

FAITH 
COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 25, 2022



“He who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His name.”

Luke 1:49

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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

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.

***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!

**Indicates*

when to stand.

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***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)

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

***INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY - Hymn #216**

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow;
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow;
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

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.

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.

***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 forevermore
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 (downstairs Corner Classroom)*

AWAY IN A MANGER - Hymn #204

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed;
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the 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.

Sermon Series: Unto Us a Child is Born

Pastor John Sackett

Merry Christmas: Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

Sermon Outline

The Lord brings glory to his name through our weakness, and we must be willing to wait to be vindicated by him as we live through these events.

I. Christmas Past

II. Christmas Present

III. Christmas Future

Questions for Further Reflection:

1. How was Leah's response to Judah's birth different from that of her previous deliveries?
2. How did Naomi express her merriment and joy over the birth of her grandson? Do you relate more to Ruth or Naomi?
3. Hannah's story shows a potential for some emotionally complex feelings, for instance the son she so dearly desires, she willingly gives back to the Lord. What sustains her through those ups and downs in life?
4. Mary breaks into a beautiful chorus of theologically rich and glorious praise? What does this tell us about how she lived her life?
5. Who in your life circumstances are you able to share a Merry Christmas with?

Children's Question

We love to say "Merry Christmas"! What makes Christmas so merry?

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.

**God Communes
with Us**

The Lord
strengthens
and nourishes
our faith
through a sac-
ramental meal.

Through Je-
sus, commun-
ion 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.

***CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS (Christmas)**

Crown Him with many crowns
The King who left His throne
Creator of the universe
Born to the world He holds
And with that first drawn breath
The Word has become flesh
Emmanuel has come to us
O crown Him all the earth

Crowned by the angel choir
They tell His royal birth
Sing glory in the highest height
And peace upon the earth
They break the silent night
Announcing endless worth
The King of grace and love is here
O crown Him all the world

Crowned by their royal gifts
Gold frankincense and myrrh
Wise men approach this manger throne
With honors from afar
Behold the Son of God
And bow down in this place
The Prince of Peace has come to us
O crown Him with your praise

Crown Him with many crowns
The Lamb upon His throne
Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own
Awake my soul and sing
God sent His Son for thee
Now hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

8:15 Elder Sean Iddings— 11 Elder Micah Tinkham

*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

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

*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 John Sackett

Assistant Pastor (Youth): Ben Melli Music Director/Assistant: Lisa Iddings/Laura Sackett

Refuge Director: Sissy Hashley Staff: Jenny Mattern, Hanni Hanson, Carlynn Stahlberg, Kelly Brown

Elders: Tim Anderson, Jason Davis, Sean Iddings, Tom Jentz, Trent Neumann, Don Olmsted,
Matt Riley, Micah Tinkham

Deacons: Wade Carroll, Terry Falk, Kyle Hanson, Micah Hill, Ryan Petersen,
Mike Stahlberg, Bruce Tulloch

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Salvation Army

MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: J&R, serving in the Middle East

HOLIDAY SEASON SERVICE TIMES: Please note that there will be NO Sunday school and the service times will change to 8:15 & 10:15 for the following dates: Dec. 25 & Jan. 1. We will resume our regular schedule Jan. 8.

NEW CHILDREN'S CHURCH CURRICULUM: Starting in the new year, children ages 4-6 who take part in Children's Church will be learning from the Kids' Quest Catechism Club

SAVE THE DATE: The annual congregational meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023. (Note the date change from last week.) Details to follow.

SERVING: December Deacon - Bruce Tulloch

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: N. Hansons/von Olhausen

Children's Church: Russells/Fishers

Nursery: D. Tinkham

Fellowship Hosts: Hanni Hanson & Eileen Pierson

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Traci Carroll/Theresa Paolini

Next Sunday January 1st

Ushers: Carroll/Lancaster

Children's Church: Ann Ingram/Julie Thompson

Nursery: Davis

Fellowship Hosts: Gloria Hanson-Tronstad & Susan Cox

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Eileen Pierson/Benni Tulloch

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Sunday Worship Services

8:15 & 10:15 am

Vespers

2nd Sunday @ 6:30 pm

Elder/Deacon Meeting

3rd Tuesdays 7 pm

Wednesdays

Men's Breakfast 6:30 am

Jr High Youth @ 5 pm

Sr. High Youth @ 6:30 pm

Career Group 7 pm