

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 1, 2024 ~ 10:30 AM Worship Service
First Sunday in Advent

Advent Reading: *Luke 2:28-32*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - HOPE

Call to Worship: *O Come, Let Us Adore Him*

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

We'll praise His name forever, we'll praise His name forever,
We'll praise His name forever, Christ the Lord.

("O Come, Let Us Adore Him" words traditional, music Wades Cantus Diversi, 1751 © Public Domain CCLI#359826 Streaming License #20317932)

God's Greeting

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art:
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

("Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" words by Charles Wesley, music by Roland Hugh Prichard, descant by Paul Sjöhand © Public Domain CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

("O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" words Latin, 12th cent.; tr. composite, nine 15th century, adapted by Thomas Helmore (1854), Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Call to Confession: *I John 4:9-10*

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Prayer of Confession

Assurance: *Come Unto Jesus*

Come unto Jesus all you who are weary. Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.
Here, bring your wounded heart, broken and needy. Come unto Jesus, mighty to heal.

Come, taste the Bread of Life, broken for sinners. Drink from the cup of His promise made sure.
Feast at His table as sons and as daughters. Grace overflowing is yours evermore.

Refrain: Come unto Jesus. Come unto Jesus.
Lay down your burdens, He is enough.
Come unto Jesus, rest in His love.

Come, now and follow Him, this life forsaking. All that was gained, count as nothing but loss.
Trade all this world for His kingdom unfading. Come unto Jesus, and take up your cross. *Refrain*

("Come Unto Jesus" Jordan Kauflin| Laura Story| Keith & Kristyn Getty| Matthew Merker © 2023 Getty Music Hymns and Songs; Getty Music Publishing; Jordan Kauflin Music; Laura's Stories and Songs; Matthew Merker Music CCLI 358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

A Communion Hymn for Christmas

Gathered 'round Your table on this holy day, viewing Bethl'hem's stable we rejoice and pray.
Joy to see You lying in Your manger bed; weep to see You dying in our sinful stead.

With profoundest wonder we Your body take – laid in manger yonder, broken for our sake.
Hushed in adoration we approach the cup; Bethl'hem's pure oblation freely offered up.

Christmas Babe so tender, Lamb who bore our blame, how shall sinners render praises due Your name?
Do Your own good pleasure in the lives we bring; in Your ransomed treasure reign forever King!

*A Communion Hymn for Christmas: words by Margaret Clarkson, tune by Tom Fetke, © 1986 Word Music, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Christian School Tuition Assistance

Congregational Prayer

Scripture: *Romans 8:35-39*

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *Who Shall Separate Us*

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)

God's Blessing

He Is Lord

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

He is King, he is King, he will draw all nations to him; he is King!
And the time shall be when the world shall sing that Jesus Christ is King.

(“He Is Lord” words: st. 1 Marvin Frey © 1977, sts. 1,2,3 anonymous Music: Marvin Frey © 1977 Marvin Frey; harm. © 1987 Marvin Frey, CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Pastors: Zac H, Robert W
Prayer: Mark T, Roger P

Readers: Pat J and Marilyn M
Music: Sharon A

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

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”.