that these new videos will reach young families and their loved ones in Indonesia.

**Saturday February 1 – World Renew: Disaster Response Services (DRS)**

Wildfires have devastated several locations in the Los Angeles, Calif., area. Please pray for all who have been evacuated and for all of the firefighters working to contain the fires. Pray for measures and conditions that can prevent more fires from starting, not only in California but also elsewhere in the world. Ask God to be with all the DRS volunteers who offer needed assistance in crises like this one.