

*Missions Celebration and Third of Lent*  
First Christian Reformed Church  
Lynden, Washington  
March 23, 2025 ~ 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

**Presentation of the Flags of the Nations**

**Blessings of the Missionaries**

As your brothers and sisters in Christ and partners in ministry, we join in giving our blessing:  
“**Blessed are you, who come in the name of the Lord.**”

**Call to Worship**

All who thirst, come to the water and drink deeply of these living streams.  
Come, all who are weary; come, all who yearn for forgiveness.  
**Our gracious God beckons and blesses us. Let us give praise for new life in Christ.**

**God’s Greeting**

*Song for the Nations*

May we be a shining light to the nations, a shining light to the peoples of the earth,  
Till the whole world sees the glory of Your name; may Your pure light shine through us.

May we bring a word of hope to the nations, a word of life to the peoples of the earth,  
Till the whole world knows there’s salvation thro’ Your name; may Your mercy flow thro’ us.

May Your kingdom come to the nations, Your will be done in the peoples of the earth,  
Till the whole world knows that Jesus Christ is Lord; may Your kingdom come on earth.

(“Song for the Nations” text and music Chris Christensen © 1989 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

*God of Grace*

God of grace, amazing wonder, irresistible and free;  
Oh, the miracle of mercy, Jesus reaches down to me.  
God of grace, I stand in wonder, as my God restores my soul.  
His own blood has paid my ransom; awesome cost to make me whole.

God of grace, who loved and knew me long before the world began;  
Sent my Savior down from heaven; perfect God and perfect man.  
God of grace, I trust in Jesus; I’m accepted as His own.  
Every day new grace sustains me, as I lean on Him alone.

God of grace, I stand astounded, cleansed forgiven and secure.  
All my fears are now confounded and my hope is ever sure.  
God of grace, now crowned in glory, where one day I’ll see Your face;  
And forever I’ll adore You in Your everlasting grace.

(“God of Grace” words and music by Jonathan Rea | Keith Getty © 2003 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

**Lenten Reading: Isaiah 50:5-10**

*But for the Cross of Christ*

What is the truth that ever anchors me amidst the waves of all my guilt?  
That Christ has shed His blood and pardoned me at the cross, at the cross.  
He bore my sin, I bear His righteousness. Oh what a glorious exchange.  
The wrath of God laid on the spotless Lamb. Oh what grace, oh what grace,

*Refrain:* Behold the cross, there is no greater love; heaven’s Son laid down His life for us.  
Oh my soul would be lost with no hope to find, but for the cross of Christ.

How do I walk with humble confidence? I look to Christ, who is my peace.  
He sealed my hope and my inheritance at the cross, at the cross.  
When I am weak and stumble into sin, there is an ever-flowing stream.  
His cleansing blood revives my soul again. Oh what grace, oh what grace. *Refrain*

(“But for the Cross of Christ” Bryan Fowler | Jessica Watman | Kristy Getty © 2023 Getty Music Publishing, Watermark Music, Re: Essential Songs; bryanfowersongs CCLI License # 320926 Streaming License #20317932)

**Offertory Prayer and Offering:** Ken & Chris, Wycliffe

**Offertory Ministry of Music:** *He Reigns*

## **Congregational Prayer**

**Scripture:** *II Corinthians 5:18 – 6:13 (ESV)*

<sup>5:18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup> Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup> We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup> but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup> by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup> through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

<sup>11</sup> We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. <sup>12</sup> You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. <sup>13</sup> In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** *The Ambassadors’ Song*

### **Hear the Call of the Kingdom**

Hear the call of the Kingdom, lift your eyes to the King. Let His song rise within you as a fragrant offering Of how God, rich in mercy, came in Christ to redeem all who trust in His unfailing grace.

Hear the call of the Kingdom to be children of light, with the mercy of heaven, the humility of Christ; Walking justly before Him, loving all that is right; that the light of Christ may shine through us.

*Refrain:* King of heaven, we will answer the call; we will follow, bringing hope to the world,  
Filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim salvation in Jesus’ name.

Hear the call of the Kingdom to reach out to the lost; with the Father’s compassion, in the wonder of the cross. Bringing peace and forgiveness and a hope yet to come, let the nations put their trust in Him. *Refrain*

(“Hear the Call of the Kingdom” words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2006 Thankyou Music CCLI #358926 Streaming #20317932)

## **God’s Blessing**

### **“Man of Sorrows!” What a Name**

“Man of Sorrows!” What a name for the Son of God who came;  
Ruined sinners to reclaim, hallelujah, what a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King, all His ransomed home to bring,  
Then anew this song we’ll sing, hallelujah, what a Savior!

(“Man of Sorrows – What a Name” text and tune Philipp P. Biss, 1875, alt., CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Pastors: Phil S, Robert W

Readers and Prayer: Bryan & Sara K and Family,

Prayer: Carl R

Music: Emily A, Paul A, Sharon A, Brian K, Cheryl K, Jack P, Bill Van S, Nancy Z

Offering will be received for Ken & Chris, working with Wycliffe where Chris serves in member care. For more information, visit [wycliffe.org](http://wycliffe.org).

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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Children are dismissed to the Ed. Building during the worship 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”.

On the bulletin, bold font is a response by the congregation. You are invited to join if you feel comfortable.