

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
April 25, 2021

Call to Worship: *Psalm 86:9-10*

*All the nations you have made shall come
and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.
For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.*

God's Greeting

Days of Elijah

These are the days of Elijah, declaring the Word of the Lord;
And these are the days of Your servant, Moses, righteousness being restored;
And though these are days of great trials, of famine and darkness and sword,
Still we are the voice in the desert crying "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

Refrain: Behold He comes, riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee,
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

And these are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh;
And these are the days of Your servant, David, rebuilding a temple of praise;
And these are the days of the harvest, the fields are as white in the world;
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard, declaring the Word of the Lord. *Refrain*

("Days of Elijah" words and music by Robin Mark, © 1996 Daybreak Music LTD, CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Living Hope

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.

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.

Refrain: 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. *Repeat Refrain*

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.
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. Jesus, yours is the victory! *Refrain*

("Living Hope" words and music by Phil Wickham and Brian Johnson, ©2017 Phil Wickham Music (BMI) / Seems Like Music (BMI) / Sing My Songs (BMI) (admin. at EssentialMusicPublishing.com) / Bethel Music Publishing (ASCAP), CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Call to Confession: *Hebrews 4:14-16*

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Prayer of Confession

Assurance: *Titus 2:11-14*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

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!

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!

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!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

("Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me" words and music by Leonard E. Smith, harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1984 © 1974, 1978 L.E. Smith, Jr., New Jerusalem Music, CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Morning Prayer

Scripture: *Acts 16:25-40 (ESV)*

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶ and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. ³⁴ Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

³⁵ But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go." ³⁶ And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace." ³⁷ But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out." ³⁸ The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens.

³⁹ So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. ⁴⁰ So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *A Jailer is Set Free By Those in Jail*

I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;
I love to tell the story – because I know 'tis true,
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story! 'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story 'tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet;
I love to tell the story – for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy word. *Refrain*

("I Love to Tell the Story" text Katherine Hankey, tune William G. Fischer, Public Domain, CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

God's Blessing

My Friends, May You Grow in Grace

My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.
My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.
To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.

("My Friends, May You Grow in Grace" words and music by Timothy James Meaney and Sean Diamond, arr. Gregg DeMey and Greg Kett, © 1991, 2001 Wiseman Music, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Pastors: Mike B, Robert W
Prayer: Brian K, Doug VW
Music: Paul, Sharon and Emily A, Brian K, Jack P, Bill VS

Offerings and tithes can be placed in the baskets in the narthex, mailed to the church, dropped in the church mailbox, through a bill pay service, at www.tithe.ly or with the Tithe.ly app. To give to the First CRC operating fund, use a blue envelope (on the Welcome Center) or designate on memo line.

This week the offering is for the GEMS Girls Club. First CRC GEMS is a ministry for 1st–8th grade girls, led by Gail Bailey and assisted by several other women in the congregation. For more information, visit gemsgc.org.

Worship services are also broadcast live in the church basement and streamed online.

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