

* **Call to Worship:** *based on John 13:34-35*
We come to worship today because we love you,
and we want to love you more.
**We come to worship needing love in our lives:
love for family, friends, strangers, enemies.
In this hour of worship, touch our hearts,
fill our hearts, open our hearts
to your love which passes all understanding.**

* **God's Greeting**

* **Jesus Loves Me**

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong, they are weak but He is strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus love me, the Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee, saying, "Let them come to Me."
Refrain

Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.
Refrain

* **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.

* **The Bond of Love** #544:1,2 (HFG)
We are one in the bond of love,
We are one in the bond of love;
We have joined our spirit with the Spirit of God,
We are one in the bond of love.

Let us sing now, everyone,
Let us feel His love begun;
Let us join our hands that the world will know
We are one in the bond of love.

Litany: Love Overflows

Leader: True love has one source – God. It's who He is;
it's what He does. God's love overflows!

GEMS: *Jesus loves me this I know,
for the Bible tells me so!*

**Congregation: We are thankful that God's goodness
and love follow us – they chase after, pursue,
hound, and woo us all the days of our lives!**
(Psalm 23:6)

Leader: Can you think of anything the world needs
more than God's love? Relationships are strained
and broken. Words can cause damage and harm.
And that's the stuff close to home. Beyond our
clubs and communities, it's more of the same.

ALL: EVERYONE NEEDS GOD'S LOVE!

Leader: And when we accept God's pursuing love,
it changes us. Receiving His love makes our love
increase and overflow, too.

GEMS: *May the Lord make your love increase
and overflow for each other and for everyone else
just as ours does for you.*
(1 Thessalonians 3:12)

**Congregation: Jesus said: "Love the Lord your God
with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind.'
This is the first and greatest commandment.
And the second is like it:**

'Love your neighbor as yourself'". *(Matthew 22:37-38)*

**ALL: JESUS SAID THE GREATEST THING WE CAN DO
IS LOVE GOD AND LOVE PEOPLE –
FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND EVERYONE ELSE.
FROM THE OVERFLOW OF HIS LOVE, WE LOVE!**

GEMS Year-in-Review

* **GEMS Theme Song: One Thing Remains**
Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant through the trial and the change
One thing remains, one thing remains.

Refrain: Your love never fails, it never gives up
It never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up
It never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up
It never runs out on me.
Your love, your love.

On and on and on and on it goes
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never ever have to be afraid
One thing remains, one thing remains.

Refrain: Your love never fails, it never gives up
It never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up
It never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up
It never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up
It never runs out on me.
I know Your love never fails, it never gives up
It never runs out on me.
Your love, your love.
Your love never fails, it never gives up
It never runs out on me.

(Children ages 3 years – 2nd grade may leave
for Children's Church during the singing of this song.)

Offertory Prayer

Offering: GEMS

Offertory Ministry of Music: *Down to the River to Pray*

Morning Prayer

* **Scripture:** *Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)* pg. 1222
*22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness,
self-control; against such things there is no law.*

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message: *May Your Love Increase*

*** Great is the Lord**

Great is the Lord, He is holy and just;
By His power we trust in His love.
Great is the Lord, He is faithful and true;
By His mercy He proves He is love.

Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise!
Great is the Lord!
Now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

Great are You, Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great are You, Lord, and worthy of praise!
Great are You, Lord! I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice:
Great are You, Lord! Great are You, Lord!

*** God's Blessing**

Postlude: Thankful

Election of Elders and Deacons

Members are asked to be seated after the final song while ballots are passed out for the election of Elders and Deacons. Visitors and non-members are welcome to go to the church basement for coffee and cookie fellowship time. Voting will only take a few minutes. Thank you for your patience.

Pastor: Robert W GEMS Speaker: Elliot B
Prayer: Avery V, Larry K
Music: Ken & Lisa Q
Offering: GEMS is a ministry to 1st – 8th grade girls in this church and the community and is led by Amy V and several other women in the congregation.

Love Overflows

Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

Fruit of the Spirit.

Character of love.

Obstacles to love.

Cultivating love.



*May the Lord
make your love increase
and overflow
for each other
and for everyone else,
just as ours does for you.*

GEMS Sunday
First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
May 7, 2016
10:30 a.m. Worship Service