

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 24, 2017*



*“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your king is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation is he,  
humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt,  
the foal of a donkey.”  
Zechariah 9:9*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2:14, Rev. 19:5*

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:** **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.**

Leader: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**All:** **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.**

Leader: Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.

**\*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)*

*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.

**\*ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY - *continued***

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)

**\*COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS - *Hymn #196***

Come Thou long-expected Jesus born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the saints Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, dayspring from on high, appear;  
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:  
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;  
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

**\*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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**\*HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING - Hymn #203**

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King."

Hail! the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King."

**COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN**

**SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *Isaiah 58:13-14***

If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

*continued above*

All: Lord Jesus, I have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, and of neglect to seek you in my daily life. My sins and shortcomings present me with a list of accusations, but I thank you that they will not stand against me, for all have been laid on Christ. Deliver me from every evil habit, every interest of former sins, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in me, everything that prevents me taking delight in you. Amen.

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Lamentations 3:22-23*

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

### \*WE THREE KINGS

We three Kings of Orient are bearing gifts; we travel afar:  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*(Chorus)*

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding. Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again.  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh.  
Prayer and praising all folks raising, worshiping God on High.

*(Chorus)*

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and sacrifice,  
Alleluia, alleluia; Sounds through the earth and skies.

*(Chorus)*

### 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.

**\*COMMON CONFSSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**PUBLIC RECEPTION OF COMMUNICANT MEMBERS:**

*Oliver Motley*

*Lucy Motley*

**The Apostle's  
Creed**

The Apostle's Creed is an ancient summary of what Christians believe. By confessing the Creed in worship, we are uniting with all of God's people in our common faith in Christ. We joyfully declare who we are while we remember what truly matters. The word "catholic" is a Greek word that simply means 'universal'. It speaks of all Christians everywhere.

## 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)*

### GOD REST YOU MERRY GENTLEMEN

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might."  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood, each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas, all others doth deface.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

### 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.

*A God Who Loves His People – Zechariah 9:9-12 & 10:1-4 (ESV)*

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

**Zechariah 10:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> Ask rain from the LORD in the season of spring rain, from the Lord who makes the storm clouds, and he will give them showers of rain, to everyone the vegetation in the field.

<sup>2</sup> For the household gods utter nonsense, and the diviners see lies; they tell false dreams and give empty consolation. Therefore the people wander like sheep; they are afflicted for lack of a shepherd.

<sup>3</sup> "My anger is hot against the shepherds, and I will punish the leaders; for the LORD of hosts cares for his flock, the house of Judah, and will make them like his majestic steed in battle.

<sup>4</sup> From him shall come the cornerstone, from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow, from him every ruler--all of them together.

## Sermon Outline

### I. The Coming King

### II. The Faithful Shepherd

#### Sermon Questions

1. The message of Zechariah came to a people who were uncertain about the future of the kingship. How would this have been an encouragement? How about after a 400 year wait? What equips us to deal with waiting for the Lord's promises to come about?
2. How very strange it seems that the coming king would disarm his people. Yet the Lord is going to bring victory over his enemies. How is this accomplished by Jesus? What does it tell us about the nature of our own warfare in his name?
3. No one expected the Messiah to be like Jesus. He often crushed their expectations by being someone entirely different than what they thought they wanted. How has this not changed through the ages? How do we struggle with this still in our lives?
4. What is the significance of v-11 "because of the blood of my covenant with you"?
5. We always want to lead with strength and yet Jesus leads with the strength of humility and service. Suffering and death lead to the resurrection. Where is the Lord calling you to take up your cross and follow him into a type of death?
6. In light of our calling to suffer for Christ, how is knowing Jesus as the faithful Shepherd a consolation to us?

**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.

**\*IN CHRIST ALONE**

In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save;  
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied  
For ev'ry sin on him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
for I am his and he is mine bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
*No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand.  
Till he returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.*

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*Wine is located in the two outer rings; juice is located in the center ring.  
(See FCC observance on below)*

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

### \*JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME - Hymn #195

Joy to the world the Lord is come, let earth receive her King  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns, let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders of His love

### \*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:** Easthaven Baptist Church, Kalispell, Pastors Daniel Lambert, Joey Gardiner, Matt Fitzwater & Andy McPeak

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

**CHRISTMAS EVE** Candlelight Services will be this evening 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).

**NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES:** Two new Sunday School offerings will begin Jan. 7. Pastor Lloyd will teach "Christianity & Culture: What is Our Place in the World?" And Pastor Taylor will teach "Genesis: It's All Part of the Plan." Sign up in the foyer.

**YOUNG ADULT SMALL GROUP:** Young adults 18-25 are invited to Neumanns' the first and third Sunday of the month starting Jan. 7, at 6 to 8:30 p.m. for dinner and study (111 E. Bluegrass Drive, Kalispell). Contact Trent, 212-7625, or Becky, 212-7664, for details. This group will continue to meet over the summer at Tim & Kate Andersons'.

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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: Becky Neumann

Nursery 8:15 am: Paolinis—Nursery 11 am: Motleys

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. Thompsons

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Eileen Pierson/Benni Tulloch

**Next Sunday - December 31st**

Ushers: Mike & Carlynn Stahlberg/Jim Tinkham & Boys

Children's Church: Carol Van Duyne & Hannah Buckner

Nursery 8:15 am: S. Thompson—Nursery 11 am: Neumanns

Fellowship Hosts: Cathy Hanson & Kate Anderson

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carolyn Duncan/Jeanie Brenneman

**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