

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
January 7, 2024 ~ 10:30 AM Worship Service

Call to Worship: Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

God's Greeting

As With Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore your splendor see.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly infant bed,
There to bend the knee before Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
So, may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at the cradle plain and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

© "As With Gladness Men of Old" words by William C. Dix, music by Conrad Kocher © Public Domain CCLI# 538826/Streaming License #20317932

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,

And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! *Refrain*

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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*

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Call to Confession: 1 John 2:1-2

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Prayer of Confession

Song of Assurance: *What a Beautiful Name*

You were the Word at the beginning,
One with God, the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation,
Now revealed in You our Christ.
What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a beautiful Name it is, nothing compares to this,
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

You didn't want heaven without us,
So Jesus, You brought heaven down.
My sin was great, Your love was greater,
What could separate us now
What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a wonderful Name it is, nothing compares to this,
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You,
You silence the boast of sin and grave.
The heavens are roaring the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again.
You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever God, You reign.
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names.

What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a powerful Name it is, nothing can stand against,
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

("What a Beautiful Name" Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligertwood © 2016 Hillsong Music Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI #358926 Streaming #20317932)

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Christian School Tuition Assistance

Morning Prayer

Speak, O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You,
To receive the food of Your holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today,
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes,
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see,
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

("Speak, O Lord" words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend, © 2005 Kingsway's Thankyou Music, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Scripture: *Luke 2:21-40 (ESV)*

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” ³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *Wisdom and Grace for 2024*

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee: O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

(“How Firm a Foundation” words J. Rippon, music J. Funk 1832; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985, Harmonization © 1987 CRC Publication, CCLI #358926, Streaming #20317932)

God's Blessing

My Friends, May You Grow in Grace

My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.
My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.
To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.

(“My Friends, May You Grow in Grace” words and music by Timothy James Meaney and Sean Diamond © 1991, 2011 Wiseman Music, CCLI #358926 Streaming #20317932)

Pastor: Robert W
Prayer: Randy L, Gene T
Music: Brian K, Jack P, Ken Q, Lisa Q

Offering will be received for Christian School Tuition Assistance, used to help cover tuition cost of First church families who send their children to Christian schools.

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

On the bulletin, * indicates standing and bold font is a response by the congregation. You are invited to join if you feel comfortable.