

# FAITH COVENANT

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C H U R C H

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*Spreading A Love for God and His Glory*

*December 3, 2017*



FIRST SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT

*“Thus declares the LORD of hosts:  
Return to me, says the LORD of hosts,  
and I will return to you.”*

*Zechariah 1:3*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Isaiah 9:6; 1 Timothy 3:16*

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, and was taken up in glory.

Leader: Proclaim it among the nations. Sing of his greatness you people of God.

**\*ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY** - *Hymn #218*

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

*(Chorus)*

*Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King*

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light

*(Chorus)*

Sages leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar  
Seek the great Desire of nations, ye have seen His natal star

*(Chorus)*

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear  
Suddenly the Lord descending, in His temple shall appear

*(Chorus 2x)*

*Our worship is  
a response to  
God's initiative.  
The pattern of  
our worship  
reflects the  
gospel.*

**\*ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH - Hymn #214**

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

*(Chorus)*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be? Which inspire your heav'nly song?

*(Chorus)*

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

*(Chorus)*

**\*PRAYER OF PRAISE**

**\*SCRIPTURE OF PRAISE: Psalm 18:28, 30-31**

All: You, LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my  
darkness into light. Your way is perfect: The LORD's word  
is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him. For who  
is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our  
God?

**God Calls Us**

The Lord summons his people to worship and we respond in obedience.

The Lord's call is a call to action. We gather, praise, adore, give thanks, etc. The Call to Worship is a joyful summons and a clear reminder that worship is our coming into God's presence by his command, and not our command that he come into our presence.

*\*Indicates when to stand.*

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**\*CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS - Hymn #295**

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne  
Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own  
Awake my soul and sing of Him who died for thee  
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity

Crown Him the Lord of love behold His hands and side  
Rich wounds yet visible above in beauty glorified  
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight  
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright

Crown Him the Lord of peace whose power a sceptre sways  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise  
his reign shall know no end and round His pierced feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet

Crown Him the Lord of years the Potentate of time  
Creator of the rolling spheres ineffably sublime  
All hail! Redeemer hail! for Thou hast died for me  
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity

## COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

### SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *1 John 1:5-8*

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**All:** Do not remember against us our former iniquities; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake! (*Psalms 79:8-9*)

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

### DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Psalms 28:8-9*

The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed. Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

### **God Cleanses Us**

The biblical response to God's call to be in his presence is confessing our sins. We humble ourselves when we approach our God. This is a corporate prayer of all God's people. It is a great privilege of the gospel that we can stand forgiven before the Lord of glory.

## \*COME YE SINNERS

Come ye sinners, poor and wretched, weak and wounded, sick and sore.  
Jesus, ready, stands to save you, full of pity joined with power.  
He is able, he is able; he is willing; doubt no more.

Come ye needy, come and welcome; God's free bounty glorify:  
True belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.  
Without money, without money, come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come ye weary, heavy laden, bruised and broken by the fall.  
If you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.  
Not the righteous, not the righteous; sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream.  
All the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him.  
This he gives you, this he gives you, 'tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended; pleads the merit of his blood.  
Venture on him; venture wholly, let no other trust intrude.  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus can do helpless sinners good.

## PUBLIC RECEPTION OF COMMUNICANT MEMBERS:

*Elliot Heyboer*

## OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

*Diaconal Offering today: Please use the Special Offering envelopes located in the pew racks.*

*Reminder: please sign and pass the Attendance Register down the pew.*

*11 a.m. Service: Children ages 4-6 excused for Children's Church (downstairs in the Corner Classroom)*

### **Offering**

We give back to  
God a portion of  
what he has  
given us to use  
to declare that  
he is Lord of all.

(This is part of  
our service as a  
church family,  
and visitors  
should not feel  
obligated to  
participate.)

