



701 West Blackburn Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360-336-2405

www.firstcrcmv.com

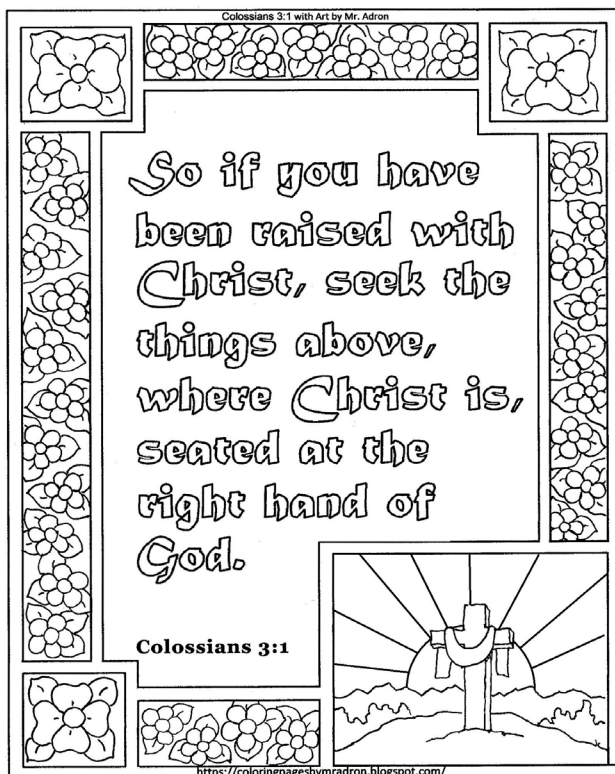
Pastor John Knoester

Pastor Jacob Pottebaum

Worship Service: 10:30 AM

Church School: 9:30 AM

September—May



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October 18, 2026

The Loop System is provided for those using hearing devices by using the telephone mode on your device.

This is available beginning in row 5 on either side of the sanctuary.

Welcome to Mount Vernon First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

October 18, 2026 ♦ 10:30 am Service

*Please stand in body or in spirit

“Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,”

Prelude

Welcome

*Call to Worship:

Leader: This is the good news—
the grave is empty; Christ is risen!

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the good news—
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the good news— once we were no people;
now we are God’s people.

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: Christ is our peace,
the indestructible peace we now share
with each other.

People: Hallelujah!

*Opening Songs of Praise:

♦ LUYH #7 v. 1-4 *“Sing Praise to the Lord, You People of Grace”*

1. Sing praise to the Lord, you people of grace;
fill heaven with the songs that sound from this place;
since you are God’s servants and meet in his name,
his wonders declare and his glory proclaim.

Refrain

Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Halle! Hallelujah!

2. His greatness exceeds what words can explain,
and his is the power no force can restrain;
with fanfares of horns and crescendos of strings
raise anthems to honor the King of all kings.

Refrain

Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Hallelujah!

Halle! Halle! Hallelujah!

3. Where music is made, let rhythms abound:
let cymbals and drums add weight to the sound;
with dance that is graceful and words that are clear,
bring joy to the God you adore and revere.

Refrain

4. Yield all that you are to worship the Lord—
see life as a psalm, each moment a chord;
let harmonies flourish and melodies soar—
let all that has breath praise the Lord evermore.

Refrain

PSALM 150; Words: Martin Leckebusch © 2006 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.; Music: Swee Hong Lim, Singapore © 2000 and arr. © 2010 Swee Hong Lim, admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik; All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-711218

◆ *“Living Hope” (Wickham) v. 1-3*

1. How great the chasm that lay between us.
How high the mountain I could not climb.
In desperation I turned to heaven
and spoke Your name into the night.
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
tore through the shadows of my soul.
The work is finished, the end is written.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.
2. Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
to wear my sin and bear my shame.
The cross has spoken; I am forgiven.
The King of kings calls me His own.
Beautiful Savior, I’m Yours forever.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Chorus (2x)

*Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain.
There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.*

3. Then came the morning that sealed the promise,
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
declared the grave has no claim on me.
(REPEAT)
Jesus, Yours is the victory!

Chorus (2x)

*Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain.
There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.*

Ending

Jesus Christ, my living hope.
Oh God, You are my living hope.

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CCLI #678905

*Opening Prayer: (WT Member)

*Song of Praise: LUYH #157 v. 1-3 *"Meekness and Majesty"*

1. Meekness and majesty, manhood and Deity
in perfect harmony, the Man who is God.
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility and washes our feet.

