

FAITH 
COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 6, 2020



SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

*“For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”*

Luke 2:11

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Luke 1:46-47, 50 Lam. 5:19*

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. The Lord reigns forever; His throne endures to all generations.

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.

***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."

***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.

***KING OF KINGS**

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running, there was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfill the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory, to a cradle in the dirt

(Chorus)

*Praise the Father, Praise the Son, Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory, Majesty, Praise forever to the King of Kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus for our sake You died

(Chorus)

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good for the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs and the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name in His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ who has resurrected me

(Chorus)

Praise forever to the King of Kings

**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.

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**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.

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *2 Samuel 22:26-28*

With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the blameless man you show yourself blameless; with the purified you deal purely, and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous. You save a humble people, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down.

All: Lord of all mercy and compassion, I am neither blameless nor pure. My heart is crooked, and I elevate myself at the expense of others. Forgive me for my sins and cleanse me from my defilement, that through my Redeemer, Christ Jesus, I might be pure and spotless. Grant me a humble heart, and by your Holy Spirit, enable me to strive for new and fresh obedience, all to the praise of your glorious grace. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *2 Samuel 22:29-31*

For you are my lamp, O LORD, and my God lightens my darkness. For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

***O COME ALL YE UNFAITHFUL**

O come, all you unfaithful, come, weak and unstable
Come, know you are not alone
O come, barren and waiting ones, weary of praying, come
See what your God has done

(Chorus)

Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you

O come, bitter and broken, come with fears unspoken
Come, taste of His perfect love
O come, guilty and hiding ones, there is no need to run
See what your God has done

(Chorus)

He's the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon
His promise is peace, for those who believe *(2x)*

So come, though you have nothing, come, He is the offering
Come, see what your God has done

(Chorus)

OFFERTORY: *(Offerings can be mailed to the church or given online at faithcov.com)*

Children ages 4-6 excused for Children's Church during 11 a.m. services (downstairs corner classroom)

Diaconal Offering today: Please use the Special Offering envelopes located in the pew racks.

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.)

Sermon Series: Advent — A Surprising God
Pastor John Sackett
Surprising Shepherds — Luke 2:8-20 (ESV)

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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 Outline

- I. A Surprise Announcement

- II. A Surprise Response

Sermon Questions

1. Why was choosing the shepherds such a wonderful picture of the Gospel?
2. While the shepherds are not given the baby’s name, he is identified as “Savior”, “Messiah” and “Lord”. Why these names? What would they mean to these shepherds?
3. The presence of the Angel overwhelms these shepherds, as regularly happens in Scripture. “Fear not” is a common first word in the angelic message. Why would the shepherds have reason to fear messengers from God?
4. The angel identifies Jesus as “Christ the Lord”, and the shepherds declare...”this thing...which the Lord has made known to us.” Do you think the shepherds are suggesting that the babe announced his own birth?
5. As the angels depart, why do the shepherds decide to respond as they do?

Children's Question

What's your favorite part of the story of the Shepherds in Luke 2:8-20? Why do angels usually start by saying "Fear not!?" After hearing God's Word from the angels, what did the shepherds do? Do you respond quickly to what God's Word says?

*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.

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.

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.

***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

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

***BENEDICTION**

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Central Bible Church, Pastor Peter Barber
MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Missionary family serving in the Middle East
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Ladies are invited to sign up in the foyer for the winter Bible study starting Wednesday, Jan. 27, at 9:30-11 a.m. (with childcare) or at 1-2:30 p.m. to study the book "From Garden to Glory."
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES: There will be four Christmas Eve services this year at 3:30, 5:00, 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. Please sign up to attend at faithcov.com to ensure adequate spacing. The 5 p.m. service will have enhanced COVID protocols (in addition to mandatory masks, seating & dismissal will be handled by ushers).

SERVING: December Deacon – Phil Van Duyne

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Children's Church: 9:30 Sunday School — 11 Don Olmsted
Nursery: 9:30 Sunday School — 11 Hobus
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Susie Sullivan/Jessica Brown

Sunday Worship Services

8, 9:30 & 11 am, 6:30 pm
Streaming 11 am

Next Sunday December 13th

Children's Church: 9:30 Sunday School — 11 Don Olmsted
Nursery: 9:30 Sunday School — 11 J. Thompson
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carolyn Duncan/Jeanie Brenneman

Vespers

2nd Sunday of the month
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Youth Group

Jr High 4:30-6 pm, Sr High 7-9