

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 17, 2017



*“Thus says the LORD of hosts:
In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue
shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying,
‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’”
Zechariah 8:23*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

***CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 52:7-10**

Leader: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

All: The voice of your watchmen - they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

Leader: Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

***ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING**

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
O praise Him! Alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light.

O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

continued above

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

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.

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING, *continued

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, Praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR - *Hymn #200

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 heavens 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;
Oh rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hast'ning on, by prophets bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

Advent

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin meaning "coming" or "arrival." Advent is a time of preparation for the final coming of Jesus, while we give thanks for the gift of Christ in the past. We meditate on the faithfulness of God to his promises – past, present, and future.

**Indicates when to stand.*

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***O HOLY NIGHT!**

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining.
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear, the angel voices!
O night divine, O night, when Christ was born;
O night, divine, O night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.
And in his name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, we praise thee,
O night divine, O night, when Christ was born;
O night, divine, O night, O night divine!

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *Romans 2:1*

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

All: Righteous and Holy Sovereign, save me from myself, from the deceits of my sin, from the treachery of my perverse nature, from denying your charge against my offenses, from a life of continual rebellion against you; for I know that all my thoughts, affections, desires, and pursuits are easily alienated from you. Father of my spirit, King of my life, drive me not from your presence, but wound my heart that it may be healed, break it so that your own hand may make it whole. Amen. (*Adapted from prayer in Valley of Vision*)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Revelation 21:3-4*

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

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.

***WHAT CHILD IS THIS? - Hymn #213**

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?

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.

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

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)

EMMANUEL, EMMANUEL

What hope we hold this starlit night
A King is born in Bethlehem
Our journey long we seek the light
That leads to the hallowed manger ground

What fear we felt in the silent age
Four-hundred years can He be found
But broken by a baby's cry
Rejoice in the hallowed manger ground

(Chorus)

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God incarnate here to dwell
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Praise His name Emmanuel*

The Son of God here born to bleed
A crown of thorns would pierce His brow
And we beheld this offering
Exalted now the King of kings
Praise God for the hallowed manger ground

(Chorus)

Praise His name Emmanuel

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.)

Advent: A Prophetic Purpose
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.
Let Us Go With You – Zechariah 8:20-23 (ESV)

²⁰ "Thus says the LORD of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, even the inhabitants of many cities. ²¹ The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, 'Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD and to seek the LORD of hosts; I myself am going.' ²² Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD. ²³ Thus says the LORD of hosts: In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'"

Sermon Outline

I. Who do you serve and who do you believe?

II. What is coming?

Sermon Outline, continued

III. How do we get there?

Sermon Questions

1. The Lord's future hope for Israel always included hope for the whole world through them. In the OT, we never see an active missionary drive by Israel to the nations. In the NT, we see the Church rushing to the nations. What changes this? (hint—John 12:32)
2. At the day of Pentecost, we see the beginning of this prophecy's fulfillment. What determines the future is God's faithfulness to his covenant promises and not the unfaithfulness of his people. How is that encouraging for you today?
3. "When this prediction was uttered nothing seemed more hopelessly improbable than its fulfillment. The Jews were a poor, despised, obscured tribe in the heart of Syria."—T.V. Moore. Hope is given, yet its fulfillment is a long ways off. They were called to live without fear in light of this hope. How are we to live in light of waiting for the Christ's second coming?
4. All Christians trace part of their lineage through these beleaguered Jews coming out of exile. From one of the people groups on earth comes the heritage of billions. What does this tell us about who God is and how he works?
5. Looking at Isaiah 2:2-3 and Micah 4:1-4, how do we see the interweaving of the prophetic message?
6. What about the work of Jesus attracts his people? How do this help inform our evangelization?

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.

***THY WILL BE DONE**

My God and Father! while I stray,
Far from my home in life's rough way,
Oh! teach me from my heart to say,
"Thy will be done!" "Thy will be done!"

If Thou shouldst call me to resign,
What most I prize, it ne'er was mine.
I only yield Thee what was Thine;
"Thy will be done!" "Thy will be done!"

If but my fainting heart be blest,
With Thy sweet Spirit for its guest,
My God! To Thee I leave the rest,
"Thy will be done!" "Thy will be done!"

Renew my will from day to day,
Blend it with Thine, and take away,
All now that makes it hard to say,
"Thy will be done!" "Thy will be done!"

Then when on earth I breathe no more,
The prayer oft mixed with tears before,
I'll sing upon a happier shore,
"Thy will be done!" "Thy will be done!" (2x)

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.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

*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)

*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.
For more about Faith Covenant and the Presbyterian Church in America, go to faithcov.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:** Neighbors in Need
- MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:** Kevin & Sarah Johnson, Guatemala.
- CHRISTMAS EVE** Candlelight Services will be held this year at 6 and 8 p.m.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAK:** There will be no Sunday School Dec. 24 and 31 for the holidays.
- LIBRARY BOOK GIVE AWAY:** Check out the tables of books in the fellowship hall. We've cleaned out these titles and they need new homes, so please take any that interest you!
- YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY:** College/Young Adult annual Christmas (Lefse) Party at the Andersons! Wednesday, Dec. 27, at 6 p.m. Bring finger-food to share and a favorite game to play. Contact Tim with questions (270-4951—225 Terrace Road, Kalispell).
- 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.
- NEW 33 MEN'S GROUP:** A new 33 Series, Volume 2, for men starts Wednesdays, Jan. 3, at 6 a.m. Volume one is not a prerequisite for this study. This six week session will focus on understanding how our past shapes who we are today. Sign up in the foyer today! Contact Rik Goodell (890-1973) or Grady Bennett (314-4207) with questions .
- WOMEN'S SMALL GROUPS:** Check out the sign ups in the foyer for opportunities to connect with the women of Faith Covenant this winter. There are two breakfast groups and three book studies so pick one that works for you! Contact Kristin Bay with questions (249-2411).
- YOUNG ADULT SMALL GROUP:** Young adults 18-25 are invited to meet at Trent and Becky Neumann's on the first and third Sunday of each month starting Jan. 7 through May, at 6 to 8:30 p.m. for dinner and Bible study (111 E. Bluegrass Drive, Kalispell). Contact Trent, 212-7625, or Becky, 212-7664, for more information. This group will continue to meet over the summer at Tim & Kate Andersons'.
- CHURCH OF THE CROSS SERVICE:** You're invited to visit our PCA church plant in Whitefish for their monthly worship service, **TODAY, Dec. 17**, at 5 p.m. at the Whitefish Foursquare church (233 Kalispell Ave). Childcare available.

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: Becky Neumann
Nursery 8:15 am: Hernandez/Rowe—Nursery 11 am: Ockert/Putzler
Fellowship Hosts: Sharon Salyer & Kelly Brown
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Amy Bennett/Theresa Paolini

Next Sunday - December 24th

Ushers: Mike & Carlynn Stahlberg/Jim Tinkham & Boys
Children's Church: Becky Neumann
Nursery 8:15 am: Paolini—Nursery 11 am: Motley
Fellowship Hosts: Fellowship Committee
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Gloria Hanson/Mark Rice

Christmas Eve - Services at 6 & 8 p.m.

Ushers: Mike & Carlynn Stahlberg/Nick & Hanni Hanson
Nursery 6/8 pm: Lancasters/J. Thompson
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Eileen Pierson/Benni Tulloch

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