

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 25, 2023 ~ 10:00 AM Worship Service
Christmas Day

Prelude: Christmas Medley

Advent Reading: “For Yonder Breaks a New and Glorious Morn”

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer

Call to Worship: *based on Isaiah 9:2*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.
Jesus Christ is our life and light. In his name and in his power, let us worship God!

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

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: Ludwig van Beethoven; adapted Edward Hodges; words Linda Lee Johnson; text © 1986 Liberman Publishing Co.; arr. © 1997 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music and Words . CCLI #538926 Streaming License #20317932

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let men their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

“Joy to the World” words by Isaac Watts (1719); tune by Lowell Mason (1848); Public Domain CCLI #338926 Streaming License #20317930

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert and art and ever-more shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! In a manger lowly;
Christ the Son, now veiled in flesh, in our humanity.
Kingdoms bow before Him; heav’n and earth adore Him.
God here in person; hail His majesty.

“Holy, Holy, Holy” words by Reginald Heber; music by John B. Dykes © 1948; renewed 1976 by the H.W. Gray Company Inc. . CCLI #538926 Streaming License #20317932

The Story of Christmas: *Luke 2*

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this.
He has opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Call you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

©Good Christian Men, Rejoice" words and tune: German Latin 14th cent., v. John Mason Neale (1853), Public Domain. #158926, Streaming License #20117912)

Prayer

Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst.
May his incarnation fill your hearts with joy and peace.

O Lord, give us peace.

Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary.
May his birth among us renew your hope.

O Lord, give us hope.

Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords.
May the gift of his presence bring forth rejoicing.

O Lord, give us joy.

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger no crib for a bed;
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
The little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay;
Close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care;
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

©"Away in Manger" stanza 3 words: John Thomas McFarland music: William J. Kirkpatrick Public Domain CCLI#158926 Streaming #20117912)

Offertory Prayer and Offering: Benevolence Fund

Offertory Ministry of Music: *Prince of Heaven*

Scripture: *Hebrews 1:3b-14*

³ After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,
"You are my Son, today I have begotten you"?

Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?

⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
"Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷ Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire."

⁸ But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom."

⁹ *You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”*

¹⁰ *And,
“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;*

¹¹ *they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,*

¹² *like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.*

*But you are the same,
and your years will have no end.”*

¹³ *And to which of the angels has he ever said,
“Sit at my right hand*

until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?

¹⁴ *Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?*

This is the Word of Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *Jesus, Infinitely Superior to the Angels*

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

("Angels We Have Heard on High" words and music French Carol CCLI #358926 Streaming #20317932)

God's Blessing

Glory to God (Ere Zij God)

Glory to God! Glory to God
In the highest, in the highest, in the highest!
Peace be on earth, peace be on earth,
To the people whom God delights in.
Glory to God in the highest! Glory to God in the highest!
Peace be on earth, peace be on earth,
Peace be on earth, peace be on earth
To the people, to the people whom God delights in.
To the people whom God delights in, whom God delights in.
Glory to God! Glory to God
In the highest, in the highest, in the highest!
Peace be on earth, peace be on earth,
To the people whom God delights in. Amen. Amen.

Ere zij God! Ere zij God
In den hoge, in den hoge, in den hoge!
Vrede op aarde, vrede op aarde,
In de mensen een welbehagen.
Ere zij God in den hoge! Ere zij God in den hoge!
Vrede op aarde, vrede op aarde
Vrede op aarde, vrede op aarde
In de mensen, in de mensen een welbehagen,
In de mensen een welbehagen, een welbehagen
Ere zij God! Ere zij God
In den hoge, in den hoge, in den hoge!
Vrede op aarde, vrede op aarde,
In de mensen een welbehagen. Amen. Amen.

("Glory to God" words and tune by F.A. Schultz, tr. © 1987, CRC Publications, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Pastor: Robert W

Readers: Jordan & Abbie S and family, Aria P

Prayer: Paul A

Music: Valerie A, Emily A, Paul A, Sharon A, Tessa B, Kara H, Ben K, Kaden K, Ella M, Marc W, Lee V, Nancy Z

Offering will be received for the First CRC Benevolence Fund, used to help local people and families in times of need.

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

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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