

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 10, 2023 ~ 10:30 AM Worship Service
Second Sunday of Advent

Advent Reading: “A Thrill of Hope, the Weary World Rejoices”

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Prayer

Call to Worship: *Isaiah 40:3-5*

*A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

*Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.*

*And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”*

God’s Greeting

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;
Angels lifting praise before You sing through out this holy night.
In a manger lies a Baby, Child of Mary, Son of God.
Voices joined in joyful chorus praise You for Your gift of love.

All Your works declare Your glory, all creation joins to sing.
Praise resounds as earth rejoices in the birth of Christ, the King.
Shepherds kneel before the Infant; trumpets sound and anthems raise
As with joy our hearts are lifted, joined in wonder, love, and praise.

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You” music by Ludwig van Beethoven, adapted by Edward Hodges; words by Linda Lee Johnson; text © 1986 Lileman Publishing Co.; arr. © 1997 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music and Words CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *Refrain*

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” words and tune by John Francis Wade (1761) to: Frederic Oakley (1841) Discant © 1947, Hymns Ancient and Modern, Ltd., Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #2031793

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Sing we the song of Emmanuel; this the Christ who was long foretold.
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem, promise of dawn now our eyes behold.
God Most High in a manger laid; lift your voices and now proclaim:
Great and glorious, Love has come to us; join now with the hosts of heaven.

Come we to welcome Emmanuel; King who came with no crown or throne.
Helpless He lay, the invincible, Maker of Mary, now Mary’s son.
O what wisdom to save us all, shepherds, sages, before Him fall.
Grace and majesty, what humility; come on bended knee, adore Him.

Go spread the news of Emmanuel; joy and peace for the weary heart.
Lift up your heads, for your King has come; sing for the Light overwhelms the dark.
Glory shining for all to see, hope alive, let the gospel ring.
God has made a way, He will have the praise; tell the world His name is Jesus.

“Sing We the Song of Emmanuel” Matt Borwick, Matt Papp and Stuart Townend Copyright © 2015 2015 Messenger Hymns (Admin. by Song Solutions www.songolutions.org) / Townend Songs (Admin. by Song Solutions www.songolutions.org) / Love Your Neighbor Publishing CCLI #358926 Streaming Lic #2031793

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world.

We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness.

We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us.

We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season
and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts.

Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus.

Prepare us for His return.

**Help us rejoice in the light,
so that your grace can illuminate
the darkened places of our hearts. Amen.**

Assurance

The good news of this Advent season
is forgiveness of sin and new life.

Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

**Thanks be to God, who comes among us,
setting us free to love and serve.**

The Birthday of a King

In the little village of Bethlehem, there lay a Child one day,
And the sky was bright with a holy light o'er the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Refrain: Alleluia! O how the angels sang. Alleluia! How it rang!
And the sky was bright with a holy light, 'twas the birthday of a King.

'Twas a humble birthplace, but oh how much God gave to us that day;
From the manger bed what a path has led, what a perfect, holy way. *Refrain*

("The Birthday of a King" words and music: William Harold Neidinger © Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Mission and Outreach Fund

Offertory Ministry of Music: *The First Noel*

Morning Prayer

Scripture: *Luke 1:26-38*

²⁶ *In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."*

³⁴ *And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"*

³⁵ *And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *Mary's Angel*

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light:
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

(^oO Little Town of Bethlehem: words Margaret Clarkson, tune Lewis H. Redner, Public Domain, CCLI# 358926 Streaming #20317932)

God's Blessing

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

^oO Little Town of Bethlehem: words Margaret Clarkson, tune Lewis H. Redner, Public Domain, CCLI# 358926 Streaming #20317932)

Pastor: Robert W

Readers: Ryan and Vance E

Prayer: Rob H, Galen L

Music: Kaylee B, Maya M, Ken Q, Lee V

Offering will be received for the Missions and Outreach Fund, used to help organizations that fall outside of the realm of our benevolence fund but still need support. This fund allows the church to help organizations when our offering schedule is full.

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