

\* **Call to Worship:**  
Gracious God, eternal God, you have led us to curiosity about our creation, ourselves, and all things unknown.  
**Let us never lose our sense of wonder about the world you have given us.**  
God of Abraham and Sarah, you lead us to new understandings when we least expect them.  
**Let us never see ourselves as too young, too old, or too wise to learn new lessons from you.**  
Everlasting, ever-loving God, teacher, creator, giver of knowledge and freedom, fear and courage, doubt and faith,  
**grant that we might always use your gifts to build a world where peace, justice, love, and hope reign in wisdom and in truth.**

\* **God’s Greeting**

\* **Our Church**  
Here we are now, a crowd assembled,  
Peace like incense fills the air.  
Men and women, the sounds of children,  
Young and old have come to share.  
In the beauty of this place, we have gathered by His grace.

*Refrain:* This is our church, our family of faith,  
On this Holy ground we’re all the same.  
And we are the joy of God on display  
Whenever we meet in Jesus’ Name.  
Whenever we meet in Jesus’ Name.

Walls are falling, hearts disarming as his presence ushers in.  
Waves of mercy fill the building as His Spirit stirs within.  
In the beauty of this place, we have gathered by His grace.

*Refrain*

From the suburbs to the streets, we have gathered to receive.  
Some with plenty, some with need,  
Cause we are a family, His family.

*Refrain*

\* **Thy Word**  
*Refrain:* Thy word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, and I think I’ve lost my way,  
Still You’re there right beside me.  
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near.  
Please be near me to the end.

*Refrain*

I will not forget Your love for me, and yet  
My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;  
I will love You to the end.

*Refrain:* Thy word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.

\* **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*

**Prayer of Confession:** based on Acts 9, Psalm 30  
God of forgiveness, hear now the confession of our sins.  
**Our greed and our lust for power create enemies where we should find friends.**  
We fail to offer comfort and aid to those who are afraid  
and beat down by the burdens of life.  
**We are as blind and willful as Saul to the pain and the destruction of our wrongdoings.**  
Forgive us, merciful One. Give us sight to see with your eyes,  
that we may bring hope and peace to our world.  
**Amen.**

**Words of Assurance:** based on Acts 9, Psalm 30  
God’s anger lasts but a moment, but God’s favor lasts a lifetime.  
The Lord forgives our shortcomings and sends deliverance through Christ,  
just as the Lord forgave Saul and used him to spread the gospel.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Spirit of the Living God** #424:1,2 (PH)  
(Children 3 years old – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are invited to Children’s Church in the Ed. Building during this song.)  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
  
Spirit of the living God, move among us all;  
Make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:  
Humble, caring, selfless, sharing.  
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.

**Offertory Prayer**

**Offering:** Gary & Mary

**Morning Prayer**

\* **Scripture:** Acts 9:10-19 (ESV) pg. 1149  
<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” <sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup> For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” <sup>17</sup> So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup> and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.

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

**Message:** An Eye Opening Experience

\* **Just As I Am** #417:2,4 (HFG)

Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

\* **God’s Blessing**

\* **Shine, Jesus, Shine**

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
So our faces display Your likeness,  
Ever changing from glory to glory;  
Mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story;  
Shine on me, shine on me.

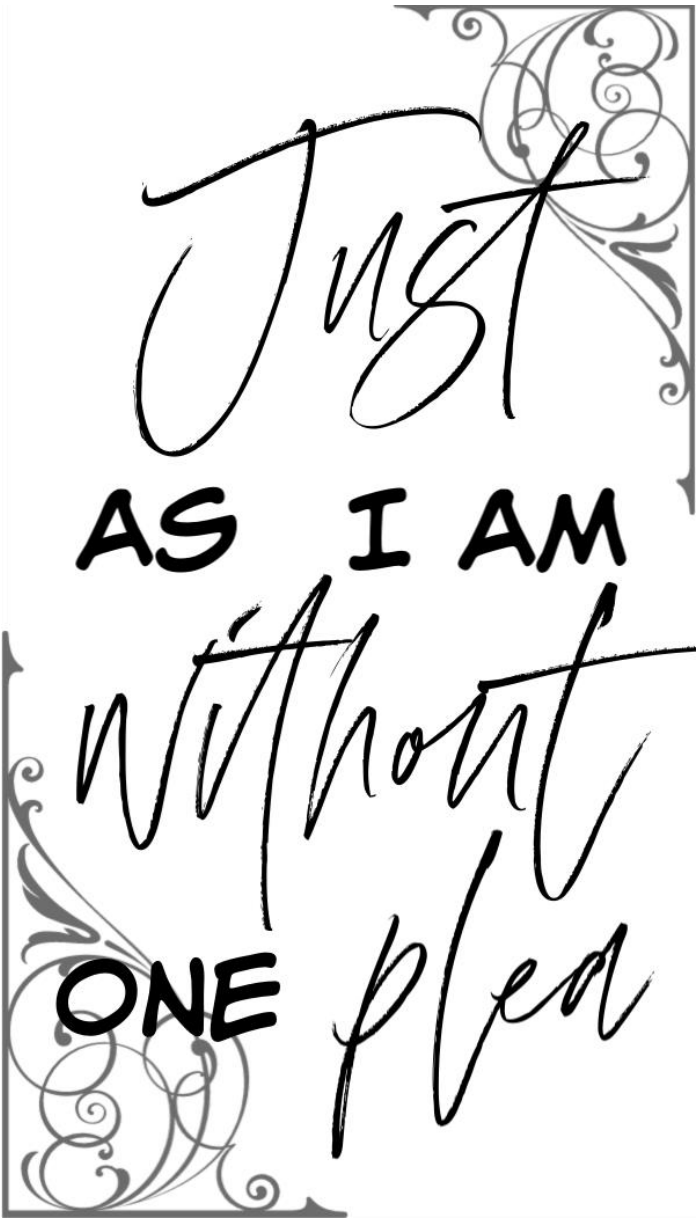
Refrain: Shine, Jesus, Shine,  
Fill this land with the Father’s glory.  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth Your Word  
Lord, and let there be light.

Worship services are broadcast live in the church basement  
for anyone who is unable to worship in the sanctuary.  
The sanctuary is equipped with an assistive listening system.  
Please switch hearing aids to “T” to use this system.

Pastor: Robert W  
Prayer: Ryan B, Doug V  
Music: Sharon A, Paul A, Brian K, Jack P Jr., Bill V, Nancy Z  
Offering: Gary & Mary serve with Frontier Ventures ministering  
and equipping those who serve in Eastern Asia. For more  
information, visit [www.frontierventures.org](http://www.frontierventures.org).

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**An Eye Opening Experience**  
Acts 9:10-19



First Christian Reformed Church  
Lynden, Washington  
September 22, 2019  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service