

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 15, 2024 ~ 10:30 AM Worship Service
Third Sunday in Advent

Advent Reading: *Luke 2:8-11*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - JOY

Call to Worship: *Isaiah 52:7-8a, 9-10*

*How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
**Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.***

God's Greeting

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let men their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

("Joy to the World" words by Isaac Watts (1719), tune by Lowell Mason (1848), Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #2031793)

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

("Angels from the Realms of Glory" words by James Montgomery music by Henry Smart © Public Domain 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, 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 Henrietta Ten Harnsel (1984), tune by Franz Gruber (1818), Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #2031793)

Call to Confession: *Isaiah 55:6-7*

*Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord,
that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

Prayer of Confession

Assurance: *Isaiah 53:4, 5*

*Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.*

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King;
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come;
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, He the perfect Son of man;
In His living, in His suffering never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man;
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand.

("Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery" words and music by Matt Papa, Matt Boswell and Michael Bleecker © 2013 McKinney Music, Inc. Love Your Enemies Publishing, The Village Church CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Offertory Prayer and Offering: ThereforeGo Ministries

Offertory Ministry of Music: *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*

Congregational Prayer

Scripture: *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

² *The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.*

⁶ *For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

⁷ *Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *The People That Walked in Darkness*

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heaven adore! Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased with man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

("Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" words Charles Wesley, tune Felix Mendelssohn, descant Paul Liljestrand © 1976 Paragon Associates, Inc., CCLI #358926, Streaming #20317932)

God's Blessing

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild, he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise the lost of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

("Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" words Charles Wesley, tune Felix Mendelssohn, descant Paul Liljestrand © 1976 Paragon Associates, Inc., CCLI #358926, Streaming #20317932)

Pastors: Zac H, Robert W
Readers: Luke & Leah T
Prayer: Rob H, Fred Y
Music: Paul A, Sharon A, Cal B, Brian K, Evan T, Lee V

Offering will be received for ThereforeGo Ministries, a Christ-centered ministry that supports local churches in their youth ministry efforts across the United States and Canada. For more information, visit thereforego.com.

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 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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