

* **Call to Worship:** *Psalm 98:1-3*
Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.
**He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.**
**All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.**

* **God's Greeting**

* **While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks** #175:1,3,4,5 (HFG)
While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground;
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around, and glory shone around.

"To you in David's town this day, is born of David's line,
The Savior, who is Christ, the Lord,
And this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign."

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human views displayed,
All meanly wrapt in swathing bands
And in a manger laid, and in a manger laid.

"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace.
Good will, hence forth from heaven to men,
Begin and never cease, begin and never cease."

* **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!

Ministry of Music: *Gesu Bambino*

Call to Confession: *based on John 3:19 (NRSV)*
*The light has come into the world, and people loved
darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.
Let us confess our sin to God.*

Prayer of Confession and Preparation

**Almighty and merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned
against you and one another
in both our actions and our inactions.
We recognize that in Jesus Christ our light has come,
yet often we choose to walk in shadows
and ignore the light.
Gracious God, forgive our sins and remove from us
the veil of darkness that shrouds our lives.
Illumined by your Word and sacrament,
may we rise to the radiance of Christ's glory.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon:

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus #91:1,3 (HFG)
(Children 3 years old – 2nd grade are invited to
Children's Church in the Ed. Building during this song.)

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His word,
Just to rest upon His promise,
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

Refrain: Jesus, Jesus how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!

Yes, I've learned to trust in Jesus,
And from sin and self to cease;
Now from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest and joy and peace. *Refrain*

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Building the Future

Morning Prayer

* **Scripture:** *I Timothy 3:8-16 (NIV)* pg. 1244
⁸ In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect,
sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing
dishonest gain. ⁹ They must keep hold of the deep truths of
the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ They must first be
tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them
serve as deacons.
¹¹ In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect,
not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in
everything.
¹² A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage
his children and his household well. ¹³ Those who have
served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance
in their faith in Christ Jesus.
¹⁴ Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you
these instructions so that, ¹⁵ if I am delayed, you will know
how people ought to conduct themselves in God's
household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar
and foundation of the truth. ¹⁶ Beyond all question, the
mystery from which true godliness springs is great:
*He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit,
was seen by angels, was preached among the nations,
was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.*

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

Message: *Qualities of Christ*

* **The Solid Rock** #92:1,2,3 (HFG)
My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

* **God's Blessing**

* **Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship** #233:1,2 (PH)

(Tune of *Now with Joyful Exultation*)

Heavenly hosts in ceaseless worship "Holy, holy, holy!" cry;
"He who is, who was and will be,
God Almighty, Lord Most High."
Praise and honor, power and glory
Be to him who reigns alone;
We, with all his hands have fashioned,
Fall before the Father's throne.

All creation, all redemption, join to sing the Savior's worth;
Lamb of God whose blood has bought us,
Kings and priests, to reign on earth.
Wealth and wisdom, power and glory,
Honor, might, dominion, praise
Now be his from all his creatures and to everlasting days.

JIMMY JET AND HIS TV SET

I'll tell you the story of Jimmy Jet --
And you know what I tell you is true.
He loved to watch his TV set
Almost as much as you.

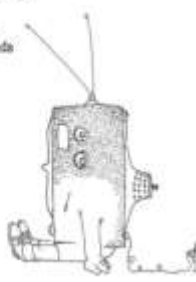
He watched all day, he watched all night
Till he grew pale and lean,
From "The Early Show" to "The Late Late Show"
And all the shows between.

He watched till his eyes were frozen wide,
And his bottom grew into his chair.
And his chin turned into a tuning dial,
And antennae grew out of his hair.

And his brains turned into TV tubes,
And his face to a TV screen.
And two knobs saying "VERT." and "HORIZ."
Grew where his ears had been.

And he grew a plug that looked like a tail
So we plugged in little Jim.
And now instead of him watching TV
We all sit around and watch him.

- Shel Silverstein, *Where the Sidewalk Ends*



Qualities of Christ

1 Timothy 3:8-16

AND WITHOUT CONTROVERSY
GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS:

GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH,
JUSTIFIED IN THE SPIRIT,

SEEN OF ANGELS,

PREACHED UNTO THE GENTILES,

BELIEVED ON IN THE WORLD,

1 TIMOTHY 3:16



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: Mitchell S

Prayer: Tabin B, Patrick J

Music: Molly C, Mike S, Nancy Z

Offering: Building the Future is in place to fund future building projects of our church. For more information, talk to a member of the Long-Range Ministry Team.

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First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 30, 2018
10:30 a.m. Worship Service