

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 22, 2024 ~ 10:30 AM Worship Service
Fourth Sunday in Advent

Advent Reading: *Isaiah 6:6a,7b*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - LOVE

Prayer

Call to Worship

We lift up our heart, and bring You our worship and praise!
We lift up our voices and bring You our worship and praise!
Praise and honor, glory and might, to Him who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb for ever and ever! Amen!

God's Greeting

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love Thou art.
Visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

("Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Charles Wesley) Rowland H. Pritchard © Public Domain CCL1 #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore, on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

("Angels We Have Heard on High" words and music French Carol Public Domain CCL1 #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown when Thou camest to earth for me,
But in Bethlehem's home there was found no room for Thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus: There is room in my heart for Thee!

When the heavens shall ring and the angels sing at Thy coming to victory.
Let Thy voice call me home, saying, "Yet there is room, there is room at my side for thee."
And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus, when Thou comest and callest me.

("Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" words by Emily F. S. Elliot, tune by Timothy R. Matthews, © Public Domain, CCL1# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Call to Confession:

In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways.
We close our hearts to God and disobey God's law. Together let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Assurance: *John 3:16-18*

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates: behold the King of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide!
Let me Thy inner presence feel: Thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

("Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" text by Georg Weissel, tr. By Catherine Winkworth, tune Psalmody Evangelica, © Public Domain, CCLI #358926, Streaming #20317932)

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Building the Future

Offertory Ministry of Music: *O Holy Night*

Congregational Prayer

Scripture: *Luke 2:8-14*

⁸ *And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.*

¹⁰ *And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.*

¹¹ *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,*

¹⁴ *"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *There Were Shepherds*

How Great Our Joy

While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

Refrain: How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall be born so He did say,
In Bethlehem a Child today. *Refrain*

This gift of God we'll cherish well,
That every joy our hearts shall fill. *Refrain*

("How Great Our Joy!" tr. Theodore Baker, traditional German carol, CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

God's Blessing

Christmas Doxology

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace.
Praise God for gifts of joy and love.
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
On earth for us-Emmanuel.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

("Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" words by Thomas Ken and music Louise Bourgeois, © Public Domain, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Pastors: Zac H, Robert W
Readers: Zac & Isabel W Family
Prayer: Greg T
Music: Ken Q, Kara H, Cheryl K, Kaden K, Brian K, Jack P, Lisa Q

Offering will be received for Building the Future, a fund in place for future building projects of our church.
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 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".

First Christian Reformed Church
1010 Front St. Lynden, WA 98264
360.354.4560 info@firstcrclinden.org
www.firstcrclinden.org