

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
March 16, 2025 ~ 6:00 p.m. Worship Service

Call to Worship: *Psalm 63:1-3*

*O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.*

Opening Prayer

Thy Loving Kindness Is Greater Than Life

Thy loving kindness is better than life.
Thy loving kindness is better than life.
My lips shall praise Thee, thus will I bless Thee.
I will lift up my hands unto Thy name.

I lift my hands Lord unto Thy name.
I lift my hands Lord unto Thy name.
My lips shall praise Thee, thus will I bless Thee.
I will lift up my hands unto Thy name.

("Thy Loving Kindness" Hugh Mitchell © 1956 New Spring Music CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Here Is Love

Here is love, vast as the ocean, loving-kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten throughout heav'n's eternal days.

Let me all Thy love accepting, love Thee, ever all my days;
Let me see Thy kingdom only and my life be to Thy praise;
Thou alone shalt be my glory, nothing in the world I see.
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me,
Thou Thyself hast set me free.

In Thy truth Thou dost direct me
By Thy Spirit through Thy Word;
And Thy grace my need is meeting as I trust in Thee, my Lord.
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring
Thy great love and pow'r on me,
Without measure, full and boundless,
Drawing out my heart to Thee.

("Here is Love" words by William Edwards, music by William Rees ©words and music Public Domain, CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

I Know Whom I Have Believed

I know not why God's wondrous grace
To me he has made known.
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love redeemed me for his own.
Refrain

Refrain: But "I know whom I have believed,
And am persuaded that he is able
To keep that which I've committed
Unto him against that day."

I know not how this saving faith to me he did impart,
Nor how believing in his Word wrought peace within my heart. *Refrain*

I know not how the Spirit moves, convincing us of sin,
Revealing Jesus through the Word, creating faith in him. *Refrain*

("I Know Whom I Have Believed" words by Daniel Whittle, music by James McGranahan © Public Domain CCL1 #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Profession of Faith: *Romans 8:38-39*

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.

Offering: Samaritan's Purse, California Wildfire Relief

Evening Prayer

Power of the Cross

O, to see the dawn of the darkest day;
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.
This the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath; We stand forgiven at the cross.

O, to see the pain written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Every bitter thought, every evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.
This the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath; We stand forgiven at the cross.

O, to see my name written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.
This the power of the cross: Son of God slain for us.
What a love, what a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.

("Power of the Cross" text and tune by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2005 Thank-you Music/admin. Music Services CCL1 #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Scripture: *Song of Songs 1:1-4; 2:10-11; 7:10; 8:4, 6-7*

¹ The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

² Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!

For your love is better than wine;

³ your anointing oils are fragrant;

your name is oil poured out;

therefore virgins love you.

⁴ Draw me after you; let us run.

The king has brought me into his chambers.

My beloved speaks and says to me:

"Arise, my love, my beautiful one,

and come away,

¹¹ for behold, the winter is past;

the rain is over and gone.

7:10 *I am my beloved's,
and his desire is for me.*

8:4, 6-7 *I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
that you not stir up or awaken love
until it pleases.*

*Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death,
jealousy is fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire,
the very flame of the Lord.
7 Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
If a man offered for love
all the wealth of his house,
he would be utterly despised.*

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

Message: *A Walk Through the Bible – Song of Songs*

My Jesus, I Love Thee

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou:
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow:
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

"My Jesus, I Love Thee" words Adoniram Judson Jordan, tune William Ralph Featherstone, © words and music Public Domain, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

God's Blessing

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord lift his countenance upon you
And give you peace, and give you peace;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You" Peter C Lutkin © Public Domain CCLI#358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Pastors: Zac H, Robert W
Music: Nancy Z

Offering Samaritans Purse California Wildfire Relief - When a disaster strikes, it's urgent to get help fast to those affected. Suffering people can't wait. That's why Samaritan's Purse responds immediately, quickly deploying our staff, equipment, supplies and an army of volunteers to help devastated homeowners. We tarp roofs, mud out houses, cut up downed trees, sift through ashes for personal belongings, and more, to help hurting people start down the road to recovery. More importantly, we share with them the hope found only in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and let them know that God loves them and hasn't forgotten them. www.samaritanspurse.org.