

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 8, 2024 ~ 10:30 AM Worship Service
Second Sunday in Advent

Advent Reading: *Isaiah 9:6-7b*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - PEACE

Prayer

Call to Worship:

All creation holds its breath.

The time is almost here.

The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

Excitement is all around us.

Prepare your hearts, the grace of God takes on human form.

Good news! Emmanuel, God with us, comes to us.

We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ, our hope and peace

God's Greeting

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*

(^oO Come, All Ye Faithful^o words and tune by John Francis Wade (1743) tr. Frederick Oakeley (1841), Descant © 1947, Hymns Ancient and Modern, Ltd., Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #2031795)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

(^oO Little Town of Bethlehem: words Margaret Clarkson, tune Lewis H. Redner, Public Domain, CCLI# 358926 Streaming #20317952)

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone, my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song,

This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.

My Comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ, I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God, in helpless Babe.

This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.

'Til on the cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.

For ev'ry sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live.

(^oIn Christ Alone^o words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend© 2002 Kingsway's Thankyou Music, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317952)

Call to Confession: *John 15:9-12*

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Prayer of Confession

**We confess, Gracious God, that we have not always turned to you for guidance.
At times, we have allowed the world's time to dominate your time.
Forgive us for our sins of hurriedness and impatience.
Forgive us when we have slumbered instead of remaining alert, waiting and watching for you.
Forgive us for allowing the world's fears to become our fears.
Shine upon us this Advent season so that we may be restored unto you.
Guide us into your time. As we call upon your name, hear our prayers and give us life.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Assurance

The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life.
Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.
Thanks be to God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve.

Meekness and Majesty

Meekness and majesty, manhood and Deity, in perfect harmony, the Man who is God.
Lord of eternity, dwells in humanity; kneels in humility and washes our feet.
O what a mystery, meekness and majesty; bow down and worship, for this is your God.

Wisdom unsearchable, God, the invisible; love indestructible in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly; lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne.
O what a mystery, meekness and majesty; bow down and worship, for this is your God.

("Meekness and Majesty" Graham Kendrick © 1986 Thankyou Music, admin. Worldwide at EMICMGPublishing.com CCLI# 358926, Streaming License #2031793)

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Mission and Outreach Fund

Offertory Ministry of Music: *O Holy Night*

Congregational Prayer

Scripture: *Isaiah 40:1-5*

¹ *Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
³ A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
⁵ And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*

II Corinthians 1:3-7

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. ⁶ If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. ⁷ Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.*

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

Message: *Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People*

Joyful, Joyful

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;
Angels lifting praise before You sing through out this holy night.
In a manger lies a Baby – Child of Mary, Son of God.
Voices joined in joyful chorus praise You for Your gift of love.

All Your works declare Your glory, all creation joins to sing.
Praise resounds as earth rejoices in the birth of Christ, the King.
Shepherds kneel before the Infant. Trumpets sound and anthems raise
As with joy our hearts are lifted, joined in wonder, love, and praise.

("Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" music by Ludwig van Beethoven; adapted by Edward Hodges; words by Linda Lee Johnson; text © 1986 Lillenas Publishing Co.; arr. © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music and Words (a div. of Word Music) CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

God's Blessing

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

("Good Christian Men, Rejoice" words and tune German/Latin 14th cent., tr. John Mason Neale (1853), Public Domain, #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Pastors: Zac H, Robert W
Readers: Molly H, Mindy H
Prayer: Ryan B, Galen L
Music: Joy J, Kaden K, Lee V, Nancy Z

Offering will be received for the Missions and Outreach Fund, used to help organizations that fall outside of the realm of our benevolence fund but still need support. This allows the church to help organizations when our offering schedule is full.

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 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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