

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
June 15, 2025 ♦ 10AM Service

*** Please stand in body or in spirit**

*"And with compassion for the hurting,
You reached out Your hand"*

Prelude

Welcome

*** Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #23 v. 1-4**

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

1. Children of the heavenly Father
safely in his bosom gather,
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.
2. God his own shall tend and nourish,
in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil powers he spares them;
in his mighty arms he bears them.
3. Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
for to them his grace revealing,
he turns sorrow into healing.
4. God has given, he has taken,
but his children ne'er forsaken;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.

Words: Carolina Sandell Berg (1832-1903); tr. Ernst W. Olson (1870-1958);

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#A-711218

* Opening Prayer

* Call to Worship:

Leader: God so loved the world that he gave his own
dearly beloved Son so that everyone who believes
in him will not perish but have everlasting life.

**People: On this day of remembrance and hope,
we declare with joy:
God did not send his Son into the world
to condemn the world but to save it.**

Leader: Together, let us worship God.

- based on John 3:16-17

* Opening Song of Praise: LUYH #21 v. 1-3

"This is My Father's World"

1. This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.
2. This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me everywhere.

Acapella

3. This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King, let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let the earth be glad.

Words: Maltbie D. Babcock (1858-1901) P.D.; Music: English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard (1852-1930), P.D.; CCLI #678905 Music (TERRA BEATA 6.6.8.6 D): English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard (1852-1930), P.D.

* God's Greeting and Greeting of One Another

*"As the lame ran to meet You
and the dead breathed again;"*

Announcements

Ministry Update:

Melissa Bos – Missionary in Residence at Calvin Theological Seminary

Call to Confession:

In repentance and rest is your salvation,
in quietness and trust is your strength,
but you would have none of it.
Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you;
he rises to show you compassion.
For the LORD is God of justice.
Blessed are all who wait for him!

—Isaiah 30:15, 18, NIV

Prayer of Confession

Sung Prayer of Confession: *"Rock of Ages"* v. 1,3

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in Thee;
let the water and the blood,
from Thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure:
save from guilt and make me pure.
2. Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no languor know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.
3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to Thy cross I cling;
naked, come to Thee for dress;
helpless, look to Thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

Words of Assurance

All the prophets testify about Christ
that everyone who believes in him
receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

—from Acts 10:43, NRSV

Song of Thanksgiving: “Rock of Ages” v. 4

4. While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyelids close in death,
when I rise to worlds unknown,
see Thee on thy judgment-throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Augustus M. Toplady, 1776. Thomas Hastings, 1830 CCLI #678905

Offering: General Fund/Benevolence

Offertory Video: The Prodigal Son: Luke 9-19 – The Bible Project

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

* Song of Preparation: “The Compassion Hymn” v. 1-2

1. There is an everlasting kindness
You lavished on us
When the radiance of heaven
Came to rescue the lost
You called the sheep without
A shepherd to leave their distress
For Your streams of forgiveness
And the shade of Your rest
2. And with compassion for the hurting
You reached out Your hand
As the lame ran to meet You
And the dead breathed again
You saw behind the eyes of
Sorrow and shared in our tears
Heard the sigh of the weary
Let the children draw near

Chorus

What boundless love what fathomless grace
You have shown us O God of compassion
Each day we live an off'ring of praise
As we show to the world Your compassion

*"You saw behind the eyes of sorrow
and shared in our tears"*

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:11-32

Prayer of Illumination:

Message: ***"The Parable of the Prodigal Son – The Prodigal Father"***

Time of Prayer

*"Heard the sigh of the weary,
let the children draw near."*

*Song of Application: *"The Compassion Hymn" v. 3-4*

3. We stood beneath the cross of Calv'ry
And gazed on Your face
At the thorns of oppression
And the wounds of disgrace
For surely You have borne our suff'ring
And carried our grief
As You pardoned the scoffer
And showed grace to the thief

Chorus

What boundless love what fathomless grace
You have shown us O God of compassion
Each day we live an off'ring of praise
As we show to the world Your compassion

