

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 7, 2025 ~ 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Second Sunday in Advent

Advent Reading: from Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 19

How do you come to know the good news of Jesus Christ?

The holy gospel tells me.

God himself began to reveal the gospel already in paradise; later, he proclaimed it by the holy patriarchs.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Prayer

Call to Worship: *based on Psalm 105:1-3, 7-8, 45 (TEV)*

Give thanks to the Lord, proclaim God's greatness.

Tell the nations what God has done.

Sing praise to the Lord.

Tell the wonderful things God has done.

Be glad that we belong to God.

Let all who worship God rejoice.

The Lord is our God; God's commands are for all the world.

God will keep his covenant forever, God's promises last for a thousand generations. Praise the Lord!

God's Greeting

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road and bar the way to death's abode.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!

(“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” words Latin, 12th cent.; tr. composite, tune 15th century, adapted by Thomas Helmore (1854), Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #2031793)

Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.

He comes the broken heart to bind, the wounded soul to cure;
And with the treasures of His grace to enrich the humbled poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim;
And heaven's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

(“Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes” Philip Doddridge/Thomas Haweis © Public Domain CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Call to Confession: *Mark 1:1-3*

*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,
“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”*

Prayer of Confession

Assurance: *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

*“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,
when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David,
and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely.
And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”*

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!

Heaven’s arches rang when the angels sang, proclaiming Thy royal degree,
But in lowly birth didst Thou come to earth and in great humility.
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, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Christian School Tuition Assistance

Offertory Ministry of Music: *What Child Is This*

Congregational Prayer

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, shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

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)

Scripture: *Genesis 12:1-3*

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 22:17-18

¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *The Covenant with Abraham: Promise of Blessing to All Nations*

Blessed Be the God of Israel

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free
And raises up new hope for us: a branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.

With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
The oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all,
That we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,
In holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.

("Blessed Be the God of Israel" words by Carl P. Daw © 1989 Hope Publishing Co. music English folk tune; adpt. and harm. Ralph Vaughn William © Public Domain CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

God's Blessing

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.

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)

Pastors: Zac H, Jonathan U, Robert W
Readers: Mark & Michelle and Isaac T
Prayer: Kyle E
Music: Paul A, Brad H, Jack P, Ken Q

Offering will be received for Christian School Tuition Assistance, a fund used to help cover tuition cost of First church families who send their children to Christian schools.

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 Ed. 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".

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

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