

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
January 9, 2022 ~ 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

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!

O seed of Israel's chosen race now ransomed from the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.

Let every tongue and every tribe responsive to his call,
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!

("All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" words by Edward Perronet, and John Rippon music by William Shrubsole, Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

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.

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)

How Blest Are They Who, Fearing God

How blest are they who, fearing God, from sin restrain their feet.
Who will not with the wicked stand, who shun the scorner's seat.

How blest are they who make God's law their treasure and delight,
And meditate upon that word with gladness day and night.

Their lives are nourished like a tree set by the river's side
Its leaf is green, its fruit is sure: so all their works abide.

("How Blest Are They Who, Fearing God" text by Charles Wesley, © Public Domain, CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Call to Confession: *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: *Galatians 3:13-14*

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Amazing Grace

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.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear y\the hour I first believed.

Refrain: My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me,
And like a flood His mercy rains,
Unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. *Refrain*

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below, will be forever mine. Will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

(“Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone” words and music by John Newton, John P. Rees, Edwin Othello Excell, Arrangement and additional chorus by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio Public Domain, Arr. © 2006 worship Together.com Songs/sixsteps Music/ASCAP CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Oasis - First CRC Junior High Youth Ministry

Morning Prayer

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*

(“Go, Tell It On the Mountain” words: Traditional; music: American Folk Song; © Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #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 with Gladness" words by William C. Bix, Tune Conrad Kocher, CCLI #358926 Streaming #2031793)

God's Blessing

As With Gladness Men of Old

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)

Pastors: Mike B
Prayer: Mike S, Bill V
Music: Lee V, Brian K, Paul A, Sharon A

Offering is for Oasis, the Junior High youth ministry at First CRC.

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 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".