

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 28, 2025 ~ 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Call to Worship: *Psalm 98:4, 1-3*

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music;
Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
**The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.***

God's Greeting

The First Noel

The first noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, noel! Noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with His blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, noel! Noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel!

("The First Noel" words English Carol music English Melody © Public Domain, CCLI #358926 Streaming License #2031793)

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Sing we the song of Emmanuel; this the Christ who was long foretold.
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem, promise of dawn now our eyes behold.
God Most High in a manger laid; lift your voices and now proclaim:
Great and glorious, Love has come to us; join now with the hosts of heaven.

Come we to welcome Emmanuel; King who came with no crown or throne.
Helpless He lay, the invincible, Maker of Mary, now Mary's son.
O what wisdom to save us all, shepherds, sages, before Him fall.
Grace and majesty, what humility; come on bended knee, adore Him.

Glo-ria, Glo-ria (*repeat*)

Go spread the news of Emmanuel; joy and peace for the weary heart.
Lift up your heads, for your King has come; sing for the Light overwhelms the dark.

Glory shining for all to see, hope alive, let the gospel ring.
God has made a way, He will have the praise; tell the world His name is Jesus. (*repeat*)

Glo-ria, Glo-ria (*repeat*)

("Sing We the Song of Emmanuel" Matt Boswell, Matt Papa and Stuart Townsend Copyright © 2015 2015 Messenger Hymns (Admin. by Song Solutions www.songolutions.org) / Townend Songs (Admin. by Song Solutions www.songolutions.org) / Love Your Enemies Publishing CCLI #358926 Streaming Lic #2031793)

Our God Will Go Before Us

Our God will go before us and guide us by His presence.
What confidence this promise is; we will never walk alone.

Refrain: Our God will go before us, the Lord of Hosts is with us.
O praise the One who leads us on for His grace will bring us home.

Though evil forms against us, all heaven will defend us.
The gates of hell shall not prevail for the battle is the Lord's. *Refrain*

Now send us with Your presence and lead us on to heaven
Where songs of sorrow strain no more and our every breath is praise. *Refrain*

("Our God Will Go Before Us" Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Pip © 2023 Getty Music: Hymns and Songs, Getty Music Publishing; Love Your Enemies Publishing; Messenger Hymns CCLI #358926; Streaming #20317032)

Call to Confession: *based on John 3:19, NRSV*

The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.
Let us confess our sin to God.

Prayer of Confession

Assurance: *from John 1:9, 12*

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. To all who have received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

The Birthday of a King

In the little village of Bethlehem, there lay a Child one day,
And the sky was bright with a holy light o'er the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain: Alleluia! O how the angels sang. Alleluia! How it rang!
And the sky was bright with a holy light, 'twas the birthday of a King.

'Twas a humble birthplace, but oh how much God gave to us that day;
From the manger bed what a path has led, what a perfect, holy way. *Refrain*

("The Birthday of a King" words and music: William Harold Newfinger © Public Domain CCL14358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Offertory Prayer and Offering: Building the Future

Offertory Ministry of Music: *Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)*

Congregational Prayer

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.

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 CCL14358926 Streaming #20317932)

Scripture: *Mark 5:1-20*

¹ They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!" ⁹ Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. ¹¹ A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. ¹² The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." ¹³ He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. ¹⁴ Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. ¹⁷ Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region. ¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹ Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰ So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *When Grace Is More Disturbing Than Chains*

Christ our Hope in Life and Death

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong.
Who holds our days within His hand? What comes, apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.

Refrain: O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.
Where is His grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh unto the shore, the rock of Christ? *Refrain*

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God's Blessing

Christ our Hope in Life and Death

Unto the grave, what will we sing? “Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!”
And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord, then sin and death will be destroyed,
And we will feast in endless joy, when Christ is ours forevermore.

Refrain: O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

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Pastors: Zac H, Robert W
Prayer: Dustin H, Fred Y
Music: Paul, Sharon, and Emily A, Brian K, Bill V

Offering will be received for First CRC Building the Future. This fund is always in place to fund future building projects of our church.

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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