

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
September 26, 2021
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Call to Worship: *Isaiah 44:23*

*Sing for joy, you heavens, for the LORD has done this;
shout aloud, you earth beneath.*

***Burst into song, you mountains,
you forests and all your trees,
for the LORD has redeemed Jacob,
he displays his glory in Israel.***

God's Greeting

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

I sing the mighty power of God, that made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at His command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with His word and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed where'er I turn my eye:
If I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the sky!

("I Sing the Mighty Power of God" words Isaac Watts, music from Gesangbuch der Herzogl. © Public Domain, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, and perfect plea:
A great High Priest, whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look, and see him there
Who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb
My perfect, spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I am, the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself, I cannot die
My soul is purchased by his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

("Before the Throne of God" words by Vikki Cook and Charitie Lees Bancroft, music by Vikki Cook © 1997 Sovereign Grace Music CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

His Mercy Is More

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

What riches of kindness He lavished on us.
His blood was the payment His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, His mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.
Praise the Lord, His mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

("His Mercy is More" words and music by Matt Papa and Matt Boswell, © 2016 Getty Music Hymns and Song | Getty Music Publishing | Love Your Enemies Publishing | Messenger Hymns, CCLI #358926 SL #20317932)

Call to Confession and Preparation: Proverbs 28:16

*Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper,
but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.*

Prayer of Confession

Assurance: Psalm 32:1-5

*Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
**I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.***

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Benevolence

Morning Prayer

In Christ Alone

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.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me.
From life's first cry, to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

("In Christ Alone" words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2002 Kingsway's Thankyou Music, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Scripture: Acts 20:17-27 (ESV)

¹⁷ Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them: “You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴ But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵ And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: Paul’s Example in Ephesus

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.

(“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)

God’s Blessing

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)

Pastors: Mike B, Robert W

Prayer: Brent H, Fred Y

Music: Nancy Z, Mike S, Cal B, Nathalie T, Leah B

Offering is for the Benevolence Fund. First CRC Benevolence Fund is used to help local people and families in times of need.

Nursery is available with a paging system for children under 3 years during worship service in the Education Building.

Children’s Church is available for children 3 years – 3rd grade. Children are dismissed to the Education Building during the worship service.

Worship services are also broadcast live in the church basement and streamed online for anyone unable to worship in the sanctuary.

An assistive listening system is available in the sanctuary; to use this system, switch hearing aids to “T”.

On the bulletin, * indicates standing and bold font is a response by the congregation. You are invited to join if you feel comfortable.