

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
September 3, 2023 ~ 10:30 AM Worship Service

Call to Worship:

God of grace, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven, even as we gather before your face, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

By the power of your Spirit, help us to lift up our hearts in praise, to receive your lavish gifts stored up for us in Christ, and to live as your faithful children and witnesses, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

God's Greeting

Come, All You People, Praise Our God

Come, all you people, praise our God and tell his glorious works abroad,
Who holds our souls in life; He never lets our feet be moved
And, though our faith has often proved, upholds us in the strife.

We come with offerings to his house, and here we pay the solemn vows
We uttered in distress; to him our all we dedicate,
To him we wholly consecrate the lives his mercies bless.

Come, listen, all who fear the Lord, while I with grateful heart record
What God has done for me; I cried to him in deep distress,
And now his wondrous grace I bless, for he has set me free.

("Come, All You People, Praise Our God" words Psalm 66 and music by Charles H. Gabriel, © Public Domain, CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Bless His Holy Name

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me. Bless His holy name.

He has done great things, He has done great things

He has done great things, bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me. Bless His holy name. *Repeat All*

("Bless His Holy Name" words and music by Adrae Crouch © 1973 Lexicon Music CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid

Creator Spirit, by whose aid the world's foundations first were laid,
Come, visit every pious mind; come, pour thy joys on humankind;
From sin and sorrow set us free and make thy temples worthy thee.

O source of uncreated light, the Father's promised Paraclete,
Thrice holy fount, thrice holy fire, our hearts with heavenly love inspire;
Come and thy sacred unction bring to sanctify us while we sing.

Plenteous of grace, descend from high, rich in thy sevenfold energy;
Make us eternal truths receive and practice all that we believe;
Give us thyself that we may see the Father and the Son by thee.

("Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid" words Latin hymn; music John B Dykes © Public Domain CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Call to Confession: based Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and forgiving God, You always love us, yet we do not always act like we love You.

Our self-delusions and self-justifications run deep.

Too many times we trust in our own ability and decision-making.

Too many times we fail to live as grateful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Forgive us for our blindness, willfulness, and pride. Set us back on Your path of grace, witness, and service.

We pray this humbly in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 21

What is true faith?

True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgives of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation.

These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.

Lead Me, Guide Me

Refrain: Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if You lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with You, lead me my whole life through.

I am weak and I need your strength and power to endure with grace my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness your face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

Help me walk in the paths of righteousness; be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am trusting You whatever may be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

I am lost if You take Your hand from me, I am blind without Your light to see.
Lord, forever may I Your servant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

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Offertory Prayer and Offering: Christian School Tuition Assistance

Morning Prayer

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.

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, hHere 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)

Scripture: Romans 4:1-8

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ⁷"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: God Counts Faith as Righteousness

Stronger

There is Love, that came for us. Humbled to a sinner's cross.
You broke my shame, and sinfulness. You rose again, victorious.

Refrain: You are stronger, You are stronger. Sin is broken, You have saved me.
It is written, Christ is risen. Jesus, You are Lord of all.

God's Blessing

Stronger

Faithfulness none can deny. Through the storm, and through the fire.
There is truth that sets me free, Jesus Christ who lives in me.

Refrain: You are stronger, You are stronger. Sin is broken, You have saved me.
It is written, Christ is risen. Jesus, You are Lord of all.

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