

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
September 8, 2024 ~ 10:30 AM Worship Service

Call to Worship: *Romans 15:5-7*

*May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another,
in accord with Christ Jesus,
that together we may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

God's Greeting

To God be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice.
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. *Refrain*

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. *Refrain*

("To God Be the Glory" words by Franny Crosby and music by William H. Doane © Public Domain CCLI# 358926 Streaming #20317932)

We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,
Sing praises to His name: He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His Kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning:
Thou, Lord, was at our side – all glory be Thine.

("We Gather Together" words and music: Netherlands Folk Song, harm. Edward Kremser, descant Tom Fettko, © 1976 Paragon Assoc., CCLI 358926, Streaming 20317932)

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Savior, like a Shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us; for our use Thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

We are Thine; do Thou befriend us; be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock; from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear Thy children when they pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear Thy children when they pray.

("Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" Dorothy Thrupp) William Bradbury © Public Domain CCLI#358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Call to Confession and Preparation: *Isaiah 1:18 (NIV)*

*"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD.
"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."*

Prayer of Confession

Assurance: Psalm 1

*Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.
The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.*

That Man is Blest (Psalm 1)

That man is blest who, fearing God, from sin restrains his feet,
Who will not stand with wicked men, who shuns the scorner's seat.

Yea, blest is he who makes God's law His portion and delight,
And meditates upon that law with gladness day and night.

That man is nourished like a tree set by the river's side;
Its leaf is green, its fruit is sure, and thus his works abide.

("That Man is Blest" words Psalm 1, music John H. Gower (1890) Public Domain CCLI# 358926 Streaming #20317932)

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Steve & Sandy

Congregational Prayer

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged – take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness – take it to the Lord in prayer!

("What a Friend We Have in Jesus" words by Joseph M. Scriven music by Charles C. Converse © Public Domain CCLI#358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-17

¹⁵ *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,* ¹⁶ *making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.* ¹⁷ *Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: Why I Am Not a Pessimist

Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, what a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies, but His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear, can remain when we trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

("Trust and Obey" words and music by William and Gloria Gaither © 1974 William J. Gaither CCLI #358926)

God's Blessing

Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God

Now blessed be the Lord our God, the God of Israel,
For He alone does wondrous works: His glorious deeds excel;
For He alone does wondrous works: His glorious deeds excel.

And blessed be His glorious name through all eternity;
The whole earth let His glory fill: Amen! so shall it be;
The whole earth let His glory fill: Amen! so shall it be.

("Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God" words Psalm 72:18-19; Scotch Psalter, 1650, alt., tune Grace Oliver Holden, 1793, Public Domain, CCLI# 358926 Streaming #20317932)

Why I am Not a Pessimist *Ephesians 5:15-17*

1. We Watch Our Steps, vs. 15
Psalm 46:10

2. We Make the Best Use of Our Time (Redeem), vs. 16

3. We Understand and Do God's Will, vs. 17
John 14:1

Pastor: Jim V
Prayer: Carl R, Galen L
Music: Mike H

Offering will be received for Steve & Sandy, missionaries with Africa Inland Mission working with in Ontario, Canada. For more information, visit www.aimint.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 to the Education Building during the service.

Worship services are also broadcast live in the church 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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