

Gathered by God's Grace

* Call to Worship: from Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.

**Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

A thousand years in your sight
are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.

**Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

* God's Greeting

* **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** #184:1,2,3 (HFG)

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

* indicates to stand if able

Gratitude for God's Grace Received in 2016

Scripture: Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Grace Greater than Our Sin #105:1,2,4 (HFG)

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Refrain: Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin!

Sin and despair, like the seawaves cold,
Threaten the soul with infinite loss:
Grace, that is great – yes grace untold
Points to the Refuge, the mighty Cross. *Refrain*

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
Freely bestowed on all who believe!
You that are longing to see His face,
Will you this moment His grace receive? *Refrain*

(Children 3 years old – 2nd grade are invited to
Children's Church in the Ed. Building during this song.)

Prayers of Thanksgiving for 2016

Sentence prayers from congregation

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Christian School Tuition Assistance

Offertory Ministry of Music

Petition for God's Future Grace Needed in 2017

Scripture:

Jeremiah 29:11-12

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

Philippians 3:12-14

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

* **O God, Our Help in Ages Past** #170:1,2,3 (PH)

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God,
To endless years the same.

Prayers of Petition For Our Church's Future

Sentence prayers from congregation

Service of Covenant Renewal

Sacrament of Lord's Supper

* **Because He Lives** #292:1,3 (HFG)

(A Love Offering for Bethany Christian Services will be received during this song.)

God sent His Son – they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon;
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain: Because He lives I can face tomorrow;
Because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's final war with pain.
And then, as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives. *Refrain*

* **God's Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.
AMEN.

* **Glory to God** #214 (PH)

Glory to God! Glory to God
In the highest, in the highest, in the highest!
Peace be on earth, peace be on earth,
To the people whom God delights in.
Glory to God in the highest! Glory to God in the highest!
Peace be on earth, peace be on earth,
Peace be on earth, peace be on earth
To the people whom God delights in.
To the people whom God delights in,
Whom God delights in.
Glory to God! Glory to God
In the highest, in the highest, in the highest!
Peace be on earth, peace be on earth,
To the people whom God delights in. Amen. Amen.

Ere zij God! Ere zij God
In den hoge, in den hoge, in den hoge!
Vrede op aarde, vrede op aarde,
In de mensen een welbehagen.
Ere zij God in den hoge! Ere zij God in den hoge!
Vrede op aarde, vrede op aarde
Vrede op aarde, vrede op aarde
In de mensen, in de mensen een welbehagen,
In de mensen een welbehagen, een welbehagen
Ere zij God! Ere zij God
In den hoge, in den hoge, in den hoge!
Vrede op aarde, vrede op aarde,
In de mensen een welbehagen. Amen, Amen.

CCLI #358926

Worship services are broadcast live in the church basement
for anyone who is unable to worship in the sanctuary.

Pastor: Robert
Music: Sharon, Shirley, Carol
Offering: Tuition assistance is used to help First Church families who send their children to Christian school cover the cost of tuition.
Love Offering: Bethany Christian Services is a Christian adoption agency working with people who want to place children up for adoption and those who are looking to adopt children. They also work with people who experience other infertility, pregnancy, or childbirth problems. For more information visit www.bethany.org.

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Numbers 6:24-25

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
January 1, 2017
10:30 a.m. Worship Service