

**First Christian Reformed Church**  
Lynden, Washington  
September 17, 2023 ~ 6:00 PM Worship Service

**Call to Worship: *I Love You Lord***

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship You, O my soul, rejoice!

Take joy, my King, in what you hear: may it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear. *Repeat All*

(\*I Love You, Lord\* words and music by Laurie Klein © 1978 House of Mercy Music, CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

**God's Greeting**

***Great is Thy Faithfulness***

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father! There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not: as Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*Refrain:* Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness,  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

(\*Great is Thy Faithfulness, text Thomas O Chisholm, tune William M Runyan, © 1923 Renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Company, CCLI #358926 Streaming #20317932)

***One Generation Will Call to the Next***

We will extol you, God and King and bless your holy name.  
Day after day we'll sing your praise; forever and forever.

*Refrain:* One generation will call to the next: "Our God is good, and his hand is strong!"  
All of the world sings his marvelous acts, and our voice will join with theirs in the song.

Great is the Lord! In all his ways He's greatly to be praised.  
Were we to search for endless days, His greatness none could fathom. *Refrain*

Now may your name be sung in every tongue in every place.  
Singing the fame of your great love in every generation. *Refrain*

(\*One Generation Will Call to the Next\* words and music by Greg Scheer, © 2006 Faith Alive Christian Resources, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

***Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery***

Come, behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King;  
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come;  
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree,  
In the stead of ruined sinners, hangs the Lamb in victory.  
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold;  
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.

(\*Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery\* words and music by Matt Papa, Matt Boswell and Michael Bleecker © 2013 McKinney Music, Inc. Love Your Enemies Publishing, The Village Church CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

**Profession and Reaffirmation of Faith**

Levi T

Reagan V

Leo & Linda B

Ryan & Fritzie E

Dennis & Jeanne J

Jordan & Abbie S

Brent & Kristi W

Madison W

**Call to Confession: *Lamentations 3:40-42***

*Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.*

*Let us lift up our hearts and our hands to God in heaven, and say: We have sinned and rebelled.*

**Prayer of Confession**

**Assurance: *Lamentations 3:21-24***

*Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:*

*Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.*

*They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself,*

*"The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."*

## ***How Blest Are They Whose Trespass***

How blest are they whose trespass has freely been forgiven,  
Whose sins are wholly covered before the sight of heaven.  
Blest they to whom the LORD God does not impute their sin,  
Who have a guileless spirit, whose heart is true within.

While I kept guilty silence, my strength was spent with grief:  
Your hand was heavy on me; my soul found no relief.  
But when I owned my trespass and did not hide my sin,  
Then you forgave my guilt, LORD, restored my life within.

("How Blest Are They Whose Trespasses" text Psalm 32, music Chretien Urhan, 1834, arr. Edward F. Rimbault, 1867, CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

**Offertory Prayer and Offering:** Ray & Angie

**Offertory Ministry of Music:** *Lord, I Need You*

## **Morning Prayer**

**Scripture:** *Romans 4:1-8*

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

## ***He Will Hold Me Fast***

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast. *Refrain*

*Refrain:* He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His Promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost; He will hold me fast. *Refrain*

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast  
Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last! *Refrain*

("He Will Hold Me Fast" words by Ada Ruth Habershon, music by Matthew Merker © 2031 Getty Music Publishing, Matthew Merker Music, CCLI #358926 Streaming #20317932)

## **God's Blessing**

### ***The Blessing***

The Lord bless you and keep you, make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord turn his face toward you, and give you peace. Amen. Amen. Amen.

("The Blessing" Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, Steven Furtick © 2020 Capitol CMG Paragon; Kari Jobe Carnes Music; Worship Together Music; Writer's Roof Publishing; Music by Elevation Worship Publishing CCLI #358926 Streaming #20317932)

Pastor: Mike B, Robert W

Prayer: Tabin B

Music: Shelby B, Cheryl K, Ken Q, Mike S, Nathalie T, Nancy Z

Offering will be received for Ray & Angie, serving with East-West Ministries International. Ray is now the Head of Formation Conferences at Pars Theological Centre.