

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
January 24, 2021

Call to Worship: *from Psalm 89:1-4*

*I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:
"I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations."'"*
Praise the Lord!

God's Greeting

One Generation Will Call to the Next

We will extol you, God and King and bless your holy name.
Day after day we'll sing your praise; forever and forever.

Refrain: One generation will call to the next:
"Our God is good, and his hand is strong!"
All of the world sings his marvelous acts,
And our voice will join with theirs in the song.

Great is the Lord! In all his ways He's greatly to be praised.
Were we to search for endless days, His greatness none could fathom. *Refrain*

We contemplate the splendor of the world your hand has made.
Far greater still the majesty we see in the Creator! *Refrain*

Now may your name be sung in every tongue in every place.
Singing the fame of your great love in every generation. *Refrain*

("One Generation Will Call to the Next" words by Greg Scheer, © 2006 Faith Alive Christian Resources, CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Call to Confession: *Galatians 5:16-21*

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: *Galatians 5:22-25*

*But the fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;
against such things there is no law.
And those who belong to Christ Jesus
have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*

Morning Prayer

Speak, O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You,
To receive the food of Your holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today,
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes,
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see,
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built,
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

("Speak, O Lord" words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, © 2005 Kingsway's Thankyou MuiSe, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Scripture: Acts 15:19-35 (ESV)

¹⁹ Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, ²⁰ but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. ²¹ For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues. "

²² Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers, ²³ with the following letter: "The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. ²⁴ Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, ²⁵ it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷ We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. ²⁸ For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: ²⁹ that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell. "

³⁰ So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. ³¹ And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. ³² And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words. ³³ And after they had spent some time, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them. ³⁵ But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message: A Letter from the Council

God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory,
On your people pour your power;
Crown your ancient church's story,
Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
Scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of your salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving you whom we adore,
Serving you whom we adore.

("God of Grace and God of Glory" words by Harry E. Fosdick and music by John Hughes, © 1969 Concordia Publishing House, CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

God's Blessing

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen. Amen.

("Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" words by Thomas Ken and music traditional Black gospel, © Public Domain, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Pastors: Robert W, Mike B

Prayer: Wes V

Music: Nancy Z

Offering: Benevolence Fund is used to help local people and families in times of need. For more information, contact any deacon. Offerings can be placed in the basket as you leave the sanctuary, mailed to the church office (1010 Front Street, Lynden, WA 98264), dropped off (place in the mailbox), through a bill pay service, or electronically with Tithe.ly (www.tithe.ly) or through the app).