

**First Christian Reformed Church**  
Lynden, Washington  
August 6, 2023 ~ 10:30 AM Worship Service

**Call to Worship:** *Psalm 71:19; 63:3-4*

*Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens. You who have done great things, O God, who is like you?  
Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.  
So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.*

**God's Greeting**

***He Is Exalted***

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise Him.  
He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise His name!  
He is the Lord; forever His truth shall reign. Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.  
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

("He is Exalted" music and words by Twila Paris © 1985 Straightway Music and Mountain Spring Music CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

***Before the Throne of God Above***

Before the throne of God above I have a strong, and perfect plea:  
A great High Priest, whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on his hands, my name is written on his heart;  
I know that while in heaven he stands no tongue can bid me thence depart, no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look, and see him there who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;  
For God, the Just, is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me, to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb my perfect, spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I am, the King of glory and of grace!  
One with himself, I cannot die my soul is purchased by his blood;  
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God, with Christ, my Savior and my God.

("Before the Throne of God" words by Vikki Cook and Charitie Lees Bancroft, music by Vikki Cook © 1997 Sovereign Grace Music CCLIF 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

***How Firm a Foundation***

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee: O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply:  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

("How Firm a Foundation" words by J. Rippon's Selection of Hymns and music by J. Funk's A Compilation of Genuine Church Music 1832; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985; Harmonization © 1987 CRC Publication, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

**Call to Confession:** *1 John 1:9*

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**Prayer of Confession**

**Assurance:** *Psalm 73:26*

*My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

***I Know Who Holds Tomorrow***

I don't know about tomorrow, I just live from day to day;  
I don't borrow from its sunshine, for its skies may turn to gray  
I don't worry o'er the future, for I know what Jesus said  
And today I'll walk beside Him, for He knows what is ahead.

*Refrain:* Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand  
But I know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand.

I don't know about tomorrow, it may bring me poverty  
But the One who feeds the sparrow, is the One who stands by me.  
And the path that is my portion, may be through the flame or flood;  
But His presence goes before me, and I'm covered with His blood. *Refrain*

("I Know Who Holds Tomorrow" words and music by Ira Stanphill © 1950 New Spring CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

## Offertory Prayer

**Offering:** Christian School Tuition Assistance

**Offertory Ministry of Music:** *Here is Love*

## Morning Prayer

### *Lord, We Hear Your Word with Gladness*

Lord, we hear your word with gladness: You have spoken; we rejoice:  
Words of love and life and freedom; Help us make their truth our choice!  
Now in holy celebration for your Word we worship you;  
Spoken, written, known in Jesus, ours today to prove anew.

May we hear with understanding, by your Spirit taught and led.  
May the springs of all our being by your living Word be fed.  
May our hearts accept with meekness all the grace your light makes known.  
May obedience mark our footsteps till we make each word our own.

("Lord, We Hear Your Word with Gladness" words and music by Margaret Clarkson © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. CCLI #358926, Streaming 20317932)

### **Scripture:** *Romans 3:21-26*

<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Message:** *The Righteousness of God*

#### *In Christ Alone*

In Christ alone, my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song,  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My Comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ, I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God, in helpless Babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.  
'Til on the cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again.  
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine. Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

("In Christ Alone" words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2002 Kingsway's Thankyou Music, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

## God's Blessing

#### *In Christ Alone*

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry, to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand.  
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

("In Christ Alone" words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2002 Kingsway's Thankyou Music, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Pastors: Mike B, Robert W

Prayer: Ryan B, Neil M

Music: Carol H, Sara K, Nancy Z

Offering is for Christian School Tuition Assistance, a fund used to help cover tuition of First church families who send their children to Christian schools.