

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

October 19, 2025 ♦ 10:30AM Service

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

"My worth is not in what I own"

Prelude

Welcome

*** Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #6 v. 1-3**

"Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah"

1. Praise the LORD, sing hallelujah,
from the heavens praise his name;
praise the LORD, our great Creator;
all his angels, praise proclaim.
All his hosts, together praise him,
sun and moon and stars on high;
praise the LORD, O heavens of heavens,
and the floods above the sky.

Refrain

Praise the LORD, sing hallelujah,
for his name alone is high,
and his glory is exalted, and his glory is exalted,
and his glory is exalted, far above the earth and sky.

2. Let them praise the LORD their Maker:
they were made at his command.
God established them forever;
his decree shall ever stand.
Let the earth sing hallelujah:
raging seas, you monsters all,
fire and hail and snow and vapors,
stormy winds that hear his call.

Refrain

3. All you fruitful trees and cedars,
every hill and mountain high,
creeping things and beasts and cattle,
birds that in the heavens fly,
kings of earth and all you people,
princes great, earth's judges all;
praise his name, young men and maidens,
aged men, and children small.

Refrain

PSALM 148; Words: Bible Songs Hymnal, 1927, alt., P.D.; Music: William J. Kirkpa
(1838-1921), P.D.; CCLI #678905

* Opening Prayer

* Call to Worship:

Leader: The God of creation makes us one in body!

People: Let us join hearts and voices in praise of the Lord!

Leader: The God of Christ makes us one in the Spirit!

People: Let us join hearts and voices in praise of the Lord!

* Opening Song of Praise: 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 ATH ER US IN 10.9.10.10 D): Marty Haugen © 1982 GIA
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* God's Greeting and Greeting of One Another

"Not in the strength of flesh and bone"

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's own people, in order that you may proclaim
the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness
into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

People of God,

all of us together have received God's mercy in Christ.

In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed,
and made to be a community united in faith.

Thanks be to God. —based on 1 Peter 2:9-10, NRSV

Song of Thanksgiving: "My Worth is Not in What I Own" (Getty) v. 1-5

1. My worth is not in what I own;
not in the strength of flesh and bone.
But in the costly wounds of love at the cross.
2. My worth is not in skill or name;
in win or lose in pride or shame.
But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross.

Chorus

*I rejoice in my Redeemer.
Greatest treasure, wellspring of my soul.
I will trust in Him, no other;
my soul is satisfied in Him alone.*

3. As summer flowers we fade and die;
Fame, youth and beauty hurry by.
But life eternal calls to us at the cross.
4. I will not boast in wealth or might,
or human wisdom's fleeting light.
But I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross.

Chorus

5. Two wonders here that I confess:
my worth and my unworthiness.
My value fixed, my ransom paid at the cross.

Chorus (2x)

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Offering: 1st: General Fund; 2nd: Benevolence

Offertory

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

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #257 v. 1-4

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

1. Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

2. Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.
3. We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.
4. When we are called to part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

*Words: John Farrell, 1782, P.D.; Music: attr. Johann C. Nägeli, 1828, P.D.;
CCLI #678905*

"But in the costly wounds of love"

Scripture Readings: Luke 22:14-23, I Corinthians 11:17-34

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"The Lord's Supper – The Table of Grace"***

Time of Prayer

"At the cross"

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #691 v. 1-5 *"Amazing Grace"*

1. Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
3. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Words: st. 1-4 John Newton, 1779, st. 5 A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790,
P.D.Music: Virginia Harmony, 1831; adapt. and harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900,
P.D.; CCLI# 678905

We Celebrate Communion Together

Declaration of God's Invitation and Promises

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

Summary of Scriptural Teaching: (Based on HC Q&A 79)

Leader: Christ calls the bread his body
and the cup his blood,
or the new covenant in his blood.

People: **Christ has good reasons for these words.**
He wants to teach us that as bread and wine
nourish our temporal life,
so too his crucified body and poured-out blood
truly nourish our souls for eternal life.

