

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 26, 2021 ~ 10:30 AM Worship Service

Call to Worship: *Psalm 84:1-4*

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

***My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.***

*Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars,*

O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

God's Greeting

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

("O Come, All Ye Faithful" words and tune by John Francis Wade (1743) tr. Frederick Oakeley (1841), Descant © 1947, Hymns Ancient and Modern, Ltd., Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #2031793)

Now With Joyful Exultation

Now with joyful exultation let us sing to God our praise;

To the Rock of our salvation loud hosannas let us raise.

Thankful tribute gladly bringing, let us come before him now,

And, with psalms his praises singing, joyful in his presence bow.

For how great a God, and glorious, is the Lord of whom we sing;

Over idol gods victorious, great is he, our God and King.

In his hand are earth's deep places, also his are all the hills;

His the sea whose bounds he traces, his the land his bounty fills.

To the Lord, such might revealing, let us come with reverence meet,

And, before our Maker kneeling, let us worship at his feet.

He is our own God who leads us, we the people of his care;

With a shepherd's hand he feeds us as his flock in pastures fair.

("Now with Joyful exultation" words Psalm 95 music by John Zundel, Public Domain, CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Go, Tell It on the Mountains

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountains, over the hills and everywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountains, that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,

Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth

Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,

And brought us God's salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

("Go, Tell It On the Mountain" words: Traditional; music: American Folk Song; © Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Call to Confession and Preparation: Exodus 20:1-17 (ESV)

And God spoke all these words, saying,

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. “You shall have no other gods before me.

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Luke 2:10-14

And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

(“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” words by Charles Wesley, tune by Felix Mendelssohn, © Public Domain, descant by descant by Paul Liljestrand © 1976 Paragon Associates, Inc., CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Building the Future

Morning Prayer

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light:
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

(“O Little Town of Bethlehem: words Margaret Clarkson, tune Lewis H. Redner, Public Domain, CCLI# 358926 Streaming #20317932)

Scripture: *Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)*

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:
⁶ “‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from
you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”
⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”
⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *Varied Responses to Christmas*

As With Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before Him whom heaven and earth adore;
So, may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at the manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

(“As with Gladness” words by William C. Bix, Tune Conrad Kocher, CCLI #358926 Streaming #2031793)

God’s Blessing

Joy to the World

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

(“Joy to the World” words by Isaac Watts (1719), tune by Lowell Mason (1848), Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming #2031793)

Pastor: Mike B, Robert W
Prayer: Brian K, Fred Y
Music: Sharon A

Offering is for Building the Future, which is in place to fund building projects of our church. For more information contact any deacon.
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”.