

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 31, 2023 ~ 6:00 PM Worship Service

Call to Worship: *Psalm 98:1-4*

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Opening Prayer

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*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,

O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

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

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 Hutt © 1963, 1976 by William Gaither CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child; Holy infant so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.

Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;

Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

©"Silent Night" words st. 1, 3-4, Joseph Mohr (1818) trans. John F. Young (1863), st. 2 Henrieta Ten Harmsel (1984), tune by Franz Gruber (1818), Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #2031793)

Profession of Faith: The Greatest Commandments – *Matt. 22:36-40*

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Offering: Pacific Island Ministries – Bible Fund

Evening Prayer

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.

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.

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way, oh, we hopelessly lost the way. *Refrain*

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*

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

Scripture: John 8:12-20, 30, 48-59

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." ¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." ¹⁴ Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. ¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me."

¹⁹ They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." ²⁰ These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹ Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵² The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' ⁵⁵ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."

⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message: If Time Could Speak

O God Our Help in Ages Past

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.

God's Blessing

O God Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home!

("O God, Our Help in Ages Past" words by Isaac Watts, music by William Croft © words and music Public Domain CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Pastor: Don R
Music: Nancy Z

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.

Worship services are also broadcast live in the church basement and streamed online.

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