

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
November 27, 2022 – 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Advent Reading 1: Sacrificial Love – Abraham and Isaac

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Prayer

Call to Worship: *Psalm 130:5-6*

*I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.*

God's Greeting

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art:
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

("Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" words by Charles Wesley, music by Roland Hugh Prichard, descant by Paul Sjolund © Public Domain CCLI #358926, Streaming Lic #20317932)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

("O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" words Latin, 12th cent.; tr. composite, tune 15th century, adapted by Thomas Helmore (1854), Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming Lic #20317932)

Call to Confession: *Isaiah 53:6*

*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Prayer of Confession

Assurance: *Isaiah 55:6-7*

*"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown when Thou camest to earth for me,
But in Bethlehem's home there was found no room for Thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus: there is room in my heart for Thee!

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang, proclaiming Thy royal degree,
But in lowly birth didst Thou come to earth and in great humility.

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus: there is room in my heart for Thee!

("Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" words Emily F. S. Elliot, tune Timothy R. Matthews, Public Domain, CCLI# 358926 Streaming #20317932)

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Benevolence Fund

Morning Prayer

Scripture: *John 3:13-18*

¹³ *No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*

¹⁶ *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*

This is the Word of Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *The Revelation of Christmas – For God so loved the world*

Redeeming Love

From God’s heaven to a manger, from great riches to the poor,
Came the holy Son of God, a little Child;
From the azure halls of heaven to a lowly manger stall,
Jesus came, and here He gave His life for all.

Refrain: Redeeming love, a love that knows no limit;
Redeeming love, a love that never dies;
My soul shall sing throughout the endless ages
The adoration of this great love on high.

From a loving heavenly Father, to a world that knew Him not,
Came a man of sorrows, Jesus Christ, the Lord;
In my wandering Jesus found me, touched my life with His great love,
And this Babe has grown to be my sovereign Lord. *Refrain*

(“Redeeming Love” words by Gloria Gaither; music by William Gaither, adapted by Rom Hutt © 1963, 1976 by William Gaither CCLI #358926, Streaming Lic #20317932)

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

A Communion Hymn for Christmas (A Love Offering will be received for the First CRC Adoption Fund during this song.)

Gathered ‘round Your table on this holy day,
Viewing Bethl’hem’s stable we rejoice and pray.
Joy to see You lying in Your manger bed;
Weep to see You dying in our sinful stead.

Bethl’hem’s Incarnation, Calv’ry’s bitter cross,
Wrought for us salvation by Your pain and loss.
Now we fall before You in this holy place;
Prostrate we adore You for Your gift of grace.

With profoundest wonder we Your body take,
Laid in manger yonder, broken for our sake.
Hushed in adoration we approach the cup;
Bethl’hem’s pure oblation freely offered up.

(“A Communion Hymn for Christmas” words Margaret Clarkson, tune Tom Fetteke, © 1986 Word Music, CCLI# 358926 Streaming #20317932)

God’s Blessing

A Communion Hymn for Christmas

Christmas Babe so tender, Lamb who bore our blame,
How shall sinners render praises due Your name?
Do Your own good pleasure in the lives we bring;
In Your ransomed treasure reign forever King!

(“A Communion Hymn for Christmas” words Margaret Clarkson, tune Tom Fetteke, © 1986 Word Music, CCLI# 358926 Streaming #20317932)

Pastors: Mike B, Robert W

Advent Readers: Lloyd & Linda F

Prayer: Ryan B, Neil M

Music: Sharon A

Offering will be received for the Benevolence Fund, which is used to help local people and families in times of need. For more information talk to any deacon.

Love Offering will be received for the First CRC Adoption Fund, to help those in the congregation with the high cost of adoption. For more information, talk to any deacon.

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