

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
May 4, 2025 ~ 6:00 p.m. Worship Service

Call to Worship: *Psalm 66:1-2, 4*

*Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.
All the earth worships you;
they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name.*

Opening Prayer

Praise to the Lord! #253:1,3,4 (PH)

Praise to the Lord! The Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Come, all who hear, brothers and sisters, draw near,
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
As with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly forever adore Him!

("Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" words by Joachim Neander, Public Domain, CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Kings Men of Song:

*Holy, Holy, Holy
I Am Determined*

The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear #542:1,3,4 (PH)

The ends of all the earth shall hear
And turn unto the Lord in fear;
All kindreds of the earth shall own
And worship Him as God alone.

Refrain: All earth to Him her homage brings,
The Lord of lords, the King of kings.

Both rich and poor, both bond and free
Shall worship Him on bended knee,
And children's children shall proclaim
The glorious honor of His name. *Refrain*

The Lord's unfailing righteousness
All generations shall confess;
From age to age they shall be taught
What wondrous works the Lord has wrought. *Refrain*

("The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear" tune by William H. Doane © Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming #20317932)

Profession of Faith: Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate;
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead
he ascended to heaven, and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit.
I believe in a holy catholic church,
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering: GLOW Girls Ministry

Evening Prayer

Speak, O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You,
To receive the food of Your holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today,
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built,
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

("Speak, O Lord" words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend, © 2005 Kingsway's Thankyou Music, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Scripture: Acts 6:1-10; 7:54-60

¹ Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

⁵ And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸ And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.

^{7:54} Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing

at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *Christ Glorified in Stephen's Death*

God of the Prophets

God of the prophets, bless the prophets' heirs!
Elijah's mantle o'er Elisha cast:
Each age for your own solemn task prepares;
Make each one stronger, nobler than the last.

Anoint us prophets, bless the prophets' heirs!
Elijah's mantle o'er Elisha cast:
Fill us with power, our lips make eloquent
For righteousness that shall all evil break.

Anoint us priests! Help us to intercede
With all your royal priesthood born of grace;
Through us your church presents in word and deed
A living sacrifice with thanks and praise.

Anoint us kings! Help us do justice, Lord!
Anoint us with the Spirit of your Son:
Ours not a monarch's crown or tyrant's sword;
Ours by the love of Christ a kingdom won.

Make us apostles, heralds of your cross;
Forth may we go to tell all realms your grace:
By you inspired, may we count all but loss,
And stand at last with joy before your face.

("God of the Prophets" text Denis Wortman (1884), Public Domain, music Emily R. Brink (desc.), Descant © 1987, CRC Publications, CCLI #358926 Streaming #20317932)

Kings Men of Song:

Give Me Jesus
I'll Not Be Shaken

God's Blessing

Kings Men of Song: *Maranatha*

Pastors: Zac H, Gerald R, Robert W
Kings Men of Song - Director: Gerald R
Pianist: Laura TV

Offering will be received for the GLOW girls ministry for girls in 2nd-6th grade, led by Kim A and other women from First CRC.