

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 14, 2025 ~ 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Third 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 and portrayed it by the sacrifices and ceremonies of the law.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Prayer

Call to Worship: *Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 98:4*

*Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!*

God's Greeting

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

("O Come, All Ye Faithful" words and tune by John Francis Wade (1743) tr. Frederick Oakeley (1841), Descant © 1947, Hymns Ancient and Modern, Ltd., Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #2031793)

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground;
The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory shone around.

"Fear not!" said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind.
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind, to you and all mankind.

"To you in David's town this day, is born of David's line,
The Savior, who is Christ, the Lord, and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign.

"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace.
Good will, hence forth from heaven to men, begin and never cease, Begin and never cease."

("While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks" words Nahum Tate| George Friedrich Handel, © Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming Lic #2031793)

Call to Confession: *I Peter 2:24-25*

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Prayer of Confession

Assurance: *I John 1:7*

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

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 CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Offertory Prayer and Offering: Charles & Hansel – Resonate Global Mission

Offertory Ministry of Music: *Behold the Lamb of God*

Congregational Prayer

Scripture: *Exodus 19:3-6*

³ While Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

Exodus 34:27-28

²⁷ And the Lord said to Moses, "Write these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel." ²⁸ So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights. He neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *The Covenant with Moses: Promise of Righteousness*

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this.
He has opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Lift up your voices higher, to the Kings of Kings.
Join the angel choirs, lift your hearts and sing.

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Call you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

("Good Christian Men, Rejoice" words and tune German/Latin 14th cent., tr. John Mason Neale (1853), Public Domain, #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

God's Blessing

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

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)

Behold the Lamb of God

We who walk in darkness deep now see the light of morning.
The mighty God, the Prince of Peace,
A child to us is born.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away our sin.
Behold the Lamb of God, the life and light of men.
Behold the Lamb of God who died and rose again.
Behold the Lamb of God who comes to take away our sin.

Wand'ers in the wilderness, oh hear a voice is crying:
Prepare the way! Make straight the path!
Your king has come to die.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away our sin.
Behold the Lamb of God, the life and light of men.
Behold the Lamb of God who died and rose again.
Behold the Lamb of God who comes to take away our sin.

Son of God (Emmanuel), Son of Man (we praise you).
Behold the Lamb, the hope of man Behold the Lamb.

("Behold the Lamb of God" Andrew Peterson| Ben Shive, Laura Story © 2019 Laura Stories; New Spring; Junkbox Music CCLI #358926 Streaming Lic #2031793)

Pastors: Zac H, Robert W
Readers: Ryan & Fritzie E and family
Prayer: Carl R, Ron D
Music: Paul A, Sharon A, Cynthia U, Jonathan U Lee V

Offering will be received for Charles & Hansel, ministry partners with Resonate Global Mission, working to share the gospel in Japan. For more information, visit resonateglobalmission.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 – 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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