4. How beautiful the feet
That carry this gospel of peace
To the fields of injustice
And the valleys of need
To be a voice of hope and healing
To answer the cries
Of the hungry and helpless
With the mercy of Christ

Chorus (2x)

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*(During the singing of this hymn the children
will be returning to the sanctuary)*

* We Celebrate Communion Together

Declaration of God's Invitation and Promises

Words of Institution: (Based on Luke 13:29, 24:30-31)

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from east and west,
from north and south, and sit at the kingdom of God.
When our risen Lord was at the table with his disciples,
he took the bread, and blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened
and they recognized him.
This is the Lord's table.
Our Savior invites those who trust him
to share the feast that he has prepared.

Summary of Scriptural Teaching:

God meets us in the sacraments,
holy acts in which his deeds elicit our response.
In the supper our Lord offers
the bread and cup to believers
to guarantee our share in his death and resurrection,
and to unite us to him and to each other.
We take this food gladly,
announcing as we eat that Jesus is our life
and that he shall come again
to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.

—from *Our World Belongs to God*, st. 40

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Work of Christ

Preparing the Bread and the Cup

Invitation

Communion

Distribution: *(As the elements are being served)*

◆ *“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” v. 1-3*

1. How deep the Father’s love for us,
how vast beyond all measure
that He should give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss.
The Father turns His face away
as wounds which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.
2. Behold the Man upon a cross,
my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life.
I know that it is finished.
3. I will not boast in anything:
no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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◆ LUYH #833 v. 1-3 *“There is a Redeemer”*

1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Chorus:

*Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.*

2. Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.

Chorus

3. When I stand in glory, I will see His face;
there I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.

Chorus

Words and Music: Melody Green (b. 1946)©1982 Birdwing Music(ASCAP)/BMG
Songs (ASCAP)/ Ears to Hear Music (ASCAP), admin. EMICMGPublishing.com
CCLI# 678905

◆ LUYH #844 v. 1-5 *“Lift Up Your Hearts unto the Lord”*

1. Lift up your hearts unto the Lord,
lift up your hearts unto the Lord.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
lift up your hearts unto the Lord!
2. In Christ the world has been redeemed,
in Christ the world has been redeemed.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
in Christ the world has been redeemed.
3. His resurrection sets us free,
his resurrection sets us free.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
his resurrection sets us free.
4. Therefore we celebrate the feast,
therefore we celebrate the feast.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
therefore we celebrate the feast.

Acapella

5. Sing alleluia to the Lord,
Sing alleluia to the Lord.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
Sing alleluia to the Lord.

Words: st. 1-4 from early Christian liturgy; st. 5 Linda Stassen, 1974, © 1974
Linda Stassen; Music: Linda Stassen, 1974; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986, © 1974,
1986 Linda Stassen; CCLI #678905

Sharing of the Bread:

Response of Praise and Prayer

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #489 v. 1-4 *"By the Sea of Crystal"*

1. By the sea of crystal saints in glory stand,
myriads in number, drawn from every land.
Robed in white apparel, washed in Jesus' blood,
they now reign in heaven with the Lamb of God.
2. Out of tribulation, death, and Satan's hand,
they have been translated at the Lord's command.
In their hands they're holding palms of victory.
Hark! the jubilant chorus shouts triumphantly:
3. "Unto God Almighty, sitting on the throne,
and the Lamb, victorious, be the praise alone."
God has wrought salvation; he did wondrous things.
Who shall not extol thee, holy King of kings!

Words: William Kuipers, 1933, based on Revelation 4-5, © 1976 Faith Alive
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Postlude

The Lord's Supper: This morning, we will commemorate Jesus' death and resurrection as we celebrate the Lord's Supper. By faith, Jesus' death fully covers all our sin and by His resurrection power He gives us everlasting life. May Christ's Spirit strengthen us in faith, hope, and love as we draw near to Christ Jesus through His Spirit. *The Lord's Supper is a table of grace. All those who have received the grace of Christ and confess Him as Lord and Savior of their life are warmly invited to participate. Yet, know too that there is also 'grace' from this community of faith for those who do not yet confess Christ as Lord. And if that's the case then we encourage you not to partake until you have the genuine desire to receive God's grace and are ready to proclaim Christ as your 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.*

Tech Team	Today: June 15	Next Week: June 22
Sound:	Tm H.	Mardy S.
Projection:	France B.	Beth B.
Video:	Brandon S.	France B.
Offering:	1st: General Fund 2nd: Benevolence	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

June 15, 2025

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

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

What might the Spirit be lamenting in your neighborhood? How might you join others in your neighborhood to address this issue?

