

Advent Reading: *1 John 1:5*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Advent Prayer

* **Call to Worship:** *Isaiah 60:1-2*

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.*

* **God's Greeting**

* **Joy to the World**

#171:1,4 (HFG)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King,
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

* **O Come, O Come Immanuel**

#328:1,6 (PH)

O come, O come Immanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
And bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
And turn our darkness into light. *Refrain*

* **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

#329:1,3 (PH)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King;
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession: *based on Isaiah 60:1-3*

**O God,
we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness
in the world or in us.
We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent
to be among us, to be in us.
We've kept the birth of your Son
confined to the Christmas season
and do not yearn for his birth
each moment in our waiting hearts.
Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time.
Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming.
It's time that we prepare for your coming.
Let the earth ring with song.
Let the light break forth.
Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love.
Let Christ come into the fullness of our time.
Amen.**

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

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

Wonderful, merciful Savior,
Precious Redeemer and Friend;
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
Rescue the souls of men?
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

Refrain: You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for,
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.

Almighty, infinite Father,
Faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne,
Oh, we're falling before Your throne. *Refrain*

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Christian School Tuition Assistance

Morning Prayer

* **Scripture:** *John 1:1-14, 18 (ESV)*

pg. 1107

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *The Incarnation: A Riches to Rags Story*
~ *In the Beginning was the Word*

Prayer

* **A Communion Hymn for Christmas**

Gathered 'round Your table on this holy day,
Viewing Beth'hem's stable we rejoice and pray.
Joy to see You lying in Your manger bed;
Weep to see You dying in our sinful stead.

Prince of Glory, gracing heav'n ere time began,
Now for us embracing death as Son of Man.
By Your birth so lowly, by Your love so true,
By Your cross most holy, Lord, we worship You!

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

A Communion Hymn for Christmas

(A Love offering for Helping Hands for Babies will be received during this song.)

Bethl'hem's Incarnation, Calv'ry's bitter cross,
Wrought for us salvation by Your pain and loss.
Now we fall before You in this holy place;
Prostrate we adore You for Your gift of grace.

With profoundest wonder we Your body take –
Laid in manger yonder, broken for our sake.
Hushed in adoration we approach the cup;
Bethl'hem's pure oblation freely offered up.

Christmas Babe so tender, Lamb who bore our blame,
How shall sinners render praises due Your name?
Do Your own good pleasure in the lives we bring;
In Your ransomed treasure reign forever King!

*** God's Blessing**

*** Christmas Doxology**

Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be ever and eternally.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

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.

* indicates to stand if able

Pastor: Robert W

Prayer: Brian V, Wes V

Advent Readers: Lee, Shelly and Case V

Music: Sharon A, Nancy Z

Offering: Christian School Tuition Assistance is used to help with tuition cost of First church families who send their children to Christian schools.

Love Offering: Helping Hands for Babies is a ministry of First CRC. Donations help cover expenses of the fabric and shipping for the thousands of blankets and baby clothing made by women of First CRC to send to people in need.

First Christian Reformed Church
1010 Front Street, Lynden WA 98264
360.354.4560 info@firstcrcllynden.org
www.firstcrcllynden.org
CCLI#358926

The Incarnation: A Riches to Rags Story

In the Beginning was the Word

John 1:1-14, 18

*The Incarnation:
A Riches to Rags Story*



In the Beginning was the Word

First Sunday of Advent

**First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington**

**Sunday, December 2, 2018
10:30 a.m. Worship Service**