Leader: But more important, he wants to assure us,
by this visible sign and pledge, that we,
through the Holy Spirit's work,
share in his true body and blood as surely as
our mouths receive these holy signs
in his remembrance,

People: **and that all of his suffering and obedience**
are as definitely ours as if we personally
had suffered and paid for our sins.

Invitation:

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Opening:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving for the Work of the Triune God:

Leader: With joy we praise you, gracious God,
for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image,
and kept covenant with us – even when we fell into sin.
We give thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life,
death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
Therefore, we join our voices with all the saints and angels
and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: We give thanks to God the Father that our Savior,
Jesus Christ, before he suffered, gave us this memorial
of his sacrifice, until he comes again. Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**People: Dying, you destroyed our death; rising you restored
our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory!**

Leader: Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit
so that this bread and cup may be for us
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.
May we and all you saints be united with Christ
and remain faithful in hope and love. Gather your
whole church, O Lord, into the glory of your kingdom.

**People: Though Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of
the Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever. Amen.**

Preparing the Bread and the Cup

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 #177 *"Oh, to See the Dawn" v. 1-4*

1. Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
nailed to a cross of wood.
This the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath,
we stand forgiven at the cross.

2. Oh, to see the pain written on your face,
bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Every bitter thought, every evil deed
crowning your bloodstained brow.
This the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath,
we stand forgiven at the cross.

3. Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath
quakes as its Maker bows his head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life,
"Finished!" the victory cry.
This the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath,
we stand forgiven at the cross.

4. Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,
for through your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death; life is mine to live,
won through your selfless love!
This the power of the cross:
Son of God slain for us.
What a love, what a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.

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◆ LUYH #840 *"Behold the Lamb" v. 1*

1. Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
slain for us- and we remember
the promise made that all who come in faith
find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of peace
around the table of the King.

Sharing of the Bread:

Take, eat, remember and believe that the body
of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness
of all our sins.

2. The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
torn for you- eat and remember
the wounds that heal; the death that brings us life
paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of love
around the table of the King.

Take, drink, remember and believe the precious blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness
of all our sins.

3. The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
shed for you- drink and remember
He drained death's cup, that all may enter in
to receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of grace
around the table of the King.

Response of Praise and Prayer

Worthy is the lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength,
and honor and glory and praise!

4. And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
to respond - and to remember
our call to follow in the steps of Christ
as His body here on earth.
And as we share in His suffering,
we proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
around the table of the King.

*"Behold the Lamb" Words and Music: Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend;
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#678905*

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #770 v. 1-4 *"In Christ Alone"*

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on the cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground His body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then, bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am His and He is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no human plan,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'til He returns or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

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Postlude

Welcome! We are so glad you chose to worship with us this Lord's Day. Today, we are having Holy Communion. Please reflect in reverence as we symbolize the body of Christ and His redemption for us. Please join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Tech Team	Today: October 19	Next Week: October 26 AM	Reformation Service October 26 PM
Sound:	Henry VZ	Tim H.	Tim H.
Projection:	Beth B.	Emily VH	Maddie D.
Video:	Brandon S.	France B.	France B.
Offering:	1st: General Fund; 2nd: Benevo- lence	General Fund	

First CRC
Bulletin Announcements
October 19, 2025

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

Deep Thoughts with PB & J:

If you could have God respond to one question today, what would it be?

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

There is Choir practice this morning after church.

There is a sign-up sheet for those willing to bring cookies for after our Reformation Day Service on the 26th. Thank you for your willingness to bake!!

The council has decided to partner with New Earth Recovery in accountability to their post graduates. The parsonage is a perfect fit for women who are ready to be on their own after working through the program requirements and who are having trouble finding affordable housing. The building committee is in the process of doing some flooring upgrades and the landscaping is being refreshed before NER starts renting it. For more information, feel free to speak to the elders, or if you feel called to help financially, speak to the deacons.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study meets every other Tuesday morning and is currently working through the books of Samuel. **They will be meeting next on Tuesday, Oct. 28.**

There are sign-up sheets for the Youth Group's annual Chili Cookoff and Pumpkin Carving Contest. If you plan to attend, or if you need a pumpkin, please sign up before the event! Fri., Oct. 24, 6:00-8:00pm.