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:



New Address for Keith and Jean Rasmussen:

915 #5 Heather Circle

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

His Cell: 360-982-0346; Her Cell: 360-982-0347

Worship Service YouTube Links:

AM, June 8 Service: <https://youtu.be/nilQ23Dn208>

CEF Pledge Forms for the next school year (2025-2026) are in your respective mailboxes. Pledge forms must be returned to the office by June 30. Thank you.

New Elder Officers: At the June 2 elder's meeting the following individuals were selected to serve in the following roles: Eliot Blom (President), Greg Ackermann (Elder Vicar), Henry Hammingh (Elder Clerk), Henry Van Zanten Jr. (Records Clerk), Adam Faber (Lay Shepherd Liaison) and Jon Vander Kooy (Youth Elder)

Missionary Visit! This morning we welcome Melissa Bos, who is here to give an update on her work and share how God is using her in her current ministry. Please take the time to give her a warm welcome both before and after the service! Melissa Bos is currently serving as a Missionary in Residence at Calvin Theological Seminary.

Juliana LeClair and Joshua Holsopple invite you to witness the marriage covenant they make in Christ on Saturday, June 28, 2025 at 10:30 AM here at First CRC. A cookie reception will follow. We hope to see you there!

At the last Elders' meeting, the Elders decided to put some chairs in the wheelchair space in the sanctuary starting Sunday. These chairs will provide another option for those who can't sit in the pews but desire to still sit in the sanctuary.

Vacation Dates:

Pastor Brad will be out of the office from June 10-17.

Pastor John will be out of the office from June 20-26.

Beth will be out of the office from June 19-26.

Join Skagit Valley Pregnancy Care Center (formerly C.A.R.E.) for our Baby Bottle Campaign, running from now to Father's Day! *Skagit Valley Pregnancy Care Center* is a ministry that serves women and in the Skagit Valley. Their medical clinic provides free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, and STI testing. Grab your baby bottle today and next Sunday after the service and fill 'er up!

You are invited to an Open House to celebrate John Orange's 90th Birthday. The event will be at Heather Village Community Center on Friday, June 13, from 2-4 pm.

Sermon Series: The Parable of the Prodigal Son is arguably one of Jesus' most famous parables. Through the years many people have testified how this parable either initially brought them to faith, saved their faith, saved their marriage, or even saved their life. It's a parable

not just about one lost son, but two. More importantly it's a parable about a loving Father who is not only reconciling His children to himself, but the whole world. May God bless us as we spend four weeks meditating on this incredible parable together!

In His Grace, Pastor John

3. June 8 – “The Parable of the Prodigal Son – The Lost Older Brother”

4. June 15 – “The Parable of the Prodigal Son – The Prodigal Father”

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts: Next Week, June 15: Terry & Mandi D.

Next Week, June 22: Jill R, Dick & Linda G.

Worship Team: June 15: Henry & Pam VZ, Kayla & Ella VH

Next Week, June 22: Kevin & Glenda K., Adriana/Tessa S.

Nursery: Next Week, June 15: Catherine VDK & Myra VDB

Next Week, June 22: Lauren VDB & Emily VH

Children in Worship This Week, June 15: Angela S., Isaac D.

