

## THE GATHERING

\* **Call to Worship:** *based on Psalm 34:3; Psalm 27; John 4:23*

O magnify the LORD with me.

**Let us exalt God's name together!**

Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

**We have come with shouts of joy,  
to sing and to make music to the Lord.**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**Teach us your ways and make straight our paths  
in this hour of worship and always.**

\* **God's Greeting**

\* ***O Worship the King***

#336:1,4 (HFG)

O worship the King all glorious above,  
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;  
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.

\* ***Angels, from the Realms of Glory***

#354:1,4,5 (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:  
Come and worship, come and worship.  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

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

Saints and angels join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore their voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

\* indicates to stand if able

\* ***My Tribute***

#365 (HFG)

How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me?  
Things so undeserved,  
Yet You gave to prove Your love for me;  
The voices of a million angels  
Could not express my gratitude.  
All that I am, and ever hope to be; I owe it all to Thee.  
To God be the glory, to God be the glory,  
To God be the glory for the things He has done.  
With His blood He has saved me;  
With His power He has raised me;  
To God be the glory for the things He has done.  
Just let me live my life, let it be pleasing, Lord to Thee;  
And if I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary.  
With His blood He has saved me;  
With His power He has raised me;  
To God be the glory for the things He has done.

## THE PREPARATION AND CONFESSION

**Preparatory Form**

pg. 976 (PH)

\* ***How Blest are They Whose Trespass***

#32:1,2,3 (PH)

How blest are they whose trespass has freely been forgiven,  
Whose sins are wholly covered before the sight of heaven.  
Blest they to whom the LORD God does not impute their sin,  
Who have a guileless spirit, whose heart is true within.

While I kept guilty silence, my strength was spent with grief:  
Your hand was heavy on me; my soul found no relief.  
But when I owned my trespass and did not hide my sin,  
Then you forgave my guilt, LORD, restored my life within.

So let the godly seek you in times when you are near;  
No whelming floods shall reach them  
Or cause their hearts to fear.  
O LORD, you are my refuge, you are my hiding place,  
And you surround me always with songs of saving grace.

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

## THE GIVING

**Offertory Prayer**

**Offering:** Benevolence Fund

**Morning Prayer**

## THE PROCLAMATION

\* ***For God So Loved the World***

#315 (HFG)

For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son  
To die on Calvary's tree, from sin to set me free;  
Some day He's coming back; what glory that will be!  
Wonderful His love to me. *Repeat All*

\* **Scripture:** *John 3:1-16 (NIV)*

pg. 1111

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." <sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." <sup>4</sup> "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup> "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. <sup>10</sup> "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

This is the Word of Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** *God's Fantastic Love*

## THE SENDING

### \* *The Love of God*

#18:1,3 (HFG)

The love of God is greater far  
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star,  
And reaches to the lowest hell;  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,  
God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled,  
And pardoned from his sin.

*Refrain:* O love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall for evermore endure  
The saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,  
And were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill,  
And every man a scribe by trade,  
To write the love of God above,  
Would drain the ocean dry.  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,  
Though stretched from sky to sky. *Refrain*

### \* *God's Blessings*

#### \* *To God Be the Glory*

#632 (PH)

To God be the glory, to God be the glory,  
To God be the glory for the things he has done:  
With his blood he has saved me;  
With his power he has raised me.  
To God be the glory for the things he has done.

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: Barry B                      Prayer: Ian H

Music: Cheryl K, Nancy Z

Offering: First CRC Benevolence Fund is used to help local people and families in times of need. For more information on the benevolence fund talk to any deacon.

First Christian Reformed Church  
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CCLI#358926

## God's Fantastic Love

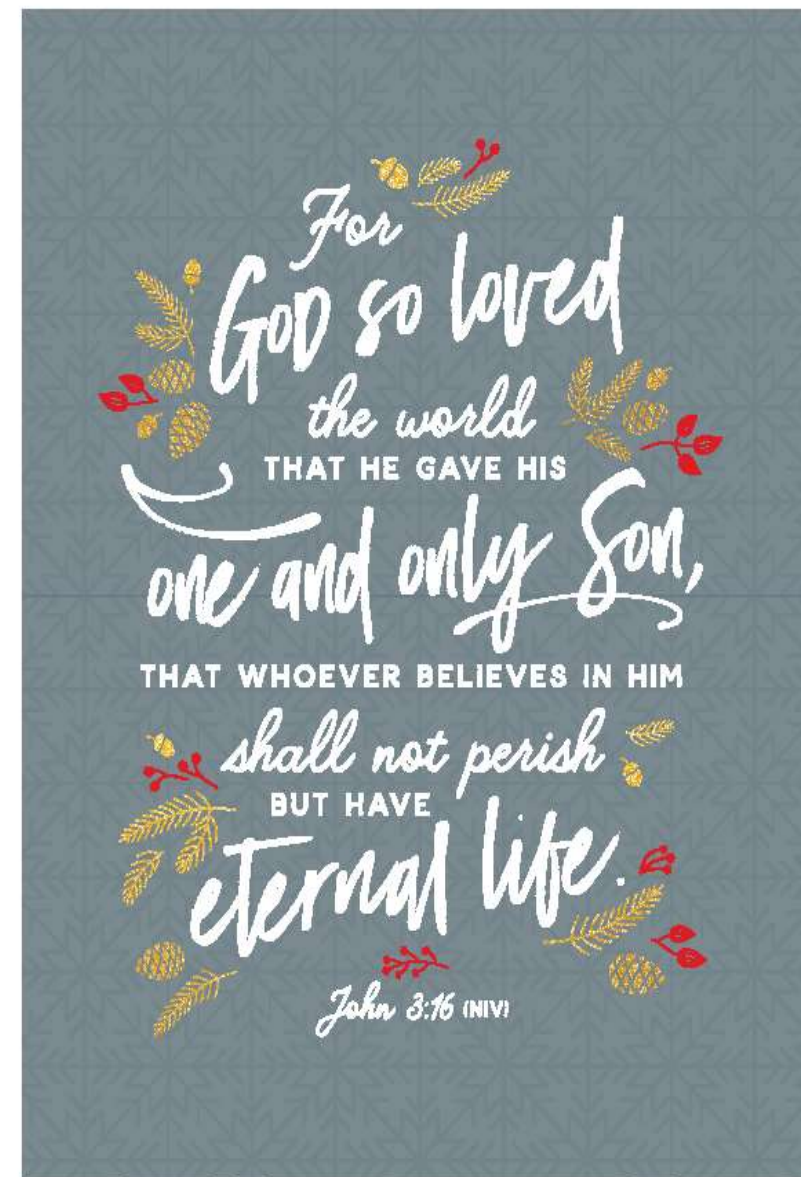
John 3:1-16

I. Its nature is stupendous

II. Its object is sinners

III. Its gift is sacrifice

IV. Its purpose is salvation



First Christian Reformed Church  
Lynden, Washington  
November 26, 2017  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service