

**Advent Reading:** *Matthew 2:1-2*

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

### Advent Prayer

\* **Call to Worship:** *Matthew 2:6*

*“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”*

\* **Angels, from the Realms of Glory** #354:1,2,4 (PH)

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Refrain:* Come and worship, come and worship.  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant Light: *Refrain*

Though an infant now we view him,  
He will share his Father's throne,  
Gather all the nations to him;  
Every knee shall then bow down: *Refrain*

\* **Once in Royal David's City** #346:1,2,3,4 (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.

For he is our childhood's pattern;  
Day by day like us he grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless;  
Tears and smiles like us he knew:  
And feels for all our sadness,  
And he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love,  
For that child, so dear and gentle,  
Is our Lord in heaven above:  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He has gone.

\* **As with Gladness Men of Old**

#202:1,2,3 (HFG)

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord,  
May we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Him whom heaven and earth adore;  
So, may we with willing feet  
Ever seek the mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
At the manger rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

### Call to Confession

When Jesus was born of the virgin Mary,  
he became like us in all things but sin.  
May we who have been reborn in him  
be free from our sinful ways.  
Let us confess our sin to God.

### Prayer of Confession

**Ministry of Music:** *Labor of Love*

### Offertory Prayer

**Offering:** Seafarers Ministry

(Children 3 years old – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are invited to Children's Church  
in the Ed. Building while the offering is received.)

### Morning Prayer

\* **Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery**

Come, behold the wondrous mystery,  
In the dawning of the King;  
He the theme of heaven's praises,  
Robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness,  
Now the light of life has come;  
Look to Christ, who condescended,  
Took on flesh to ransom us.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery,  
He the perfect Son of man;  
In His living, in His suffering  
Never trace nor stain of sin.  
See the true and better Adam,  
Come to save the hell-bound man;  
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment  
Of the law, in Him we stand.

\* **Scripture:** *John 1:1-18 (ESV)* pg. 1107

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")

<sup>16</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> 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*  
~ *Gift of Gifts*

\* ***We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*** #659:1,3 (HFG)

We've a story to tell to the nations  
That shall turn their hearts to the right.  
A story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light,  
A story of peace and light.

*Refrain:* For the darkness shall turn to dawning,  
And the dawning to noonday bright.  
And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,  
The kingdom of love and light.

We've a message to give to the nations  
That the Lord who reigneth above  
Hath sent us His Son to save us and show us that God is love,  
And show us that God is love. *Refrain*

\* **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!

***The Incarnation: A Riches to Rags Story***  
***The Gift of Gifts***  
*John 1:1-18*

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: Dustin H, Ron K

Advent Readers: Jason & Amy V and Family

Music: Paul A, Sharon A, Nikki B, Lee V

Offering: The Seafarers Ministry serves those working on cargo  
and cruise ships, providing them with care packages, Bibles and  
other services while in port. For more information contact John  
Van Hemert at johnvanhemert@hotmail.com.

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**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**First Christian Reformed Church**  
**Lynden, Washington**  
**Sunday, December 16, 2018**  
**10:30 a.m. Worship Service**