Refrain

*Oh, what a mystery-meekness and majesty;
bow down and worship, for this is your God.*

2. Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence,
yet learns obedience to death on a cross,
suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice,
and, as they crucify, prays, "Father, forgive."

Refrain

*Oh, what a mystery-meekness and majesty;
bow down and worship, for this is your God.*

3. Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,
Love indestructible in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,
lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne.

Refrain

"Meekness and Majesty" Text and Music: Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) © 1986,
Kingsway's Thankyou Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing CCLI# 678905

*God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

"Love indestructible in frailty appears,"

Welcome/Announcements

Reaffirmation of Faith – GH pg. 964

Testimony of Faith – Michael Moore

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #693 v. 1-5

"Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)"

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now I'm 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.

Chorus

*My chains are gone, I've been set free;
my God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood, His mercy reigns
unending love, amazing grace.*

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.

Chorus

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 first begun.

Words: John Newton (sts), refrain by Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio; © 2006 worshiptogether.com songs/sixsteps Music/Vamos Publishing; admin. EMI CMG Publishing; Music: traditional American melody; refrain and arr. Chris Tomlin and Louis Giglio EMICMGPublishing.com; arr. Diane Dykgraaf © 2012 worshiptogether.com Songs/sixsteps Music, Vamos Publishing, admin. EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI # 678905

Offering: 1st: General Fund; 2nd: Resonate Global Mission

Offertory

*(Following the conclusion of the offering children ages 3-3rd grade
are dismissed for Children and Worship)*

*Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #899 "Seek Ye First" v. 1-3

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.
2. Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

Sing acapella

3. We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia.

Words and Music: Matthew 6:33, 7:7, 4:4; para. Karen Lafferty, 1972,
© 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin Music Services; CCLI #678905

“Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,”

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Our Union with Christ”***

Time of Prayer

*Song of Application: *“Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me”* v. 1-4

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me
2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me
3. No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Ending

When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me
Yet not I but through Christ in me

CCLI Song # 7121852 Jonny Robinson | Michael Farren | Rich Thompson
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“Lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne.”

*We Profess our Faith Together: (Based on Colossians 3:1-4)

Leader: Since then, you have been raised with Christ,
set your hearts on things above, where Christ is,
seated at the right hand of God.

**People: Let us set our minds on things above,
not on earthly things.**

Leader: For you died, and your life is now hidden
with Christ in God.

**People: When Christ, who is our life, appears,
then we also will appear with Him in glory.**

*God's Blessing

*Parting Song of Praise: 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

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.

Words and Music: Matthew Westerholm © 1999 Matthew Westerholm;
arr. Greg Scheer © 1999 Matthew Westerholm; CCLI# 678905

***Postlude**

Welcome to our services of worship and praise! We pray that all will find strength, security, and fellowship with God and with one another. 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: October 18	Next Week: October 25am	Next Week: October 25pm
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry VZ	Tim H.
Projection:	Isaac D.	Tim H.	Beth B.
Video:	France B.	Isaac D.	France B.
Offering:	1 st : General Fund; 2 nd : Resonate Global Mission	General Fund	NW Hispanic Ministries

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

October 18, 2026

*The Deadline for Announcements this next week is **Thursday, 9:00 a.m.***

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Profession of Faith: This morning we have the opportunity to hear the public testimony of Michael Moore and welcome him as a new member of our church! Congratulations Michael - we hope you feel warmly welcomed into the life of our church family! May God continue to bless Michael and us together as we strive to live our faith and love for Jesus Christ.

There is choir practice today after the service.

New Worship Schedule: A new six-month worship schedule for volunteers (Scripture Readers, vocalists, piano, organ, technology, etc.) will be put together in early November. We are always looking to recruit new volunteers - especially students/young people! If you are interested in being added to the schedule, or if you would like to be removed - please let Beth know no later than **Sunday, November 1.**

I PICKED UP A HAMMER AND SAW: The Building and Grounds Committee is seeking the talents of our congregation for projects that may arise. If you have gifts in this area, please look at the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall and add your name to the different categories provided.

There is a fall sign-up sheet to provide transportation for Joy Faber to and from church on the sign-up table in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up to be a blessing to Joy!

Don't forget to sign up for Dessert Night with the Pottebaums! Sign up sheet is on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

It's that time of year! Time for the Youth Group Chili Cookoff and Pumpkin Carving Contest, October 23 at 6:00pm.

There has been some interest in having the Women's Bible Study become accessible to remote viewing/participation. If you are interested in this possibility, please let the office or Jill Rouw know so that we can test the waters on getting this possibly set up for this season.

