

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
October 8, 2023 ~ 10:30 AM Worship Service

Call to Worship: *Psalm 63:1-4*

*O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.
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

It Is Good to Sing Your Praises

It is good to sing Thy praises and to thank Thee, O Most High,
Showing forth Thy loving kindness when the morning lights the sky.
It is good when night is falling of Thy faithfulness to tell.
While with sweet, melodious praises songs of adoration swell.

Thou hast filled my heart with gladness through the works Thy hands have wrought;
Thou hast made my life victorious; great Thy works and deep Thy thought.
Thou, O Lord, on high exalted, reignest evermore in might;
All Thy enemies shall perish, sin be banished from Thy sight.

But the good shall live before Thee, planted in Thy dwelling place
Fruitful trees and ever verdant, nourished by Thy boundless grace.
In his goodness to the righteous God His righteousness displays;
God, my rock, my strength and refuge, just and true are all His ways.

("It is Good to Sing Thy Praises" words from Psalm 92; tune Wolfgang A Mozart; words and music © Public Domain CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

The Love of God

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.

Refrain: O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall for evermore endure the saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above, would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky. *Refrain*

("The Love of God" text and music by Frederick M. Lehman, © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music and Word Music, CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Wonderful, merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend;
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men? Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us falling before Your throne, oh, we're falling before Your throne.

Refrain: You are the One that we praise, You are the One we adore.

You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for, oh, our hearts always hunger for.

("Wonderful, Merciful Savior" words Dawn Rodgers, Eric Wyse; music Vine Ridge, Dawn Rodgers, © 1989 Word Music, LLC & Dayspring Music, LLC, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Call to Confession: *Romans 8:31-35*

*What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies.*

Who is to condemn?

It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Prayer of Confession

Assurance: *Micah 7:18-20*

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance?

He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.

He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

He Knows My Name

I have a Maker, He formed my heart; before even time began, my life was in His hand.

Refrain: He knows my name, He knows my every thought.

He sees each tear that falls, and hears me when I call.

I have a Father, He calls me His own. He'll never leave me, no matter where I go. *Refrain*

("He Knows My Name" Tommy Walker © 1996 Doulos Publishing; arr. Diane Dykgraaf © 2012 Doulos Publishing CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Offertory Prayer & Offering: Memli & Luiza

Offertory Ministry of Music: *Come Unto Jesus*

Morning Prayer

Scripture: *Deuteronomy 6:1-12*

¹ Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, ² that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. ³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

¹⁰ "And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, ¹¹ and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, ¹² then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *The Blessings and Dangers of Christian Education*

In Our Households, Heavenly Father

In our households, heavenly Father, bless the bonds that make us one.

May our love reflect your loving, may your will be always done.

Send your Spirit to inspire us and to teach your discipline.

May our acts and conversations show your peace and joy within.

Help us make our homes a haven, quick with hospitality.

Move us Lord, to serve each other, with true love and charity.

("In Our Households, Heavenly Father" Hal H. Hopson, Rolf Bouma, Marie J. Post © Words: 1987, 2012 Bouma, Rolf; CRC Publications / Faith Alive Christian Resources; Music: 2008 Birmamwood Publications. CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

God's Blessing

God, the Father of Your People

God, the Father of your people, You have called us to be one;

Grant us grace to walk together in the joy of Christ, your Son.

Challenged by your Word and Spirit, blest with gifts from heaven above,

As one body we will serve you and bear witness to your love.

May the grace of Christ, our Savior, and the Father's boundless love,

With the Holy Spirit's favor, rest upon us from above.

May we now remain in union with each other and the Lord,

And possess, in sweet communion, joys that earth cannot afford.

("God, the Father of Your People" st. 1. Alfred E. Mulder 1978 © 1987 CRC Publications, st. 2. John Newton 1779 and music by W. Moore's "The Columbian Harmony, 1825; harm. Norman E. Johnson, 1973, Harmonization © 1973 Covenant, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Pastor: David W

Prayer: Ryan B, Jacob A

Music: Peggy B, Cal B, Cheryl K, Ken Q, Mike S, Kara T, Nancy Z

Offering will be received for Memli & Luiza, missionaries in Albania serving with Disciples of Jesus Church. They have been called by God to plant churches among the unreached Muslim villages in southern Albania.

For more information about their ministry, talk to Pastor Robert.

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