

* **Call to Worship:** *from Revelation 15:3-4 (NIV)*
Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty!
Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.
Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come and worship you!

* **Opening Prayer**

* **We Sing the Greatness of Our God** #338:1,3 (HFG)
We sing the greatness of our God
That made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies,
We sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at His command, and all the stars obey.

There's not a plant or flower below
But makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise and tempests blow by order from Thy throne,
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that man can be,
Thou, God, art present there.

* **O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing** #349:1,2,3 (HFG)
O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!
My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.
Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease,
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

* **I Am Thine, O Lord** #455:1,4 (HFG)
I am Thine, O Lord; I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith
And be closer drawn to Thee.
Refrain: Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side.

There are depths of love that I cannot know
'Til I cross the narrow sea;
There are heights of joy that I may not reach
'Til I rest in peace with Thee. *Refrain*

Profession of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A #94-95
What does the Lord require in the first commandment?
**That I, not wanting to endanger my very salvation,
avoid and shun all idolatry, magic, superstitious rites,
and prayer to saints or to other creatures.
That I sincerely acknowledge the only true God,
trust him alone,
look to him for every good thing
humbly and patiently,
love him, fear him, and honor him with all my heart.
In short, that I give up anything
rather than go against his will in any way.**

What is idolatry?

**Idolatry is having or inventing something
in which one trusts
in place of or alongside of the only true God,
who has revealed himself in his Word.**

Offering: Al & Julie

Evening Prayer

* **Lord, You Have Searched Me** #184; 1,5 (PH)
Lord, You have searched me and you know
Where I take rest and where I go.
Lord, you know all that I have planned,
And all my ways are in your hand.
Search me, O God, my heart discern;
Try me, my inmost thoughts to learn;
And lead me, if in sin I stray,
To choose the everlasting way.

* **Scripture:** *Esther 2:1-18 (ESV)* pg. 522
¹ After these things, when the anger of King Ahasuerus had abated, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her. ² Then the king's young men who attended him said, "Let beautiful young virgins be sought out for the king. ³ And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom to gather all the beautiful young virgins to the harem in Susa the citadel, under custody of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women. Let their cosmetics be given them. ⁴ And let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This pleased the king, and he did so.

⁵ Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shimej, son of Kish, a Benjaminite, ⁶ who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away. ⁷ He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, the daughter of his uncle, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was lovely to look at, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter. ⁸ So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women were gathered in Susa the citadel in custody of Hegai, Esther also was taken into the king's palace and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women. ⁹ And the young woman pleased him and won his favor. And he quickly provided her with her cosmetics and her portion of food, and with seven chosen young women from the king's palace, and advanced her and her young women to the best place in the harem. ¹⁰ Esther had not made known her people or kindred, for Mordecai had commanded her not to make it known. ¹¹ And every day Mordecai walked in front of the court of the harem to learn how Esther was and what was happening to her. ¹² Now when the turn came for each young woman to go in to King Ahasuerus, after being twelve months under the regulations for the women, since this was the regular period of their beautifying, six months with oil of myrrh and six months with spices and ointments for women — ¹³ when the young woman went in to the king in this way, she was given whatever she desired to take with her from the harem to the king's palace. ¹⁴ In the evening she would go in, and in the morning she would return to the second harem in custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch, who was in charge of the concubines. She would not go in to the king again, unless the king delighted in her and she was summoned by name. ¹⁵ When the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther was winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her. ¹⁶ And when Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, ¹⁷ the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins,

so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. ¹⁸ Then the king gave a great feast for all his officials and servants; it was Esther's feast. He also granted a remission of taxes to the provinces and gave gifts with royal generosity.

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

Message: *Miss Persia*

* **Anywhere With Jesus** #594:1,2 (HFG)

Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go,
Anywhere He leads me in this world below;
Anywhere without Him dearest joys would fade;
Anywhere with Jesus I am not afraid.

Refrain: Anywhere, anywhere! Fear I cannot know;
Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go.

Anywhere with Jesus I am not alone,
Other friends may fail me He is still my own;
Though His hand may lead me over dreary ways,
Anywhere with Jesus is a house of praise. *Refrain*

* **God's Blessing**

* **All People That on Earth Do Dwell**

To the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From earth and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

The sanctuary is equipped with an assistive listening system.
Please switch hearing aids to "T" to use this system.

Pastor: Robert W Music: Lee V
Offering: Al and Julie are serving in Belgium with Operation Mobilization (OM). OM is a mission organization working in over 100 countries to bring God's word to people who haven't heard it before. For more information, go to www.om.org.

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Miss Persia
Esther 2:1-18

The Search for Miss Persia, vss. 1-4.

A Jew Named Mordecai and His Niece Esther, vss. 5-7.

Esther's Preparation, vss. 8-14.

Esther's Promotion, vss. 15-18.

Implications and Application.



First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
August 13, 2017
6:00 p.m. Worship Service