



A Traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 23, 2018
6:00 p.m. Worship Service

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song;

sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;

tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations,

God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord,

and greatly to be praised.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

the world, and those who live in it.

Let the whole creation sing for joy

at the presence of God, who is coming.

God is coming indeed,

to judge the earth with righteousness,

and the peoples with equity and truth.

Praise the Lord!

* **OPENING HYMN**

Once in Royal David's City

#346:1,2,3,4,5 (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 he 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.

Not in that poor lowly stable with the oxen standing by

We shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high:

There his children gather round bright like stars, with glory crowned.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19
Adam and Eve disobey God's command
and disrupt the order and goodness of creation.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

#178:1,3,4 (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.

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.

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!

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18
God promises that, through Abraham,
all the peoples of the world will be blessed.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#328:1,3,4,5 (PH)

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

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

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times did give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
Unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*

O come, O Key of David,
Come and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
And bar the way to death's abode. *Refrain*

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*The people who walk in darkness
receive the promise of the Messiah.*

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

#197:1,3 (HFG)

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
From heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When, with the ever circling years,
Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heaven and earth shall own
The Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

*The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse
to restore the peace of creation.*

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

#174:1,2,3 (HFG)

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.
It came a flower bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half-gone was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to men a Savior,
When half-gone was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load.

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

*An angel appears to Mary and announces
that she will bear a holy child.*

* ***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

#184:1,3 (HFG)

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

*Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem,
where Mary gives birth to her child.*

Away in a Manger

#185:1,2,3 (HFG)

Away in a manger no crib for a bed;
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
The little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus: look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay;
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care;
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

*Angels appear to shepherds in the fields
and announce the birth of the Messiah.*

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. *Refrain*

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethl'em straightaway this blessed Babe to find. *Refrain*

But when to Bethlehem they came where our dear Savior lay,
They found Him in a manger where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling unto the Lord did pray. *Refrain*

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

*Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah
and offer gifts to the baby Jesus.*

* **We Three Kings of Orient Are**

#206:1,2,3,4 (HFG)

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain; gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. *Refrain*

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising all men raising, worship Him, God on high. *Refrain*

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom:
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stonecold tomb. *Refrain*

OFFERING: Envision Mission

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

*The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us,
full of grace and truth.*

(Candles will be lit at this time –
please use caution with candles, especially with young children,
and only tip unlit candles so wax does not drip.)

Silent Night, Holy Night

#195:1,2,3,4 (HFG)

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

GOD'S BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World!

#171:1,2,4 (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.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns; let men their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

(Before you leave, please blow out your candles.
As you exit the sanctuary, place extinguished candles
in the baskets in the back of church.)

Pastor and Readers: Robert W, and First CRC Elders

Music: Shirley B, Dick B, Mike H

Offering: Envision Mission works with the street culture of downtown Bellingham.

Their mission is to make disciples of Jesus who obey all He commands, and to save the lost in Bellingham's downtown culture. For more information, visit www.envisionmission.org or talk to Mitchell S.

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