

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 24, 2023 ~ 10:30 AM Worship Service
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Advent Reading: “O Holy Night”

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Prayer

Call to Worship: *Luke 2:10-11*

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

God’s Greeting

Angels From the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints and angels join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore their voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

(“Angels from the Realms of Glory” words by James Montgomery music by Henry Smart Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

God Is With Us! Alleluia!

His name is called Emmanuel, more wonderful than words can tell. God is with us! Alleluia!
Born in our darkness, He is Light; born in our weakness, He is Might. God is with us! Alleluia!
God is with us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Rejoice, and lay aside your fear; rejoice, the Holy One is here. God is with us! Alleluia!
Lift up Your voices, come and sing, come worship Christ, the newborn King. God is with us! Alleluia!
God is with us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(“God is With Us! Alleluia!” words by Ken Bible, Tom Fetke, and Thomas Ken, Music from Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623 arr. by Ralph Vaughn Williams © 1998 LNWhumms.com and Pilot Point Music CCLI #359826 Streaming License #30127932)

Redeeming Love

From God’s heaven to a manger, from great riches to the poor, came the holy Son of God, a little Child;
From the azure halls of heaven to a lowly manger stall, Jesus came, and here He gave His life for all.

Refrain: Redeeming love, a love that knows no limit;
Redeeming love, a love that never dies;
My soul shall sing throughout the endless ages
The adoration of this great love on high.

From a loving heavenly Father, to a world that knew Him not, came a man of sorrows, Jesus Christ, the Lord;
In my wandering Jesus found me, touched my life with His great love,
And this Babe has grown to be my sovereign Lord. *Refrain*

(“Redeeming Love” words by Gloria Gaither, music by William Gaither; adapted by Ronn Hunt © 1963, 1976 by William Gaither CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Call to Confession: *Psalms 103:1-3*

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases.*

Prayer of Confession and Preparation

Assurance: *Luke 1:46b-47, 49-50*

**“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.”**

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;
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;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

("O Come, All Ye Faithful" John Francis Wade (1743) tr. Frederick Oakley (1841), Descant © 1947, Hymns Ancient and Modern, Ltd., Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming #2031793)

Offertory Prayer and Offering: Building the Future Fund

Offertory Ministry of Music: *O Holy Night*

Morning Prayer

The First Noel

The first noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds
In fields as they lay. In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, noel! Noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought. Noel, noel! Noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel!

("The First Noel" words English Carol music English Melody © Public Domain, CCLI #358926 Streaming License #2031793)

Scripture: *Luke 2:1-20*

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" ¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *The Shepherds' Angels*

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground;
The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory shone around.

"Fear not!" said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind.
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind, to you and all mankind.

"To you in David's town this day, is born of David's line,
The Savior, who is Christ, the Lord, and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign."

("It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" words Edmund H. Sears, tune Richard S. Willis, Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #2031793)

God's Blessing

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace.
Good will, hence forth from heaven to men, begin and never cease, begin and never cease."

("It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" words Edmund H. Sears, tune Richard S. Willis, Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #2031793)

Pastor: Robert W
Readers: Bev H, Levi and Nicholas M
Prayer: Greg T
Music: Paul A, Kara H, Carol H, Nancy Z

Offering will be received for the Building the Future Fund. This fund in place to help finance future building projects of our church. For more information about this fund, talk to any First CRC deacon.

Nursery is available with a paging system for children under 3 years during worship service in the Education Building.

Children's Church is available for children 3 years – 3rd grade. Children are dismissed during the worship service.

Worship services are also broadcast live in the basement and streamed online for anyone unable to worship in the sanctuary.

An assistive listening system is available in the sanctuary; to use this system, switch hearing aids to "T".

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