

FAITH 
COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 31, 2017

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.”

Zechariah 12:10

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*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.

***CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 89:1, 2, 5**

Leader: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever.

All: With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

Leader: For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

All: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

***ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME! - Hymn #296 vs. 1, 3, 5-6**

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed of the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball,
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng, we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!

*JESUS, MESSIAH

He became sin who knew no sin,
that we might become his righteousness.
He humbled himself and carried the cross.
Love so amazing, love so amazing!

(Chorus)

*Jesus Messiah, name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven,
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.*

His body the bread, his blood the wine,
broken and poured out all for love.
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, love so amazing!

(Chorus)

(Bridge)

*All our hope is in you, all our hope is in you.
All the glory to you, God, the Light of the world.*

(Chorus)

Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

Advent

The word
“Advent”
comes from
the Latin
meaning
“coming” or
“arrival.”

Advent is a
time of prepa-
ration 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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***GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME**

God, be merciful to me; on Thy grace I rest my plea
Plenteous in compassion Thou, blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within; cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess; grief and guilt my soul oppress.
I have sinned against Thy grace, and provoked Thee to Thy face.
I confess Thy judgment just; speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

Broken, humbled to the dust, by Thy wrath and judgment just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice, and in gladness hear Thy voice;
From my sins O hide Thy face, blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from Thee, let Thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me, and return, O God, to Thee
Savior all my guilt remove, and my tongue shall sing Thy love
Touch my silent lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise accord.

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *1 Peter 1:14-16*

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'

continued above

All: O Lord our God, you are great and mighty. You give justice to the helpless; yet I seek justice for myself and I am slow to seek it for others. You are merciful to the needy, but I give mercy to myself, yet demand my due from all who owe me. Father I am slow to forgive the sins of others, and I am stubborn in doing what you ask of me. Forgive me Lord, for the sake of your Son Jesus, and grant me new and fresh obedience, and a willing heart to yield to your Spirit, that you would be glorified. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Psalm 9:9-10*

The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

*CONFESSION OF CHRIST'S GRACE:

– *The Heidelberg Catechism (1563), Question 1*

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

Leader: He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

All: Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

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.

***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.

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)

***HOUSE OF GOD, FOREVER (PSALM 23)**

God is my shepherd, I won't be wanting, I won't be wanting
He makes me rest, in fields of green, with quiet streams

Even though I walk, through the valley, of death and dying
I will not fear, cause you are with me, you are with me

Your shepherd's staff comforts me, you are my feast
In the presence of enemies
Surely goodness will follow me, follow me
In the house of God forever
(repeat)

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 Glorious End – Zechariah 12-14 (ESV)

Zechariah 12:1-5

¹ The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him: ² "Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. ³ On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it.

Zechariah 13:1-2

¹ "On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

² "And on that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, so that they shall be remembered no more. And also I will remove from the land the prophets and the spirit of uncleanness.

Zechariah 14:1-4

¹ Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. ² For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. ³ Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. ⁴ On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.

Sermon Outline

I. Understanding Prophetic Images

Sermon Outline, continued

II. A Prophetic View of History

**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.

Sermon Questions

1. Zechariah wrote to bring hope, comfort, and warning to his people. When these events are treated by later readers like newspaper stories and time lines, they miss both the symbolic value and the way the first audience would have understood the message. How do we learn from them to live faithfully in hope while we also experience crises?
2. When you read the heightened battle language of Psalm 18 and then compare it to the historical events as they occurred in 1 Samuel, it is easy to see the style differences. How does this help us when reading apocalyptic literature?
3. How does stepping back and looking at the panoramic view better help us reading prophetic literature than a close up approach?
4. What is significant of horse bells and cooking pots (ch 14:20-21) being inscribed “holy to the Lord”?
5. Consider: “The Second Coming seems to be in many biblical texts a complex of events with a series of events leading up to it and following it. If the Lord wanted us to be sure of a more detailed scenario, he would have given us more information and in a different form. Questions of this type — which comes first?, where does this belong in the order of events?, and so on — must, therefore, be more interesting than important.”—Robert Rayburn
6. Why does knowing the direction of history and its final outcome give us hope and assurance for living in the uncertainties of today?

**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 I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN**

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow Thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition, all I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while Thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me, show Thy face and all is bright.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure, come disaster, scorn and pain
In Thy service, pain is pleasure, with Thy favor, loss is gain
I have called Thee Abba Father, I have stayed my heart on Thee
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather; all must work for good to me.

Haste thee on from grace to glory, armed by faith, and winged by prayer.
Heaven's eternal days before thee, God's own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

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)*

PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

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.

***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.*

***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:** Bible Study Fellowship
- MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:** Pray for Dan & Naomi Emerson with Worldwide Evangelization for Christ on the Tajikistan/Uzbekistan border.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAK:** There will be no Sunday School Dec. 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!
- 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'.
- MARK YOUR CALENDARS** on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, for our **ANNUAL MEETING**. A 6:00 p.m. soup supper will precede the 7:00 p.m. meeting. All members are encouraged to attend but you do not need to be a member to attend.
- COMMUNITY KITCHEN-FEEDING THE FLATHEAD:** Those of you who are volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve next on Thursday, Jan. 11, at Central Christian. Contact Dawn Tinkham for details (208-640-6060).

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: Sharon Salyer
Nursery 8:15 am: S. Thompson
Nursery 11 am: Neumanns
Fellowship Hosts: Cathy Hanson & Kate Anderson
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carolyn Duncan/Jeanie Brenneman

Next Sunday - January 7

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson
Children's Church: Sharon Salyer
Nursery 8:15 am: C. Hansons
Nursery 11 am: Grays
Fellowship Hosts: Paula Saldamando & Judy Fosbery
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fenners/H. Hanson

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