

# 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 16, 2018*



*“The root of Jesse will come,  
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope.”*

*Romans 15:12*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP: *Isaiah 61:10-11*

Leader: I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

All: For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. Praise the LORD!

#### \*JOY TO THE WORLD - *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

*continued above*

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

**\*JOY TO THE WORLD - *continued***

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

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR: JESUS, JOY OF THE HIGHEST HEAVEN**

**\*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts

As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory forever.

Amen.

**Call to  
Worship**

Worship begins with God who invites us and welcomes us into his presence. Because of Christ, we can approach God with boldness even though we are sinful and weak.

*\*Indicates when to stand.*

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# \*COME AND WORSHIP

1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er the earth,

Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry now pro -

claim Mes - si - ah's birth. Come and Wor - ship Come and wor - ship,

Come and wor - ship; wor - ship Christ the new - born King. 2. Shep herds, 3. Saints be

in the fields a - bid - ing watch - ing o'er your flocks by night  
fore the al - tar ben - ding watch - ing long in hope and fear

God with man is now re - sid - ing Yon - der shines the In - fant light  
Sud - den - ly - the Lord, de - scend - ing, In His tem - ple shall ap - pear

Come and Wor - ship Come and wor - ship; Come and

wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ the new - born King

To Verse 3 after repeat

wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ the new - born King

## 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*)

### **Call to Confession**

We all sin daily, in thought and word and deed. As we come into God's presence, we acknowledge how we have rebelled against our King and seek his forgiveness.

## 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."

**\*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.

**PUBLIC RECEPTION OF MEMBERS**

*Tom & Lori George*

## 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)*

## CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Praise God who came in infant low  
to bear our flesh and grace bestow  
Born in a lowly manger stall  
a child who shall redeem us all

And as creation held its breath  
the firstborn came in our defense  
To stand before His father's throne  
And through his blood our lives atone

For this our mighty Savior came  
To wed our hearts and bear our shame  
For condemnation has no place  
For those who trust in Jesus' name

To us a child is born today  
Immanuel in flesh displayed  
To once for all his people save  
Rejoice! Give thanks, and praise His Name

## 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: The Coming of the Son of Righteousness*  
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.  
*The Hope of the Nations - Romans 15:8-13 (ESV)*

<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.”

<sup>10</sup> And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

<sup>11</sup> And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.”

<sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

### Sermon Outline

#### I. A Tale of Two Cities

## Sermon Outline, *continued*

### II., Breaking Barriers

#### **Sermon**

God addresses and speaks to us by the reading and preaching of his Word. Both Christians and non-Christians need to hear the good news of salvation and grow in it.

#### **Sermon Questions**

1. What is significant about Paul quoting from these four different scriptural sources?
2. We are often underwhelmed by the message that the Gentiles have been included in God's redemptive plan. Why is it important for us to consider this great truth again with fresh eyes?
3. Paul brings together truth and transformation in forming a new community. Why would Jews and Gentiles struggle in applying this to one another? How do you struggle in applying this to Christians who differ with you? Do you tend to be an obstacle remover or a barrier builder?
4. How does Jesus make us one? What does it mean that we are not an afterthought to the Lord?
5. We can judge others for falling short of our expectations (self-righteous) and we can wallow in our own short coming (self-pity). How does Jesus address both of these problems?

## \*THERE BLOOMED A ROSE IN BETHLEHEM



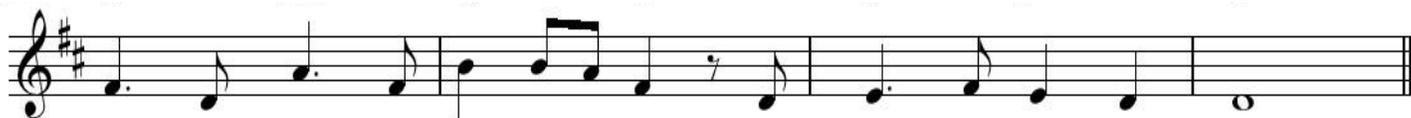
There\_ blooms a rose in Beth-le - hem, from ten - der stem hath sprung. Of\_  
The\_ glo - ries of the heav - ens sur - round - ed shep - herds bright. The  
This\_ flow'r in bloom, a scent so\_ sweet that greets us in the air. It\_



Jes - se's line this flow - er\_ grows as men of old have sung. I -  
an - gels sang, a sign was\_ shown, the Christ was born that night. What  
has dis - pelled with hope - ful - ness the sting of death's de - spair. Fore -



sa - iah told us long a - go a - bout this rose we'd find;\_ In\_  
mys - ter - y they came up - on, the sign the her - alds laud, in\_  
told, this rose was born to die, but would not see de - cay\_ so\_



vir - gin arms, we shall be - hold the Sav - ior of man - kind.  
man - ger slept the Ho - ly\_ One, in flesh, the Son of God.  
those who place their faith in\_ Him shall blos - som from the grave.

## CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

### *Lyrics to the solo for reference: O Day of Peace*

O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams  
guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small  
as beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all.

Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord;  
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

## PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

### \*THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angel did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*(Chorus)*

*No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el  
Born is the King of Is-rael*

They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east beyond them far:  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

*(Chorus)*

And by the light of that same star, three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a King was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

*(Chorus)*

Then let us all with one accord, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
and with his blood mankind has bought.

### \*BENEDICTION

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

### **The Lord's Supper**

The gospel is not only heard, but visibly seen as God invites us to commune with him at his table. In the Lord's Supper we remember and experience Jesus' saving work.

### **Benediction**

Just as worship begins with God's call, it ends with God sending us into the world with his word of grace. We go forth to live and serve by the power of his grace, not our own strength.

#### Leaders & Staff

Senior Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

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

*Elders:* Tim Anderson, Grady Bennett (*sabbatical*), Tom Jentz, Trent Neumann, Don Olmsted,

Matt Riley, Micah Tinkham *Deacons:* Terry Falk, Kyle Hanson, Micah Hill, Ryan Petersen,

Mike Stahlberg, Bruce Tulloch, Phil Van Duyne *Music Director:* Bekah Marsh

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:** Neighbors in Need

**MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:** Pray for Kevin and Sarah Johnson ministering, writing and teaching in Guatemala with United World Mission.

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

**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING:** Each year the offering taken at our Christmas Eve service is given to families or individuals of Faith Covenant who have particular needs.

Our Deacons determine need and distribute the entire offering to those in need of extra assistance.

**NEW 33 MEN'S GROUP:** A new 33 Series, Volume 4, for men starts Wednesdays, Jan. 2, at 6 a.m. Then 33 Series Volume 2 will begin Thursdays, Jan. 3, at 6 a.m. Sign up for either class in the foyer or contact Rik Goodell (890-1973) with questions.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAK:** There will be no Sunday School December 23 and 30 for the holidays.

### **GENERAL OFFERING SUMMARY:**

Targeted Budget = \$382,050.46 ; Offerings received = \$368,573.39

**ONLINE GIVING:** You may now give your offerings through the church website at [www.faithcov.com](http://www.faithcov.com). Click on the "launch secure giving" button and follow the simple directions to set up an account. Contact the office (752-2400) if you have questions.

**PRAYER CARDS** are available in the pew racks for your prayer requests. According to how you mark your request, prayers can be for the Elders and Deacons only, or put on the prayer chain. Place your request in the offering bag or give to any Elder or Pastor.

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**SERVING:** December Deacon - Kyle Hanson

**WEEKLY/MONTHLY**

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

Ushers: Mike & Carlynn Stahlberg/Scott & Sue Richardson  
Children's Church: Becky Neumann & Grace/Emma Anderson  
Early Nursery: Hernandez & Rowe  
Late Nursery: Ockert & Putzler  
Fellowship Hosts: Patti Albert & Kristin Bay  
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fenners/Theresa Paolini

**Next Sunday December 23rd**

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/Scott & Sue Richardson  
Children's Church: Becky Neumann & Grace/Emma Anderson  
Early Nursery: Paolinis  
Late Nursery: Andersons  
Fellowship Hosts: Fellowship Committee  
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fosberys/Yvonne Hernandez

**Worship Services**

Sundays 8:15 & 11 am

**Sunday School**

Sept.-May 10 am

**Music Practice**

Tuesdays 5:30 pm

**Elder/Deacon Meeting**

3rd Tuesdays 7 pm

**Youth Groups**

Sept.-May Wednesdays 7 pm

**Vespers**

2nd Sundays 6:30 pm

**Elizabeth Women Group**

2nd & 4th Tuesdays

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