

**First Christian Reformed Church**  
Lynden, Washington  
June 19, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. Worship Service

**Call to Worship:** *Deuteronomy 6:24–25 (NLT)*

*And the LORD our God commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear him so he can continue to bless us and preserve our lives, as he has done to this day. For we will be counted as righteous when we obey all the commands the LORD our God has given us.*

**Opening Prayer**

***It is Good to Sing Thy Praises***

It is good to sing Thy praises and to thank Thee, O Most High,  
Showing forth Thy loving kindness when the morning lights the sky.  
It is good when night is falling of Thy faithfulness to tell.  
While with sweet, melodious praises songs of adoration swell.

Thou hast filled my heart with gladness through the works Thy hands have wrought;  
Thou hast made my life victorious; great Thy works and deep Thy thought.  
Thou, O Lord, on high exalted, reignest evermore in might;  
All Thy enemies shall perish, sin be banished from Thy sight.

But the good shall live before Thee, planted in Thy dwelling place,  
Fruitful trees and every verdant, nourished by Thy boundless grace.  
In his goodness to the righteous God His righteousness displays;  
God, my rock, my strength and refuge, just and true are all His ways.

("It is Good to Sing Thy Praises" words from Psalm 92; tune Wolfgang A Mozart; words and music © Public Domain CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

***Your Word Sheds Light Upon My Path***

Your word sheds light upon my path; a shining light, it guides my feet.  
Your righteous judgments to observe, my solemn vow I now repeat.

In my distress I plead with you; send help according to your word.  
Accept my sacrifice of praise and make known your judgments Lord.

When danger brings me close to death, your law stays with me night and day.  
The wicked lay a snare for me, yet from your truth I will not stray.

Your precepts are my heritage; they make my heart and soul rejoice.  
To keep your statutes faithfully shall ever be my willing choice.

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**Profession of Faith:** Our World belongs to God, Article 6

**We rejoice in the goodness of God,  
renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living.  
As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience, and set free for joyful praise,  
we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in his world.  
With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we expect the Day of the Lord.  
And we are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness  
will fill the earth when Christ appears.  
Come, Lord Jesus! Our world belongs to you.**

**Offering:** Helping Hands for Babies

**Evening Prayer**

***Spirit Divine, Inspire Our Prayer***

Spirit Divine, inspire our prayer and make our hearts your home;  
Descend with all your gracious power; come, Holy Spirit, come!

Come as the light; reveal our need, our hidden failings show,  
And lead us in those paths of life whereon the righteous go.

Come as the fire and cleanse our hearts with purifying flame;  
Let our whole life an offering be to our Redeemer's name.

("Spirit Divine, Inspire Our Prayer" words Andrew Reed (1829), tune Johann Criger (1647), CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

**Scripture:** *Ecclesiastes 7:15-29 (ESV)*

<sup>15</sup> *In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing. <sup>16</sup> Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? <sup>17</sup> Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time? <sup>18</sup> It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them.*

<sup>19</sup> *Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city.*

<sup>20</sup> *Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.*

<sup>21</sup> *Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you.*

<sup>22</sup> *Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed others.*

<sup>23</sup> *All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise," but it was far from me.*

<sup>24</sup> *That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out?*

<sup>25</sup> *I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness. <sup>26</sup> And I find something more bitter than death: the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters. He who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is taken by her. <sup>27</sup> Behold, this is what I found, says the Preacher, while adding one thing to another to find the scheme of things— <sup>28</sup> which my soul has sought repeatedly, but I have not found. One man among a thousand I found, but a woman among all these I have not found.*

<sup>29</sup> *See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** *Excessive Righteousness*

**God, Be Merciful to Me**

God, be merciful to me; on your grace I rest my plea.  
My transgressions I confess; grief and guilt my soul oppress.  
Wash me, make me pure within; cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true.  
Do not cast me from your sight nor remove your Spirit's light.  
Your salvation's joy restore, make me steadfast evermore.

Contrite spirit, pleading cries, you, O God, will not despise.  
Sinful ways I will reprove, and my tongue shall sing your love.  
Let my righteous sacrifice then delight your holy eyes.

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**God's Blessing**

**How Firm a Foundation**

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed,  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

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Pastors: Mike B, Robert W  
Music: Nancy Z

Offering will be received for Helping Hands, a ministry that sends homemade blankets and clothing to those in need or dealing with medical issues. For more information, contact to Leona Oostema.

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

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