

* **Call to Worship:** based on Luke 1:46-50
Our souls magnify the Lord!
Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!
The mighty One has done great things for us!
Holy is God's name!
Let us worship God.
For God is our Maker and our Redeemer;
from generation to generation God gives mercy.

* **God's Greeting**

* **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You**

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;
Angels lifting praise before You
Sing through out this holy night.
In a manger lies a Baby; Child of Mary, Son of God.
Voices joined in joyful chorus praise You for Your gift of love.

All Your works declare Your glory, all creation joins to sing.
Praise resounds as earth rejoices
In the birth of Christ, the King.
Shepherds kneel before the Infant.
Trumpets sound and anthems raise
As with joy our hearts are lifted,
Joined in wonder, love, and praise.

Advent Reading: Luke 1:46-49; 52-53

Advent Prayer

Lord, we come before You humbled anew at what You have done for us by the birth of Jesus. We are humbled by the work You do in our lives; work that so often goes unnoticed, and yet You provide for us. We are humbled at the care and attention You lavish on us. And we are humbled that You could love us so much. Father, we thank You. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

* **Blessed Be the God of Israel**

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free
And raises up new hope for us: a branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.

With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
The oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all
That we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,
In holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.

* indicates to stand if able

* **The First Noel** #179:1,2 (HFG)
The first noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, noel! Noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, noel! Noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel!

Prayer of Confession

Lord, remember us. Have regard for your covenant.

We need your redemption.

Where hands have brought about
destruction, desolation and desecration,
where words have condemned, betrayed, and deceived,
where silence has concealed, isolated, and ignored –

O come, Emmanuel.

Shine light in the dark places, speak peace in the lands
haunted by violence, and ransom your people.
As we remember your steadfast love and faithfulness,
we wait expectantly; we rejoice in your coming. Amen.

Assurance: Of the Father's Love Begotten #172:1,2 (HFG)

Of the Father's love begotten,
Ere the worlds began to be;
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He.
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see; evermore and evermore!

O, ye heights of heaven adore Him,
Angel hosts His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!

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

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Envision Missions

Morning Prayer

* **Once in Royal David's City** #346:1,2 (PH)
Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all;
And His shelter was a stable
And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor and meek and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

* **Scripture:** Micah 5:2-4 (ESV) pg. 973

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

Luke 2:1-17 (ESV) pg. 1071

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus
that all the world should be registered. ² This was the
first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of
Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called
Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of
David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was
with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came
for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn
son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in
a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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

Message: O Little Town of Bethlehem

* **O Little Town of Bethlehem** #178:1,2,3 (HFG)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light:
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

* **God's Blessing**

* **O Little Town of Bethlehem** #178:4 (HFG)

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

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, Larry K
Advent Readers: Ted & Elaine S
Music: Ken & Lisa Q
Offering: Envision Mission works with the street culture of Bellingham. For more information, visit www.envisionmission.org.

First Christian Reformed Church
360.354.4560 info@firstcrcllynden.org
www.firstcrcllynden.org
CCLI#358926

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Micah 5:2-4; Luke 2:1-7

Verse 1, The Place of the Incarnation.

Verse 2, The Path of the Incarnation.

Verse 3, The Purpose of the Incarnation.

Verse 4, The Prayer of the Incarnation.



Third Sunday of Advent

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 17, 2017
10:30 a.m. Worship Service