

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 31, 2023 ~ 10:30 AM Worship Service

GATHEERED BY GOD'S GRACE

Call to Worship: *from Psalm 90*

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

***Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.***

A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

God's Greeting

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

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GRATITUDE FOR GOD'S PAST GRACE RECEIVED IN 2023

Scripture: *Hebrews 4:14-16*

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Grace Greater than Our Sin

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Refrain: Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin!

Sin and despair, like the seawaves cold, threaten the soul with infinite loss:
Grace, that is great – yes grace untold points to the Refuge, the mighty Cross. *Refrain*

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, freely bestowed on all who believe!
You that are longing to see His face, will you this moment His grace receive? *Refrain*

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Prayers of Thanksgiving for 2023

Silent prayers from congregation

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Pacific Island Ministries - Bible Fund

PETITION FOR GOD'S FUTURE GRACE NEEDED IN 2024

Scripture: *Ephesians 1 (ESV)*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that

the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Meditation: *Filled with the Knowledge of His Will*

Our God Will Go Before Us

Our God will go before us and guide us by His presence.

What confidence this promise is; we will never walk alone.

Refrain: Our God will go before us, the Lord of Hosts is with us.

O praise the One who leads us on for His grace will bring us home.

Through unknown paths through shadows, our hearts fear not tomorrow,
For every step His faithfulness is the truth that lights our way. *Refrain*

Though evil forms against us, all heaven will defend us.

The gates of hell shall not prevail for the battle is the Lord's. *Refrain*

("Our God Will Go Before Us" Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Pap © 2023 Getty Music Hymns and Songs; Getty Music Publishing; Love Your Enemies Publishing; Messenger Hymns CCLI #358926 Streaming #20317932)

Prayers of Petition For Our Church's Future

Silent prayers from congregation

SERVICE OF COVENANT RENEWAL

Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

All Glory Be to Christ (A Love Offering for the Eagle's Wing Home will be received during this song.)

Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive;

Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive.

To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life

A mist that vanishes at dawn all glory be to Christ!

Refrain: All glory be to Christ our king! All glory be to Christ!

His rule and reign we'll ever sing, all glory be to Christ!

His will be done His kingdom come, on earth as is above;

Who is Himself our daily bread, praise Him the Lord of love.

Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price

We'll take a cup of kindness yet, all glory be to Christ! *Refrain*

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God's Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, to God be the glory, to God be the glory for the things he has done:
With his blood he has saved me; with his power he has raised me.
To God be the glory for the things he has done.

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Pastor: Robert W
Prayer: Bryan A
Music: Sharon A

Offering will be received for Pacific Island Ministries for their Bible fund. This offering will help purchase study Bibles for area pastors that will be attending a pastors' conference in Ambunti.

Love Offering will be received for Eagle's Wings, is a Christian home for teenage girls in Albania, organized by Jack & Susannah and several colleagues of Pastor Robert & Phama. The home provides a safe haven for girls vulnerable to exploitation, violence and trafficking and here girls experience God's unconditional love, learn important life skills and receive job training. For more information, talk to Pastor Robert Woodyard or visit www.eagleswingsalbania.org.

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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