

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
March 12, 2023 ~ 10:30 AM Worship Service

Prelude: *The WORLD BLESSING 2023*

The Lord bless you and keep you in 2023,
Make His Face shine upon you every day of this new year,
The Lord turn His Face upon you, and give you Peace.
His Blessing is stronger than all that will come your way in 2023.
He is faithful and will never let go of you, His precious child!

(TuneCore (on behalf of Anthem Ministries); Capitol CMG Publishing, LatinAutorPerf, Essential Music Publishing, BMI - Broadcast Music Inc., UMPI, LatinAutor - UMPG, and 5 Music Rights Societies)

The Blessing was released a few days before the pandemic. Since then it has been performed by tens of thousands of people in 257 different languages. 154 countries have produced spontaneous **Blessing** videos totaling hundreds of millions of views. This is a compilation from 500 of these diverse videos into one united **World Blessing**.

Call to Worship: Revelation 5:9,10,12,13

*“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people
for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,
and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth” saying with a loud voice,
“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom
and might and honor and glory and blessing!”*

God’s Greeting

Crown Him With Many Crowns #345:1,3,4 (HFG)

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee;
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life: who triumphed o’er the grave,
Who rose victorious to the strife for those He came to save;
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heaven: one with the Father known,
One with the Spirit through Him given from yonder glorious throne.
To Thee be endless praise, for Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days adored and magnified.

(“Crown Him with Many Crowns” words by Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring music by George J. Elvey, descant by Paul Sjolund © Public Domain, 1976 by Paragon Associates, Inc. CCLI #358926 Streaming #20317932)

Presentation of the Flags of the Nations

Blessing of Missionaries

As your brothers and sisters in Christ and partners
in ministry, we join in giving our blessing:
“Blessed are you, who come in the name of the Lord.”

Song for the Nations

May we be a shining light to the nations,
A shining light to the peoples of the earth,
Till the whole world sees the glory of Your name.
May Your pure light shine thro’ us.

May we bring a word of hope to the nations,
A word of life to the peoples of the earth,
Till the whole world knows there's salvation thro' Your name.
May Your mercy flow thro' us.

May Your kingdom come to the nations,
Your will be done in the peoples of the earth,
Till the whole world knows that Jesus Christ is Lord.
May Your kingdom come on earth.

("Song for the Nations" text and music Chris Christensen © 1989 Integrity's Hosanna! Music CCLI #358926, Streaming #20317932)

Lenten Reading: *John 16:28-32*

Profession of Faith: *Apostles' Creed* pg. 813 (PH)

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate;
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead
he ascended to heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit.
I believe in a holy catholic church,
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Assurance: *O Mighty Cross*

O mighty cross, love lifted high,
The Lord of life raised there to die;
His sacrifice on Calvary
Has made the mighty cross a tree of life to me.

O mighty cross, what throne of grace,
He knew no sin, yet took my place;
His sacrifice on Calvary
Has made the mighty cross a tree of life to me.

O mighty cross, O Christ, so pure,
Love held Him there, such shame endured;
His sacrifice on Calvary
Has made the mighty cross a tree of life to me.

(“O Mighty Cross” words and music by David Baroni and John Chisum, © 1994 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, Integrity's Praise! Music! CCLI #358926, Streaming #20317932)

Offertory Prayer

Video Greeting from Jeff & Melissa B

Offering: Dustin & Melissa L

Morning Prayer

Scripture: *Matthew 16:13-28*

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”
¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”
¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”
¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”
¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in

heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. ²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” ²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

²⁸ “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *To Be on Mission*

Hear the Call of the Kingdom

Hear the call of the Kingdom, lift your eyes to the King.
Let His song rise within you as a fragrant offering
Of how God, rich in mercy, came in Christ to redeem
All who trust in His unfailing grace.

Hear the call of the Kingdom to be children of light,
With the mercy of heaven, the humility of Christ;
Walking justly before Him, loving all that is right;
That the light of Christ may shine through us.

Refrain: King of heaven, we will answer the call;
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,
Filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim
Salvation in Jesus’ name.

Hear the call of the Kingdom to reach out to the lost;
With the Father’s compassion, in the wonder of the cross.
Bringing peace and forgiveness and a hope yet to come,
Let the nations put their trust in Him. *Refrain*

(“Hear the Call of the Kingdom” words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2006 Thankyou Music CCLI #358926 Streaming #20317932)

God’s Blessing

O Zion Haste

#658:2 (HFG)

Proclaim to every people, tongue and nation
That God in Whom they live and move is love;
Tell how He stooped to save His lost creation,
And died on earth that man might live above.
Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,
Tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.

(“O Zion, Haste” text Mary A. Thomson, music James Walsh, CCLI #358926, Streaming #20317932)

Pastors: Mike B, Tommy H, Robert W
Readers: Ken & Chris VW
Prayer: Mike S
Music: Lee VB, Nancy Z

Offering will be received for Dustin & Melissa L, serving in Thailand with Converge to train and mobilize indigenous leaders to join them in sharing the Gospel. For more information, contact dustinl@converge.org or melissal@converge.org.

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