We have two special offerings coming up in the next month or so: This morning and November 22 there will be a second offering for Resonate Global Mission.

There is a sign-up sheet to bring cookies for the Combined Reformation Day Evening Service on the 25th. Please sign up if you are willing and able to bring goodies to share!

Our next church potluck is set for November 1!

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 25, at 6:30 PM**. Rev. Kyle Dieleman, Associate Professor of Theology and History at Dordt University 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.

The next Men's Breakfast Bible Study will be this Tuesday, October 20, 7:00 am at IHOP.

The Women's Bible Study will be tonight at 6:30pm at church.

Worship Service YouTube Links:

PM, October 11 Service:

<https://youtube.com/live/1oWjRK2q9KA?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.

Dear Friends,

The main theme of the book of Colossians is the complete supremacy, authority, and sufficiency of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is Lord over all and head of the Church. His death and resurrection alone accomplish our salvation. Our new life in Christ radically changes how we live each day. One of the main purposes of Paul's letter to the church in Colossae is to encourage believers to continue in faith in Christ and to carefully guard against any threats to their spiritual well-being.

In the weeks to come, we are going to slowly make our way through this important letter of Paul. As we do so, we encourage you to be reading and reflecting on the text in advance of the Sunday proclamation. We encourage you to come with your questions. Come with your life's joys, uncertainties, and fears, and lay them before Him. Come with an eager anticipation to see what God is doing in our lives. For *"He is before all things, and in him all things hold together"* (Colossians 1:17). ... May God richly bless us as we embark on this journey together! In His Grace,
Pastor John Knoester and Pastor Jacob Pottebaum

1. Sept. 13 – Colossians 1:1-14
2. Sept. 20 – Colossians 1:15-23
3. Sept. 27 – Colossians 1:24-2:5
4. Oct. 4 – Colossians 2:6-15
5. Oct. 11 – Colossians 2:16-23
6. Oct. 18 – Colossians 3:1-4
7. Oct. 25 – Colossians 3:5-11
8. Nov. 1 – Colossians 3:12-17
9. Nov. 8 – Colossians 3:18-4:1
10. Nov. 15 – Colossians 4:2-6
11. Nov. 22 – Colossians 4:7-18

Family Visiting Sunday, November 8:

5:45 pm: Bryan & Deanna VB, Cody & Angela S., Cody & Amy S.

7:00 pm: Brian D., Mardy & Kristi S., Eric & Theresa VK

If you are unable to meet on the date you are scheduled for a visit, please call the elders who are assigned to your district (Found at the top of the column you are in on the 2026 Family Visiting Schedule)

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts: Today, Oct. 18: Jill R., Derek & Heidi B.
Next Week, Oct. 25: Mardick & Jill S., Brad & Crystal DK
Oct. 25pm: Adam & Katie F., Bob P.

Worship Team: Today, Oct. 18: Kevin K., Eliot B., Heidi B., Emma S.
Next Week, Oct. 25: Greg & Beth B., France B.
Oct. 25pm: Men's Group

Nursery: Today, Oct. 18: Glenda K., Maddie D.
Next Week, Oct. 25: Reese VDV, Macy VDP
Oct. 25pm: Catherine & Noah VDK

Children in Worship: Today, Oct. 18: Julie S., Lexi VDP
Next Week, Oct. 25: Heidi B., Leia V.

Volunteers to Pick up and Drive Home Joy Faber:

Today, Oct. 18: Mardick S.
Next week, Oct. 25: Melba DK

TODAY/THIS WEEK:

Sunday, October 18:

9:30am Children and Adult Sunday School
10:30 am: Morning Service
Choir Practice after the service
6:00 pm: Youth Group
6:30pm: Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7:00 am: Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 6:30pm: GEMS

Friday, October 23, 6pm: Youth Group Pumpkin Carving Night & Chili Cookoff!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, Oct. 25, 6:30pm: Combined Reformation Service

Weds., Oct. 28, 700pm: Cadets

Sunday, November 1: Church Potluck!

