

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
January 17, 2021

Call to Worship: *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.

For He alone is worthy, for He alone is worthy,
For He alone is worthy, 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.

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God's Greeting

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee;
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life: who triumphed o'er the grave,
Who rose victorious to the strife for those He came to save;
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

("Crown Him with Many Crowns" words by Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring music by George J. Elvey, descant by Paul Sjolund © Public Doman, 1976 by Paragon Associates, Inc. CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Call to Confession: *Isaiah 1:18*

*"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD.
"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."*

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: 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.**

Morning Prayer

Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul

Refrain: Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I worship your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning.
It's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes. *Refrain*

You're rich in love and you're slow to anger.
Your name is great and your heart is kind.
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing,
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. *Refrain*

And on that day when my strength is failing,
The end draws near and my time has come,
Soon my soul will sing your praise unending,
Ten thousand years and then forever more. *Refrain*

("Bless the Lord, O My Soul" words and music by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman, © 2011 Shout! Publishing, Sixsteps Music, Said and Done Music and Thank You Music, CCLI 358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Scripture: *Acts 15:1-19 (ESV)*

¹ But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." ² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

³ So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers.

⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. ⁵ But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses."

⁶ The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. ⁷ And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸ And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, ⁹ and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?

¹¹ But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

¹² And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. ¹³ After they finished speaking, James replied, "Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. ¹⁵ And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written,

¹⁶ "After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen;

I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it,

¹⁷ that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord,

and all the Gentiles who are called by my name,

says the Lord, who makes these things ¹⁸ known from of old.'

¹⁹ Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *When Controversy Comes to Church*

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Refrain: My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me,
And like a flood His mercy rains,
Unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures. *Refrain*

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below, will be forever mine.
Will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

("Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone" words and music by John Newton, John P. Rees, Edwin Othello Excell, Arrangement and additional chorus by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio Public Domain, Arr. © 2006 worshiptogether.com Songs/sixsteps Music/ASCAP CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

God's Blessing

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him the Lord of heaven: one with the Father known,
One with the Spirit through Him given
From yonder glorious throne.
To Thee be endless praise, for Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days adored and magnified.

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Prayer: Gene T

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Offering: Lynden Human Life offers pro-life educational materials and resources to the residents of Whatcom County. For more information visit www.lyndenhumanlife.org. Tithes and offering can be mailed to the church office (1010 Front Street, Lynden, WA 98264), dropped off (place in the mailbox), through a bill pay service, or electronically with Tithe.ly (www.tithe.ly or through the app).

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