

## **We Are Called to Worship**

\* **God's Call:** based on the Song of Zechariah ~ Luke 1:68-79

Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people.

He has sent us a mighty Savior just as he promised.

**Now we will be saved from sin and death.**

He has been merciful to us by remembering his saving covenant.

**We have been rescued so we can worship God without fear, in holiness and righteousness, now and for as long as we live.**

\* **God's Greeting**

\* **It Came Upon a Midnight Clear** #197:1,2,3 (HFG)

It came upon a 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.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary load,  
And hear the angels sing.

For Lo, the days are hastening on  
By prophet 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.

\* indicates to stand if you are able

\* **Angels We Have Heard on High**

#192:1,3 (HFG)

Angels we have heard on high,  
Singing sweetly o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
Echo back their joyous strains.

*Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore, on bended knee,  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

## **We Confess Our Sins**

### **Call to Confession and Preparation**

#### **Song of Confession:**

##### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

#178:4 (HFG)

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!

#### **Assurance of Forgiveness:**

Hear the good news!  
Who is in a position to condemn?  
Only Christ, and Christ died for us,  
Christ rose for us,  
Christ reigns in power for us,  
Christ prays for us.  
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
The old life has gone;  
a new life has begun.  
Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

#### **Thanks be to God.**

—based on Romans 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:17

## **We Give Our Offerings**

\* **As With Gladness Men of Old**

#202:1,3 (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 they offered gifts most rare  
At that 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.

*(Children ages 3 years old – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
may leave for Children's Church this song.)*

### **Offering Prayer**

**Offering:** *The Ministry and Outreach Fund*

**Offertory:** **Joseph's Song** ~ *Ministry of Music*

### **Morning Prayer**

## **We Hear God's Word**

\* **Gentle Shepherd**

#596 (HFG)

Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us,  
For we need You to help us find our way.  
Gentle Shepherd, come and feed us,  
For we need Your strength from day to day.  
There's no other we can turn to  
Who can help us face another day;  
Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us,  
For we need you to help us find our way.

\* **Scripture:** Luke 2:21-35

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

**Message:** *Simeon Confirms Christmas*

**Prayer**

\* **What Child Is This**

#180:1,2,3 (HFG)

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

*Refrain* This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading. *Refrain*

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come peasant, king, to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him. *Refrain*

**We Are Sent Out**

\* **God's Blessing**

\* **Go Tell It on the Mountains**

#205:3 (HFG)

*Refrain:* Go, tell it on the mountains,  
Over the hills and every-where;  
Go, tell it on the mountains,  
That Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And brought us God's salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

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CCLI #358926

**Pastor:** *Barry Blankers*

**Offertory Prayer:** *Tim Vander Veen*

**Organist:** *Lee Van Beek*

**Pianist:** *Perlene Hoekema*

**Soloist:** *Jay Assink*

**Offering:** *The Ministry and Outreach Fund is a new fund that will be used to help organizations that fall outside of the realm of our benevolence fund but are still needing our support. This fund will allow the church to help organizations even when our offering schedule is full. For more information talk to any deacon.*

**Sermon Notes**

*First Christian Reformed Church  
of Lynden, Washington*



**B**“But you,  
Bethlehem...  
out of you  
will come  
a ruler who  
will be the  
shepherd  
of my people  
Israel.”

MATTHEW 2:6

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*December 27, 2009  
10:30 a.m. Morning Service*