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

Surviving the Holidays

Faith Community Fellowship and Emmanuel Baptist Church are partnering to provide help for the bereaved through the difficult holiday season. A two-hour event called Surviving the Holidays will be hosted in the Fireside Room at Emmanuel Baptist on Saturday, November 7 at 9:30 AM. This special event is designed to give grieving individuals encouragement, support, and practical strategies for navigating the holiday season. Ten dollars is the suggested amount for this helpful morning which will include a video, discussion, refreshments, and an informative booklet to take home with you. For more information and to sign up, contact Dave and Nancy Visser. (360-770-9645)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Heather Village, a Christian Retirement Community in Mount Vernon, is seeking a property manager. Candidates must have excellent communication and organizational skills and be computer proficient. Previous experience in real estate or property management is preferred. This is a part-time position of up to 12 hours a week with potential growth. Interested individuals must submit a resume or list of qualifications, including references, to Mardick Stevens, Board President, Marjill@comcast.net or to the Heather Village office hvoffice2021@gmail.com. A detailed job description is available from the Heather Village office. Applications are accepted until Monday, November 2.

CRC ANNOUNCEMENTS

ReFrame Ministries

Groundwork: The Pain and Struggle of Unanswered Prayer - A listener wrote to us about childlessness and asked us to talk more about unanswered prayer. Join our Groundwork conversation as we honor his request and study Galatians 6:2, Isaiah 55:8-9, Hebrews 2:17-18, and Hebrews 4:15 to bring compassion, awareness, and biblical insight to the tender, often painful experiences and unanswered prayers in our lives. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Disability Awareness Sunday - Today is Disability Awareness Sunday. Did you know that for many people with disabilities, church is one of the least accessible places they go? Thrive provides resources and partners with churches to help make them more welcoming and accessible. Please support Thrive and their work for disability access in CRC congregations with a financial gift to them today.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - From Psalm 65:8: "The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy." Make this passage your morning and evening prayer this week. During the day, look for God's "wonders" and point them out to the people you share life with. Brought to you by Thrive: 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

call the church office at (336-2405)
by 9:00 am Thursday of each
week with your prayer items.

NEW REQUEST:

Last week Kevin Maas was hospitalized locally with meningitis and low sodium. Throughout the past week he has been undergoing multiple tests. Due to some of the results of these tests he has been transferred to Harborview in Seattle. Please keep Kevin and his entire family in your prayers during this time of much uncertainty.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Pray for the **VanderWal family** as they acclimate again to life in the United States, and for them to find a great living and job situation.

Please continue to keep **Keith Rasmussen's** heart in your prayers.

Please continue to pray for **Deanna Van Beek's father** as he fights cancer.

Pastor Brad Diekema's father will be starting a second round of chemo soon. Please keep him in your prayers for minimal side effects, but that it will stave off the cancer cells for a long period of time.

It was wonderful to see **Dena Klunder** at church last Sunday! Please continue to pray for her stroke 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 October 12 - Church Renewal: Thanksgiving Day (Canada)

Acts 13:1-3 describes a group that gathered to worship and pray, and from there God sent out Saul and Barnabas to spread the good news of Jesus. On this Thanksgiving Day in Canada we thank God for his many blessings, particularly his grace that extends to each of us, to our families, to our neighborhoods, to our country, and to the world.

Tuesday October 13 - ReFrame: Kalimantan

Naomi, a community member who serves in our Indonesian ministry, asks for healing as she battles thyroid disease, heart disease, and a lung condition. Ask God to restore her health and to grant her comfort and strength during this time of trial.

Wednesday October 14 - Thrive: Support

Pray for people living with chronic illness or disability, that they may experience rest and moments of relief from pain and be provided the support and accommodations they need to participate fully in the life of the church.

Thursday October 15 - Resonate: Community

Give thanks that people are finding community and belonging at City Hope GR, a Resonate-partner church plant for people of all abilities in Grand Rapids, Mich. Pray that relationships will continue to deepen, that newcomers will feel welcomed and cared for, and that people will experience the love of Christ as they build meaningful connections with one another.

Friday October 16 - World Renew: World Food Day

Every October thousands of people around the globe participate in World Hunger Awareness. We invite you to join in God's work of renewing the lives of 645 million hungry people in the world, praying for the transformation of hunger into hope.

Saturday October 17 - Centre for Public Dialogue: Disability awareness

Every person is created in God's image with unique gifts for service. As we observe disability awareness in the coming week, pray for the pursuit of justice and reconciliation in our public institutions. May our churches and governments promote accessibility, embrace every voice, and reflect Christ's love in all areas of life.

Sunday October 18 - Thrive: Disability Awareness Sunday

Creator God, we are made in your image, and 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, our institutions, and our churches. We have built structures and programs that are not accessible to all. We stigmatize accommodations. We confess the harm these attitudes and actions have caused. Holy Spirit, come among us and work in our hearts. We long to be your beloved church, for all your beloved children.