

FAITH 
COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 26, 2021



*“When they saw the star,
they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”
Matthew 2:10*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 9:6; 1 Timothy 3:16**

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: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, and was taken up in glory.

Leader: Proclaim it among the nations. Sing of his greatness you people of God.

***O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL - Hymn #208**

O come, all ye faithful. Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
born the King of angels

(Chorus)

*O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above
Glory to God, all glory in the highest
(Chorus)

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this holy morning
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father late in flesh appearing
(Chorus)

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

*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.

**Indicates
when to stand.
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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, 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 Jesus. 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.

*SCRIPTURAL CONFESSON OF FAITH: *Colossians 1:15-20*

All: Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

*IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR - *Hymn #200*

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From heavens all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

O ye beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow;
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
Oh rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

*Reminder: please sign and pass the Attendance Register down the pew.
Children ages 4-6 excused for Children's Church 11 a.m. service (downstairs in the Corner Classroom)*

AWAY IN A MANGER - Hymn #205

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

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 Questions

1. Why do you suppose that, even as an infant, Jesus was affecting people? The mere fact of His birth impacted many people so differently. What does that teach us?
2. NT Scholar R.T. France notes, “Herod’s concern is understandable.” What’s so understandable about it? France also mentions, Herod’s “later years were plagued by the fear of rivals.” What fears of ours get in the way of our relationship with our Savior?
3. Herod’s team (the chief priests and scribes) knew the answer to Herod’s question, but that knowledge didn’t seem to affect their actual life, or their priorities in life. How do we guard against this danger?
4. John Calvin remarks that the Magi, expecting to see born royalty were likely surprised to find Jesus in a “more despised condition than any peasant child”. And yet Calvin remarks that they “are convinced that He is divinely appointed to be a King ... holding it for certain, that He will one day be different from what He now appears ...”. This is a beautiful expression of faith. How might we improve our own commitment to that future day?

Children’s Question

Does God help the Magi find baby Jesus? How does God help? How does this show that God loves them? What do the Magi do when they found Jesus?

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.

***THIS IS JESUS**

Night of wonder, still and silent
Heaven's brilliance from above, light of glory
Pierced the darkness, mercy pierced my heart with love

(Chorus)

*This is Jesus, King of glory, here to rescue from the fall
Son of God who comes to save us, Prince of peace and Lord of all*

Oh the mystery who could fathom,
God would leave His Holy throne
For a manger, for a sinner, for us all to be His own

(Chorus)

Rejoice He is with us, Rejoice hope is here (4x)

(Chorus)

For the hearts so prone to wander, for these feet so quick to flee
God is here and love is reaching, for the lost and least of these

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.

We observe the Lord's Supper 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. Visiting children who have not been examined by their church's leadership, we ask to refrain. By sharing in the Supper, you are acknowledging to our church that you are in covenant with our Triune God through the person and work of Jesus Christ. If you are in doubt about your participation, please refrain. 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

8:15 Elder Matt Riley — 11 Pastor

*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!

*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: Asst. Pastor Ben Melli Music Director/Assistant: Lisa Iddings/Laura Sackett

Staff: Kristin Bay, Hanni Hanson, Carlynn Stahlberg, Kelly Brown

Elders: Tim Anderson, 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 MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Faith Lutheran Church, Kalispell, Pastor Steve Snipstead

MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: The S family serving in outdoor adventure ministry in the Middle East.

EVENING SERVICE: There will not be an evening service tonight or Jan. 2 but they will resume with Vespers on Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 2022: Sunday School classes for all ages will resume Jan. 9. Classes for adults will include "Ezekiel" with Pastor Lloyd and "On Parenting" with Trent Neumann. Sign up in the foyer.

VESPERS SERVICE: Join us Sunday, Jan. 9, at 6:30 p.m. for vespers, a brief evening service of silence and symbol, prayer and song.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 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. 13, at Central Christian. Contact Dawn Tinkham for details (208-640-6060).

SERVING: December Deacon – Micah Hill

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Peters/Von Olhausen

Children's Church: H. Hanson

Nursery: D. Tinkham

Fellowship Hosts: Eileen Pierson

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Eileen Pierson/Gloria Johnson

Next Sunday January 2nd

Ushers: Volunteers needed

Children's Church: H. Hanson/Julie Thompson

Nursery: Davis

Fellowship Hosts: Eileen Pierson & Dawn McGarvey

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Susie Sullivan/Jeanie Brenneman

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Sunday Worship Services

8:15 & 11 am, 6:30 pm

Sunday School

Sept.-May 10 am

Elder/Deacon Meeting

3rd Tuesdays 7 pm

Wednesdays

Men's Breakfast 6:30 am

Women's Bible Study 9:30, 12:45, 4:30

Jr High Youth @ 5 pm

Sr. High Youth @ 6:30 pm

Career Group 7 pm

Faith Covenant Church - 611 Third Ave. East, Kalispell, MT 59901 - 406-752-2400 - www.faithcov.com