COME AS YOU ARE

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been  
Come broken-hearted let rescue begin  
Come find your mercy O sinner come kneel  
*Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal*

*(Chorus)*

*(So) Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame  
All who are broken lift up your face  
O wanderer come home, you're not too far  
So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are*

There's hope for the hopeless, and all those who've strayed  
Come sit at the table come taste the grace  
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures  
*Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't cure*

*(Chorus)*

There's joy for the morning O sinner be still  
*Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal*

*(Chorus)*

*Come as you are, come as you are, come as you are*

**Advent: A Prophetic Purpose**  
**Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.**  
*Return to Me – Zechariah 1:1-6 (ESV)*

<sup>1</sup> In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying, <sup>2</sup> "The LORD was very angry with your fathers. <sup>3</sup> Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>4</sup> Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.' But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? <sup>6</sup> But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not overtake your fathers? So they repented and said, As the LORD of hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so has he dealt with us."

**Sermon Outline**

I. A little history

II. Turn from your sins

## Sermon Outline, continued

### III. Turn toward the Lord

#### Sermon Questions

1. What is significant about Zechariah's message to the people after they have returned from exile? Do you think that "sins as usual" would be discouraging for them?
2. Consider: "First, repentance for Zechariah is not foremost a call to change in conduct, but an invitation to positive relationship with the Lord."—OT scholar Mark Boda. Why is this so important to get right when we consider our own repentance?
3. Consider: "Repentance is not just a matter between individuals and God but also between communities and God...The response of the people encourages the church today to provide opportunity for repentance and confession for the community as a whole."—Mark Boda. In a very individualistic age, what makes this challenging? Why is it so important to get right?
4. "Consider: "Despite what most therapists will tell you, you don't have to resolve your major conflicts for your marriage to thrive"—John Gottman. Gottman makes this claim because reconciliation is first and foremost about relational repair and not problem solving. Returning to the Lord is a return to a covenantal relationship. How does this inform our relationships with others that may be broken?
5. How is this call to return to the Lord an encouragement to you right now? What are some challenges that the gospel will need to be applied to?

**God  
Consecrates Us**  
Consecrate means to make holy, to set apart. The Word of God does that for the lives of believers. Through the sermon, confessions of faith, and the offering we are sanctified for service to our Lord to joyfully offer up our lives to him.

**God Communes  
with Us**

The Lord strengthens and nourishes our faith through a sacramental meal. Through Jesus, communion with God has been reestablished. The covenant has been renewed. The Lord's Supper is the gospel made visible for us and we share in it as the full community of God's people.

**\*JESUS PAID IT ALL (OH PRAISE THE ONE)**

I hear the Savoir say, thy strength indeed is small  
Child of weakness watch and pray, find in Me thine all in all

*(Chorus)*

*Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe  
Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow*

Lord now indeed I find, thy power and thine alone  
Can change the leper's spots, and melt the heart of stone

*(Chorus)*

And when before the throne, I stand in Him complete  
Jesus died my soul to save, my lips shall still repeat

*(Chorus)*

*O praise the One who paid my debt  
And raised this life up from the dead (3x)*

*(Chorus)*

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*Wine is located in the two outer rings; juice is located in the center ring.*

At Faith Covenant, the Lord's Supper is observed each Lord's Day as the climax of our worship service. We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and His body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the cup with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to our church that you are in covenant with God. You also acknowledge that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation. If you have any doubts about your participation, please speak to the pastor or one of the elders after the service. Wine and bread are the elements of the supper as instituted by Jesus Christ. We recommend the use of wine; however we offer both juice and wine in the tray to allow true liberty of conscience.

## PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

### \*GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*(Chorus)*

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;*

*Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a Holy Light.

*(Chorus)*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

*(Chorus)*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born  
And brought us God's salvation that blessed Christmas morn!

*(Chorus)*

### \*BENEDICTION

*If you are in need of personal prayer, an elder is available up front after the service.*

### **God Commissions Us**

Having been richly blessed by the Lord in our worship, we are sent forth as his ambassadors of reconciliation into the world. Our worship of God as his people now extends into our lives throughout the week. We are to offer ourselves as living sacrifices to him in all areas of our lives.