Next Week, June 22: Jodi VDP, Nellie VDH

THIS WEEK:

Sunday, June 15:

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sacrament of Communion

Please return your Baby Bottles for SV Pregnancy Care today!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sat., June 28, 10:30AM: Juliana LeClair's marriage to Josh Holsopple here at church

Sun., August 10: AM Outdoor Worship Service

Sat., August 16: Block Party

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

You're invited to Mid-America Reformed Seminary's annual Center for Missions and Evangelism Conference on October 3-4, 2025! This year's theme is *Gossiping the Gospel: Everyday Evangelism*, featuring pastors, church planters, and faculty from the Seminary. Come be encouraged and equipped, and register today at: midamerica.edu/cme/conference

CRC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions: Let's Dance - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Let's Dance" at www.kidscorner.net. Worshiping God isn't just about singing—it's about dancing, clapping, and celebrating Him with your whole self! Want to have fun praising God like King David did? Read on to find out how! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like The Summertime Collection, full of coloring pages, crafts, and activity books.

Groundwork: The Holy Spirit at Work - The gospel of Luke offers us a unique and valuable perspective on Jesus. Join our Groundwork conversation as we begin our study of the important themes in Luke with Luke 1:1-45, Luke 3:21-22, and Luke 4:1-2, looking at the central role and pervasive presence of the Holy Spirit throughout Luke's gospel. Listen now at Groundworkonline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Today we celebrate Trinity Sunday, which comes each year on the Sunday after Pentecost. We often hear the words "in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" as a part of God's greeting in worship, during baptisms, or during other important times in our lives such as funerals or weddings. These words remind us that we belong to God and that he is with us in all the moments of our lives. Celebrate the Trinity by searching online for a video of "Trinity Song by Sandra McCracken" and singing along. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

***God meets us in the sacraments,
holy acts that call for our response...***

***In the supper our Lord offers
the bread and cup to believers to
guarantee our share in his
death and resurrection,
and unite us to him and to each other.***

***We take this food gladly,
announcing as we eat
that Jesus is our life
and that He shall come again
to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.***

From: *Our World Belongs to God*
(PH – pg. 1031)

***Come share the fellowship
of the forgiven!***



How can
we
PRAY
for you?

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.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Continue to pray for those who have recently lost loved ones.

Amy Stiles' heart ablation surgery went well and she is recuperating at home. Please pray that she will now maintain a normal heart rhythm and for a healthy recovery.

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, Clarence Vander Griend at Home Place in Burlington; Sally Reehorn at Creekside in Burlington.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

Monday June 9 - World Renew: Mozambique

Join us in praying for peace and stability in northern Mozambique, where recent violent attacks have forced thousands of people to flee. Please pray for God's peace and for provision for people who have

been displaced. Pray also for safety for our staff and partners there as they work to share hope with vulnerable families.

Tuesday June 10 - *Thrive: Middle East*

God of peace who loves us all, God who loves the people of Israel and Palestine, God who loves the powerless and the powerful alike, we cry out to you. Bring your salvation near to us, Lord. We pray for an end to hostage-taking and killing. We pray for an end to terror, threats, and acts of vengeance. Amen.

Wednesday June 11 - *ReFrame: Mexico*

Pray for an end to violence in Tabasco state, Mexico, where our Spanish ministry is based. Rev. Huascar de la Cruz, Spanish ministry leader, asks for prayers that God will protect people who are threatened and will empower the ministry to continue boldly proclaiming the gospel—not only in Mexico but throughout Latin America.

Thursday June 12 - *Resonate: Addiction recovery*

Our church planter partners at Hesed Community Church in Detroit, Mich., share this request: “To create space for healing from addictions, Hesed has opened up its doors to allow an Alcoholics Anonymous gathering to take place in our Men’s Ministry House. Please pray with us that healing and deliverance may happen in this space.”

Friday June 13 - *Communications: Synod begins*

Pray for delegates and all others involved in the CRCNA’s annual decision-making gathering as Synod 2025 begins today at Redeemer University in Ancaster, Ont. May the guidance and love of the Holy Spirit shape all discussions and decisions.

Saturday June 14 - *Calvin Theological Seminary: Summer*

Pray for students as they begin summer routines—placements for graduates, summer ministry sites, work, and travel. Please ask for God’s continued guidance and care in forming students through their summer activities.

Sunday June 15 - *Thrive: Father’s Day*

Pray that the fathers and father figures in our congregations may know the peace, grace, and love of the Holy Spirit.