Save the Date! On **Thursday, November 20 (7:00-8:30 PM)** representatives from Thrive (Congregational support agency of the CRC) will be here at First CRC to host a listening session with all parents of school-aged children. The purpose of the listening session is to hear how the denomination can better support your family's faith formation. Thrive wants to hear what has been beneficial, what has been hard, and what future resources you might like to see from the denomination.

All parents and caregivers of infants, toddlers, and school-aged children (through grade 12) are encouraged to participate. The various questions that will be asked that evening will be given out in advance and there will also be an opportunity to ask Thrive questions as well. **Ideally, we would like to have a minimum of 15 participants and no more than 30** sometime before **Sunday, November 9.** There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall as well as an opportunity to provide cookies/refreshments that evening as well. Thank you!

Combined Reformation Day Service! Come and bring your family and friends to the Reformation Day Service at the First CRC of Mount Vernon on *Sunday, October 26, at 6:30 PM.* Rev. Michael Kooy, the former pastor of First CRC will be proclaiming God's Word to us this year. The offering that evening will be for Northwest Hispanic Ministries. 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.

Dear Friends,

One of the things we confess every time we say the Apostles Creed is that we believe in "*the communion of saints.*" In other words, Christianity is not a solitary belief system. An isolated faith not only weakens the church within but also hinders its witness to the world.

Throughout the fall season we are going to spend some time digging deep into what Scripture says about living in fellowship with the people of God. In other words, what it really means for us to be united to Christ, baptized into communion, and called to live with Christlike love for one another.

The outline below is a 'tentative schedule' for the weeks to come. May God bless us as we engage in this study together! In His Grace, Pastor John

1. Sept. 14 - *"I Believe in the Communion of Saints"*
2. Sept. 21 - *"Our Union with Christ"*
3. Sept. 28 - *"Baptized into Communion"*
4. Oct. 5 - *"The Church – The Family of God and the Bride of Christ"*
5. Oct. 12 - *"Called to Love and Worship"*
6. Oct. 19 - *"The Lord's Supper – the Table of Grace"*
7. Nov. 2 - *"Serving Others in the Name of Christ"*
8. Nov. 9 - *"Building Up the Body"*
9. Nov. 16 - *"For All the Saints"*

Worship Service YouTube Links:

AM, October 12 Service: <https://youtube.com/live/Ga4ztkRIGU0?feature=share>

First CRC's Worship Services are now being livestreamed! Go to our YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/@1stcrcmv841>
You will see the option for the worship service Livestream there.

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts: October 19: Juliana H., Keith & Jean R
Next Week, October 26: Henry & Pam VZ, Kevin & Glenda K.

Worship Team: October 19: Eliot B., Julie, Adriana & Tessa S.
Next Week, October 26 am: Henry & Pam VZ, Emma S., Ella VH
October 26 pm: Men's Group

Nursery: October 19: Adriana S., Macy VDP
Next Week, October 26: Catherine & Noah VK

Children in Worship: October 19: Jenny VV, Emmalyn S.
Next Week, October 26: Julie S., Millie F.

THIS WEEK:

Sunday, Oct. 19:

No Sunday School

10:30am Lord's Supper Worship Service, Choir

6:30 pm Youth Group

Weds., Oct. 22, 7:00-9:00: Cadets

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Fri., Oct. 24, 6:00-8:00pm: Youth Group Chili Cookoff/Pumpkin Carve

Sun., Oct. 26, 6:30pm: Combined Reformation Service

Tues., Oct. 28, 7:00am: Men's Bible Study

Weds., Nov. 5, 6:30-8:30pm: GEMS

Thurs., Nov. 20, 7:00pm – 8:30pm: Denomination Faith Formation Event

CRC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kids Corner Devotions: Following God Fully - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Following God Fully" at www.kidscorner.net. Do you have the courage to stand up for what's right, even when others don't? Discover how trusting God like Caleb (Numbers 14:24) can help you follow Him fully—even when it's hard! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like our video Bible study "God's Big Story".

