

FAITH 
COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 29, 2019

*“For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make
shall remain before me, says the LORD,
so shall your offspring and your name remain.”
Isaiah 66:22*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP: Joel 2:1

Leader: Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill.
Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is
coming. It is close at hand. Come, let us worship God.

*COME AND WORSHIP

Angels from the realms of Glory
Wing your flight o'er the Earth
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim the Messiah's birth

(Chorus)

*Come and worship, come and worship
Come and worship, worship Christ the newborn king*

Shepherds in the fields abiding
Watching o'er the flocks by night
God with man is now residing
Yonder shines the infant light

(Chorus 2x)

Saints before the alter bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord descending
In His temple shall appear

(Chorus 2x)

***ONLY A HOLY GOD**

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven
Who else could make every king bow down
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles
Only a Holy God

What other beauty demands such praises
What other splendor outshines the sun
What other majesty rules with justice
Only a Holy God

(Chorus)

*Come and behold Him, the One and the Only
Cry out sing holy, forever a Holy God, come and worship the Holy God*

What other glory consumes like fire
What other power can raise the dead
What other name remains undefeated
Only a Holy God

(Chorus)

Who else could rescue me from my failing
Who else would offer His only Son
Who else invites me to call Him Father
Only a Holy God, only my Holy God
(Chorus 2x)

**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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***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.

***BE THOU MY VISION - Hymn #642**

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art
thou my best thought, by day or by night;
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father; I thy true son,
thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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.

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.

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.

***GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN REJOICE - Hymn #207**

Good Christian men rejoice, with heart and soul and voice
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blessed evermore
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men rejoice, with heart and soul and voice
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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.)

OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

*Reminder: please sign and pass the Attendance Register down the pew.
Children ages 4-6 excused for Children's Church both services (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

Advent: Rend the Heavens
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.
Will He Be With Us Forever? — Isaiah 66:15-16, 22-24 (ESV)

¹⁵ For behold, the LORD will come in fire, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to render his anger in fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. ¹⁶ For by fire will the LORD enter into judgment, and by his sword, with all flesh; and those slain by the LORD shall be many.

²² "For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain. ²³ From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD. ²⁴ "And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

Sermon Outline

I. Judgement

Sermon Outline, *continued*

II. Salvation

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. Consider this statement: "It is out of judgment that hope emerges, but hope never removes the potential and the reality of judgment." The polarities of hope and judgment are intertwined throughout Scripture. How has Isaiah kept both of these before the people? How can we do this today?
2. The question: Are people judged because they have not heard the good news or because they are rebelling against God? Why is it important to keep this in mind so that we do not try and improve upon the justice of God?
3. In considering Is 66:22-23, read Is 65:17-19. What do these images convey to God's people? How are they visions of hope for us? Why do we need reminded that this is not our home? (Consider also 1 Peter 2:11).
4. Some commentators see the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. as the fulfillment of v-16, others see the end of the world as its fulfillment. How does seeing God's judgment breaking into history help us to view history and judgement together?
5. How does God removing his restraining forces allow sin and evil to be their own judgement?
6. Why do you think Isaiah ends with v-24? What purpose does this warning serve? How does Jesus use this verse in the Gospel of Mark? (Mark 9:18)

Children's Question

One day the Lord will fix everything.

How does knowing this help you when you are facing tough times?

*HOW LONG

How long? Will You turn Your face away?
How long? Do You hear us when we pray?
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way - How long?

How long 'til Your children find their rest?
How long 'til You draw them to Your breast?
We go on holding to Your promises - How long?

(Chorus)

*'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye
'Til we see our home descending from the sky
Do we wait in vain?
Jesus, give us hope again!*

How long 'til Your word will still the storm?
How long 'til You bare Your mighty arm?
How we groan 'til You snatch us from the thorns - How long?

(Chorus)

How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the race.
How long? Weak our hearts but strong our legs.
Looking on - great that cloud of witnesses! How long?

(Chorus)

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

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.

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

*ALL GLORY BE TO CHRIST

Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn, all glory be to Christ

(Chorus)

*All glory be to Christ our king, All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, All glory be to Christ*

His will be done His kingdom come, on earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread, praise Him the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy, the thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, all glory be to Christ
(Chorus)

When on the day the great I Am, the faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain, is making all things new
Behold our God shall live with us, and be our steadfast light
And we shall e're his people be, all glory be to Christ
(Chorus)

*BENEDICTION

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

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. — Associate Pastor John Sackett

Youth/Refuge Director: Rev. Ben Melli Music Director: Bekah Marsh

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

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: Whitefish Foursquare Church,
Pastor Christopher Martin

MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: The S family serving in Turkey.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAK: There will be no Sunday School today. Classes for all ages resume Jan. 5.

TAKING DOWN THE GREENS: Many hands make lighter work, so if you can pitch in to undecorate the church on Saturday, Jan. 4, at 10 a.m. your help would be appreciated!

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES start Jan. 5. Pastor John will teach *The Life & Ministry of Paul*, and Rev. Ben will teach *The Life & Writings of C.S. Lewis*. Sign up in the foyer.

YOUTH GROUP TIME CHANGE: Starting Jan. 8, junior high youth (6th-8th grades) will meet 6:00-7:30 p.m. and senior high (9-12th grades) will meet 7:30-9 p.m.

MEN'S FRATERNITY 33 SERIES Volume 6: A Man & His Fatherhood will start Wednesdays, Jan. 8. Sign up in the foyer for these weekly studies that help men think strategically about fatherhood. Contact Rik Goodell (890-1973) with questions.

VESPERS SERVICE: Join us Sunday, Jan. 12, at 6:30 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. Childcare available.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS on Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 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. 9, at Central Christian. Contact Dawn Tinkham for details (208-640-6060).

SERVING: December Deacon - Mike Stahlberg

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/Jim & Ellen Rowe
Children's Church: Jenny Heyboer/Sharon Salyer
Early Nursery: E. Hanson
Late Nursery: Lancasters
Fellowship Hosts: Audrey Goodell & Gloria Hanson
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fosberys/Gloria Johnson

Next Sunday January 5th

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/TBA
Children's Church: Hanni Hanson/Sharon Salyer
Early Nursery: S. Thompson
Late Nursery: Kelly Brown
Fellowship Hosts: Carolyn Duncan & Alyssa Hobus
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carol Martin & Jeanie Brenneman

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Worship Services

Sundays 8:15 & 11 am

Sunday School

Sept.-May 10 am

Music Practice

Tuesdays 6 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