

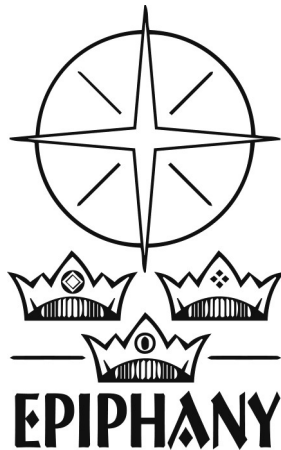
FAITH   
COVENANT  

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C H U R C H

*Spreading A Love for God and His Glory*

*January 8, 2023*



Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.

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Matthew 2:2

## 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

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP: *Isaiah 60*

Arise, shine, for your light has come! The glory of the LORD has risen upon us. Let us praise the Lord together. The sun shall no longer be our light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on us, for the Lord will be our light, and our God will be our glory. The Lord will be our everlasting light, and our days of sorrow will end. Come, let us sing to our light and salvation!

### \*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

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\*PRAYER OF PRAISE

\*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)*

This star drew nigh to the northwest  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay

*(Chorus)*

Then entered in those wise men three  
Full rev'rently upon the knee  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense

*(Chorus)*

**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.

**COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN**

**SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION:** *1 John 2:9-11*

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

**All:** O Lord Almighty, you have called us out of darkness and have chosen us to be your people. We should be filled with gratitude for your mercy; we should be filled with courage to war against our flesh. Yet we consider ourselves worthy of your mercy, and barely lift a hand to fight against our lusts. Our conduct often gives no indication that we belong to you. Forgive us for abusing your grace by not resisting temptation. Forgive us for abasing your glory by not being a light to the world. Amen.

**SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN**

**DECLARATION OF GRACE:** *John 1:9, 12*

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world ... to all who have received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

**\*COMMON CONFSSION OF FAITH:** *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth;  
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds:  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Fa-  
ther,  
by whom all things were made:  
Who for us and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
And he shall come again with glory  
to judge both the living and the dead  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
together is worshipped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.  
And we look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Nicene Creed**

In the fourth century, Christian leaders gathered to express the truths of our Christian faith against heresy. This creed is the result. When we recite this creed together, we are affirming and remembering the faith that is universally held by all Christians throughout history (the word 'catholic' simply means 'universal'). In our worship, we are connected with others in the past, the present, and the future.

**\*THE GOODNESS OF JESUS**

Come you weary heart now to Jesus  
Come you anxious soul now and see  
There is perfect love and comfort in your tears  
Rest here in His wondrous peace

*(Chorus)*

*Oh the goodness, the goodness of Jesus  
Satisfied, He is all that I need  
May it be, come what may, that I rest all my days  
In the goodness of Jesus*

Come find what this world cannot offer  
Come and find your joy here complete  
Taste the living water, never thirst again  
Rest here in His wondrous peace

*(Chorus)*

Come and find your hope now in Jesus  
He is all He said He would be  
Grace is overflowing from the Savior's heart  
Rest here in His wondrous peace

*(Chorus x 2)*

May it be, come what may, that I rest all my days  
In the goodness of Jesus

**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)*

## WE THREE KINGS

We three Kings of Orient are bearing gifts; we travel afar:  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*(Chorus)*

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding. Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again.  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh.  
Prayer and praising all men raising, worshiping God on High.

*(Chorus)*

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and sacrifice,  
Alleluia, alleluia; Sounds through the earth and skies.

*(Chorus)*

*Sermon Series: Epiphany*  
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph. D  
*The Hope of the Nations: Matthew 2:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”” <sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**Sermon Outline**

*Because Jesus has appeared for the hope of the world and we are called to witness to the nations.*

I. The Messiah Arises



## II. The People Respond

### Questions for Further Reflection:

1. The Magi are typically advisors to a king. Likely they are from Babylon. They would have been astrologers and diviners. What are we to make of God bringing pagan advisors to the birth of his son?
2. In what way can people miss the point about the star in the East?
3. The beginning of Matthew's gospel is "come and see" and the end is "go and tell." How does this also show a shift in the role of God's people from OT to NT? How is this also the pattern of discipleship?
4. Compare and contrast the different responses to the message of the Magi (Herod, the people, the priests, the Magi).
5. The bookends of Matthew are about the Messiah and the Gentiles. How does this fit into Matthew's very "Jewish" gospel?

### Children's Question

*God is using us to make worshipers of the nations. We tell others about what we are passionate about. How does Jesus stir your heart to passion in worship? How are you to share this passion for Jesus with others?*

**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.

**\*HERE I AM TO WORSHIP**

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness  
opened my eyes, let me see.

Beauty that made this heart adore you.

Hope of a life spent with you.

*(Chorus)*

*Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,  
here I am to say that you're my God.*

*You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,  
glorious in heaven above.

Humbly you came to the earth you created.

All for love's sake became poor.

*(Chorus)*

*(Bridge 2x)*

I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.

*(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)*

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 Tom Jentz— 11 Elder Trent Neumann

### \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY! - Hymn #100

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;  
Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, Holy, Holy, all the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, Holy, Holy, though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

### \*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: Hanni Hanson, Carlynn Stahlberg, Kelly Brown, Jenny Mattern

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:** Gideons International

**MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:** Jamie and Alissa Shattenberg, serving in Madagascar

**WINTER WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES:** Begin Wednesday, Jan. 18, with studies on *Even Better Than Eden* by Nancy Guthrie at 9:30 a.m. (childcare helpers still needed!) and 4:30 p.m. at the church and at 12:45 p.m. at Gloria Johnson's (see sign-ups for details). Sign up and pick up books in the foyer. Payment for the books (\$10 each) will be collected at each study. More study materials will be provided on the first day of class. Contact Kristin Bay (406-249-2411) with questions.

**VESPERS SERVICE:** Join us for Vespers TONIGHT at 6:30 p.m. Come unplug and recharge with this evening service of prayer and song.

**COMMUNITY KITCHEN—FEEDING THE FLATHEAD:** Those of you who are volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve on Thursday, Jan. 12, at Central Christian Church. Contact Dawn Tinkham for details (406-471-0656).

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** Will be Wednesday, Jan. 25. A 6:00 p.m. soup supper will precede the 7:00 p.m. meeting. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer if you're able to bring soup, bread, or dessert to share. All members are encouraged to attend but you do not need to be a member to attend.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Youth group winter camp will be held at Dickey Lake Bible Camp Feb. 17-19. Details and sign-up information coming soon.

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**SERVING:** January Deacon - Mike Stahlberg

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

Ushers: Carrolls/Lancasters

Children's Church: Ann Ingram/Julie Thompson

Nursery: T. Andersons

Fellowship Hosts: Kate Anderson & Yvonne Hernandez

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Susie Sullivan/Arline Tinkham

**Next Sunday January 15**

Ushers: Stahlbergs/Heyboers

Children's Church: T&T Jentz/Sharon Salyer

Nursery: Fishers

Fellowship Hosts: Sue Richardson & Kristin Bay

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Eileen Pierson/Jessica Brown

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**WEEKLY/MONTHLY**

**Sunday Worship Services**

8:15 & 11 am

**Sunday School**

10am

**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