

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 18, 2022 – 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Advent Reading 4: Sacrificial Love – Sinful Woman and Perfume

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Prayer

Call to Worship: based on Luke 1:46-50

Our souls magnify the Lord!

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

The mighty One has done great things for us!

Holy is God's name!

Let us worship God.

For God is our Maker and our Redeemer; from generation to generation God gives mercy.

God's Greeting

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;
Angels lifting praise before You sing through out this holy night.
In a manger lies a Baby, Child of Mary, Son of God.
Voices joined in joyful chorus praise You for Your gift of love.

All Your works declare Your glory, all creation joins to sing.
Praise resounds as earth rejoices in the birth of Christ, the King.
Shepherds kneel before the Infant trumpets sound and anthems raise
As with joy our hearts are lifted, joined in wonder, love, and praise.

("Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" music by Ludwig van Beethoven; adapted by Edward Hodges; words by Linda Lee Johnson; text © 1986 Lillenas Publishing Co.; arr. © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music and Words (a div. of Word Music) CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

How Great Our Joy!

While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright.
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall the Child lie in a stall, this Child who shall redeem us all.
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

This gift of God we'll cherish well, that every joy our hearts shall fill.
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

("How Great Our Joy!" tr. Theodore Baker, traditional German carol, CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

For God So Loved the World

For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son
To die on Calvary's tree, from sin to set me free;
Some day He's coming back; what glory that will be!
Wonderful His love to me. *Repeat All*

("For God So Loved the World" words by Frances Townsend, tune by Alfred B Smith ©1938. Renewal 1966 By Alfred B Smith, CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Call to Confession: From the Epistles

You shall have no other gods before me.

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever!

You shall not make for yourself an idol.

In Christ we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

Let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips that confess his name.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

You shall not murder.

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

You shall not commit adultery.

You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

You shall not steal.

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his hands, so that he may have something to share with those in need.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

Prayer of Confession:

Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love.

We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive.

We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question.

In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should.

Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you

with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us.

Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Assurance: 1 John 2:1-2

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,

While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!

And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

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 by Margaret Clarkson, tune by Lewis H. Redner, Public Domain, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Offertory Prayer & Offering: Thereforego Ministries

Offertory Ministry of Music: *O Holy Night*

Morning Prayer

Meekness and Majesty

Meekness and majesty, manhood and Deity, in perfect harmony, the Man who is God.

Lord of eternity, dwells in humanity; kneels in humility and washes our feet.

Refrain: O what a mystery, meekness and majesty;

Bow down and worship, for this is your God.

Wisdom unsearchable, God, the invisible; love indestructible in frailty appears.

Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly; lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne. *Refrain*

([©]Meekness and Majesty" words and music by Graham Kendrick © 1986 Thankyou Music, admin. Worldwide at EMICMGPublishing.com excluding Europe which is admin. by Kingswaysongs, CCLI# 358926, Streaming License #2031793)

Scripture: *John 3:13-18, 36*

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.*

³⁶ *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

This is the Word of Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *The Reward of Christmas – But Shall Have Eternal Life*

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Finish then Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

("Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" words by Charles Wesley music by Rowland H Prichard © Public Domain, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

God's Blessing

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!

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)

Pastors: Mike B, Robert W
Readers: John & Kathryn V and family
Prayer: Paul A, Jacob A
Music: Paul A, Shelby B, Cal B, Kara Hu, Ben K, Cheryl K, Lori S, Kara T, Evan T, Nancy Z

Offering will be received for ThereforeGo Ministries, a Christ-centered ministry that supports local churches in their youth ministry efforts across the United States and Canada. For more information, visit www.thereforego.com

Children's Church is available for children 3 years – 3rd grade. Children are dismissed to the Ed Building during the service.

Worship services are also broadcast live in the 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".

*First Christian Reformed Church 1010 Front St. Lynden, WA 98264
360.354.4560 info@firstcrclinden.org www.firstcrclinden.org*