Groundwork: Living Our Faith Legacy - We are part of a communal, generational faith. Join Groundwork as we continue our celebration of Groundwork's 15th anniversary by studying Hebrews 12:1-2, 2 Timothy 2:1-2, Philippians 2:14-16, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Micah 6:8, Psalm 78:4, and 3 John 4 to explore what that means for how we live now and how we can participate in passing that faith to the next generation. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Disability Awareness Sunday - As you celebrate disability awareness this week, take time to thank God for people with disabilities who are a part of your life and your church family. Praise God for the gifts that each person can share. Pray that everyone in the church and community will notice people with disabilities and work to reduce barriers to their participation. Brainstorm ways in which you can participate in making your church a more inclusive space. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

Job Opening! Missionary Support Specialist - Resonate Global Mission - The successful candidate will coordinate and support the fundraising activities of Resonate missionaries so that missionary support networks are stewarded for effective support raising and ministry impact. This is a binational, full-time, hybrid role, and is designed to fill a Maternity Leave vacancy until November 2026. Apply at crcna.pinpointhq.com



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:

Beth's sister, **Paula DeBoard**, had a successful surgery and 2 different cancers were removed, but her lymph nodes were clear! Praise the Lord! Please keep her in your prayers as she continues healing.

Please continue to pray for Hank and **Jeanne Annema** as she continues with therapy. She is up and walking with a cane, but her speech is still very affected. Pray for patience and that she may have a rapid recovery from her stroke.

Please continue to pray for **Tish Ackermann** as Tish is recovering from knee surgery and dealing with a lot of pain and blood clots in her leg.

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)

Friday October 10 - Thrive: Refugees and hosts

Please pray that refugees and displaced people worldwide may find safety and peace. Pray also for host nations who have openly received

thousands of refugees; may God give them compassion and logistical wisdom in caring for vulnerable individuals and families.

Saturday October 11 - *GEMS Girls' Clubs: Day of the Girl*

October 11 is the International Day of the Girl. Please pray that girls around the globe may have a close relationship with Jesus and believe they are LOVED.

Sunday October 12 - *Centre for Public Dialogue: Training*

Please pray for people taking the Centre for Public Dialogue's online and in-person workshop "Faith in Action," which helps them to advocate for pressing issues in our society today. Pray that their faithful witness in the public sphere will make an impact for Christ.

Monday October 13 - *Resonate: Thanksgiving Day in Canada*

As we gather in gratitude across Canada today, let us thank God together for the many ways he is working through CRC congregations and through Resonate missionaries, church planters, and campus ministers to share the gospel in neighborhoods near and far away. Pray that people and communities of all nations will experience the hope of the gospel.

Tuesday October 14 - *ReFrame: Spanish ministry: Mexico*

Please pray for a Christian radio broadcaster in Mexico who is facing government restrictions on religious broadcasting. Ask God to provide wisdom, resources, and open doors for this ministry, and pray that the gospel may continue to reach listeners despite these unique challenges.

Wednesday October 15 - *Thrive: Disability Awareness Week*

Creator God, in the beginning you created, and you called everything "good." Made in your image, each of us belongs to you, to one another, and to your church. We lament the many ways we have perpetuated ableism in our lives, institutions, and churches. We confess the harm that these attitudes and actions have caused. Work in our hearts, we pray, for all your beloved children.

Thursday October 16 - *World Renew: World Food Day*

Around the world, extreme weather, economic instability, and ongoing conflicts and disasters are pushing more families into a food crisis. On World Food Day, please pray for World Renew and our partners as we work to help families worldwide to improve their food security through sustainable agriculture programs.