

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
January 1, 2023 ~ 6:00 PM Worship Service

Call to Worship: *Psalm 149:1-5*

*Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!
Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!
Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!
For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.
Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds.*

Opening Prayer

I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing, I will sing.
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.
With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness, Your faithfulness;
With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

All the hosts of the angels sing God's praise forever for the things he has done.
All the hosts of the angels sing God's praise forever,
All the hosts of the angels sing God's praise.
Who can be compared to God in faithfulness, in faithfulness?
Who can be compared to God in faithfulness to all generations?
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

("I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord" text Psalm 89, James H. Fillmore, Marie J. Post tune James H. Fillmore © Music Public Domain, © Text 1986 CRC Publications CCLI #358926, Streaming #20317932)

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again, and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, e'en for His own name's sake.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,
And in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

("The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want", music by Jessie S. Irvine © Words and Music Public Domain CCLI#358926, Streaming License 20317932)

My God, How Wonderful You Are

My God, how wonderful You are; Your majesty, how bright!
How beautiful Your mercy seat in depths of burning light!
How wonderful, how beautiful the sight of You must be,
Your endless wisdom, boundless power, and awesome purity!

Father of Jesus, Love divine, great King upon Your throne,
What joy to see You as You are and worship You alone!

("My God, How Wonderful You Are" Text by Fredrick W. Faber, Tune by Thomas Turton © Public Domain, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Profession of Faith: Canons of Dordt

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Offering: Christian School Tuition Assistance

Evening Prayer

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love, and do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God, till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God, so shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life of Thine eternity.

("Breathe on Me, Breath of God" words by Edwin Hatch music by Robert Jackson Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Scripture: John 3:1-8

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: The New Birth

And Can It Be That I Should Gain?

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Refrain: Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffuse a quickening ray; I woke – the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. *Refrain*

No condemnation now I dread: Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own. *Refrain*

("And Can It Be That I Should Gain?" words by Charles Wesley music by Thomas Campbell Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

God's Blessing

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

("Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" words by Thomas Ken and music Louise Bourgeois, © Public Domain, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Pastor: Mike B

Music: Lee V

Offering will be received for Christian School Tuition Assistance, used to help cover tuition cost of First church families who send their children to Christian schools.