

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 25, 2022 – 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Worship Service

Advent Reading 5: Sacrificial Love – God and Jesus

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Prayer

Call to Worship: *Isaiah 12:2-5*

**“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.”**

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

*And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.*

“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.”

God’s Greeting

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:

Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,

O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

(“O Come, All Ye Faithful” words and tune by John Francis Wade (1743) tr. Frederick Oakley (1841), Descant © 1947, Hymns Ancient and Modern, Ltd., Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #2031795)

Ministry of Music: *Joy Has Dawned*

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,

And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;

Come adore, on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

(“Angels We Have Heard on High” words and music French Carol Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317952)

Call to Confession and Preparation:

Today we celebrate that Jesus, our Lord, came to earth as a human, just like us but without sin. He came so that we who sin may be freed from sin. With the peace that comes from knowing Jesus came, let us confess our sins and be forgiven.

Prayer of Confession

Assurance: *Galatians 4:4-5*

***When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,
to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.***

The Story of Christmas: *Luke 2*

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

("Joy to the World" words by Isaac Watts (1719), tune by Lowell Mason (1848), Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #2031793)

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Building the Future

Offertory Ministry of Music: *Peace, Peace*

Morning Prayer

Angels From the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship. Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Wisemen, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

("Angels from the Realms of Glory" words by James Montgomery music by Henry Smart © Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Scripture: *Matthew 1:18-25*

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

This is the Word of Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *Joseph Monologue*

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
News! News! Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Call you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

("Good Christian Men, Rejoice" German/Latin 14th cent., tr. John Mason Neale (1853), Public Domain, #358926, Streaming #20317932)

God's Blessing

Glory to God (Ere Zij God)

Glory to God! Glory to God
In the highest, in the highest, in the highest!
Peace be on earth, peace be on earth,
To the people whom God delights in.
Glory to God in the highest! Glory to God in the highest!
Peace be on earth, peace be on earth,
Peace be on earth, peace be on earth
To the people, to the people whom God delights in.
To the people whom God delights in, whom God delights in.
Glory to God! Glory to God
In the highest, in the highest, in the highest!
Peace be on earth, peace be on earth,
To the people whom God delights in. Amen. Amen.

(Dutch words available below)

Ere zij God! Ere zij God
In den hoge, in den hoge, in den hoge!
Vrede op aarde, vrede op aarde,
In de mensen een welbehagen.
Ere zij God in den hoge! Ere zij God in den hoge!
Vrede op aarde, vrede op aarde
Vrede op aarde, vrede op aarde
In de mensen, in de mensen een welbehagen,
In de mensen een welbehagen, een welbehagen
Ere zij God! Ere zij God
In den hoge, in den hoge, in den hoge!
Vrede op aarde, vrede op aarde,
In de mensen een welbehagen. Amen. Amen.

("Glory to God" words and tune by F.A. Schultz, tr. © 1987, CRC Publications, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Pastors: Mike B, Robert W
Readers: Darrin & Jessica M and Family, Lincoln E, Maya M
Prayer: Randy L
Music: Valerie A, Carol H, Sara K, Lee V, Nancy Z

Offering will be received for Building the Future, a fund in place to help finance future building projects of our church. For more information, talk to any member of the Council.

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".

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