

First Christian Reformed Church - Lynden, Washington
December 21, 2025 ~ 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Fourth 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, and declared it by the prophets.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Prayer

Call to Worship: *from Psalm 89:1-4*

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;

with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'

Praise the Lord!

God's Greeting

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;
Angels lifting praise before You sing through out this holy night.
In a manger lies a Baby Child of Mary, Son of God.
Voices joined in joyful chorus praise You for Your gift of love.

All Your works declare Your glory, all creation joins to sing.
Praise resounds as earth rejoices in the birth of Christ, the King.
Shepherds kneel before the Infant. Trumpets sound and anthems raise
As with joy our hearts are lifted, joined in wonder, love, and praise.

("Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" music by Ludwig van Beethoven; adapted by Edward Hodges; words by Linda Lee Johnson; text © 1986 Lillenas Publishing Co.; arr. © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music and Words (a div. of Word Music) CCLI#358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Christmas Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

Holy, holy, holy, in a manger lowly; Christ the Son now veiled in flesh in our humanity.
Kingdoms bow before him, heav'n and earth adore him. God here in person, hail his majesty.

Holy, holy, holy, sings the virgin Mary; for he shall deliver us from sin's captivity.
Born to heal the nations, born for our salvation, oh, magnify him, Christ the Prince of Peace.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Heaven's angels sound his praise with earth and sky and sea!
Join the song of triumph, glory in the highest! Let all creation crown him King of kings.

("Christmas Sanctus" Matt Boswell | Matt Papa © Getty Music Publishing; Love Your Enemies Publishing; Messenger Hymns CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

We'll praise His name forever, we'll praise His name forever,
We'll praise His name forever, Christ the Lord.

We'll give Him all the glory, we'll give Him all the glory,
We'll give Him all the glory, Christ the Lord.

("O Come, Let Us Adore Him" words traditional, music Wades Cantus Diversi, 1751 © Public Domain CCLI#358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Call to Confession: *Psalm 51:16-17*

*For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

Prayer of Confession

Assurance: *Matthew 1:20-21*

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, evermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee:
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

("Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" words by Charles Wesley music by Rowland H Pritchard © Public Domain, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Offertory Prayer and Offering: Eric & Penny – Educational Materials

Offertory Ministry of Music: *Joyous Christmas Medley*

Congregational Prayer

Scripture: *II Samuel 7:8–16*

⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *The Covenant with David: Promise of Everlasting Kingdom*

Meekness and Majesty

Meekness and majesty, manhood and Deity, in perfect harmony, the Man who is God.
Lord of eternity, dwells in humanity; kneels in humility and washes our feet.
O what a mystery, meekness and majesty; bow down and worship, for this is your God.

Wisdom unsearchable, God, the invisible; love indestructible in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly; lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne.
O what a mystery, meekness and majesty; bow down and worship, for this is your God.

("Meekness and Majesty" words and music by Graham Kendrick © 1986 Thankyou Music, admin. Worldwide at EMICMGPublishing.com excluding Europe which is admin. by Kingswaysongs. CCLI# 358926, Streaming License #2031793)

God's Blessing

Christmas Doxology

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace.
Praise God for gifts of joy and love.
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
On earth for us – Emmanuel.

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)

Pastors: Zac H, Jonathan UI, Robert W
Readers: Jonathan & Cynthia U
Prayer: Dave R
Music: Cheryl K, Sara K, Nancy Z

Offering will be received for Eric & Penny, working with Pacific Island Ministries. These funds will be used to help cover the cost of Christian teaching materials, developed by Eric and used in the public school system in Papua New Guinea. For more information, visit www.piministries.com/.

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 during the worship 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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