#### Leaders & Staff

Senior Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D. & Associate Pastor Taylor Clark

*Staff:* Kristin Bay, Hanni Hanson, Carlynn Stahlberg, Kelly Brown, Sara Motley (*Nursery*)

*Elders:* Tim Anderson Grady Bennett, Tom Jentz, Trent Neumann, Don Olmsted, Matt Riley, Micah Tinkham, Steve Thompson *Deacons:* Terry Falk, Kyle Hanson, Micah Hill, Ryan Petersen, Mike Stahlberg, Bruce Tulloch, Phil Van Duyne

To be added to church enews, and prayer lists, please contact us at [office@faithcov.com](mailto:office@faithcov.com).  
For more about Faith Covenant and the Presbyterian Church in America, go to [faithcov.com](http://faithcov.com).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:** Hope Church, Kalispell,

Pastor Lance Dannic

**MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:** Kevin & Sarah Johnson, Guatemala.

**DIACONAL OFFERING:** This morning we share in worshipping through our diaconal offering for those needing assistance in our church and community. Please use the Special Offering envelopes located in the pew racks.

**MISSION MEAL:** Join us for lunch in the fellowship hall after second service with Kevin and Sarah Johnson TODAY, to learn about their mission work in Guatemala.

**LADIES' CHRISTMAS LUNCH:** Ladies 5 to 95 are invited to Christmas lunch Sunday Dec. 10, at 12:30 in the fellowship hall. We will enjoy lunch, learn more about Turning Point for men, and assemble Christmas gift baskets for the women of the Refuge so, if you're able, bring a small gift item (or several) to contribute. Please RSVP by signing up in the foyer.

**CHRISTMAS EVE** Candlelight Services will be held this year at 6 and 8 p.m.

**VESPERS SERVICE:** Join us Thursday, Dec. 28, at 7 p.m. for vespers, a brief evening service of silence and symbol, prayer and song. Come unplug from the constant distraction of modern life and recharge in reflective quiet as we follow this beautiful liturgy of worship.

**COLLEGE SMALL GROUP:** College students are invited to meet at Trent and Becky Neumann's on the first and third Sunday of each month starting January 7 through May, at 6 to 8:30 p.m. for dinner and Bible Study (111 E. Bluegrass Drive). Contact Trent, 212-7625, or Becky, 212-7664, for more information.

**COMMUNITY KITCHEN—FEEDING THE FLATHEAD:** Those of you who are volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve next on Thursday, Dec. 14, at Central Christian. Contact Dawn Tinkham for details (208-640-6060).

**CHURCH OF THE CROSS SERVICE:** You're invited to visit our PCA church plant in Whitefish for their monthly worship service, **Sunday, Dec. 17**, at 5 p.m. at the Whitefish Foursquare church (233 Kalispell Ave). Childcare available.

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**SERVING:** December Deacons are Terry Falk & Phil Van Duyne

**WEEKLY/MONTHLY**

**Today (1st service/2nd service)**

Ushers: Mike & Carlynn Stahlberg/Jim Tinkham & Boys

Children's Church: Hanni & Zephy Hanson

Nursery 8:15 a.m.: Matterns

Nursery 11 a.m.: Tinkhams

Fellowship Hosts: Glenda Quick & Yvonne Hernandez

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carol Martin/Hanni Hanson

**Next Sunday - December 10th**

Ushers: Mike & Carlynn Stahlberg/Jim Tinkham & Boys

Children's Church: Hanni & Zephy Hanson

Nursery 8:15 a.m.: Saldamando/Brenneman

Nursery 11 a.m.: Motleys

Fellowship Hosts: Gloria Hanson & Julie Thompson

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Barb Makowski/Yvonne Hernandez

**Worship Services**

Sundays 8:15 & 11 am

**Sunday School**

Sept.-May 10 am

**Music Practice**

Tuesdays 5:30 pm

**Trustees**

1st Tuesdays 5:30 pm

**Elder/Deacon Meeting**

3rd Tuesdays 7 pm

**Elizabeth Women**

2nd & 4th Tuesdays noon

**Sr. & Jr. Youth Groups**

Sept.-May Wednesdays 7 pm

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Faith Covenant Church - 611 Third Ave. East, Kalispell, MT 59901 - 406-752-2400 - [www.faithcov.com](http://www.faithcov.com)