

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Calvary Lutheran Church, Evergreen,
Pastor Kurt Rau

MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Please pray for Jim and Jill
Hadlock as they labor for the Lord working with The Jesus Film Project in Africa.

DIACONAL OFFERING: This morning we share in worshipping through our diaconal offering
for those needing assistance in our church and community. Please use the Special Offering
envelopes located in the pew racks.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS on Wednesday, January 20, 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. The annual report and budget will be
available Sunday, Jan. 10, for the congregation to review before the meeting.

SOUP SIGNUPS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING are available on the table in the foyer. Twelve
pots of soup, any kind, are needed, enough to serve 12 (or more) each. Please bring your pot of
soup to the church ready to serve by 5:45 p.m. on January 20. *Thank you!*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Many hands make light work ... and a few more hands would
help contribute here at Faith Covenant. Please consider helping with the coffee hour, nursery,
fellowship activities, or communion preparation, and sign up in the foyer. If you are already on
a volunteer schedule, you don't need to sign up again.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN-FEEDING THE FLATHEAD: Those of you who are volunteering
with Feed the Flathead will serve next Thursday, Jan. 14 at Central Christian Church. If you
have questions, contact Joyce Schmautz (249-6370).

NEIGHBORS IN NEED WINTER WARM UP: Neighbors in Need is collecting decent sleeping
bags in good condition to give away. If you have a sleeping bag to give away, you can bring it
to the church by Jan. 24.

FAITH COVENANT

CHURCH

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

January 3, 2016

SERVING: January Deacon - Buford Bennett

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/Bruce & Benni Tulloch
Children's Church: Dar Wassink & Grace Anderson
Infant Nursery: Hearn/Putzler
Toddler Nursery: J. Thompson/Brown & Hernandez
Fellowship Hosts: Audrey Goodell & Sharon Thompson
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Eileen Pierson/Diane Nugent

Next Sunday - January 10th

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/Bruce & Benni Tulloch
Children's Church: Dar Wassink & Grace Anderson
Infant Nursery: Motley/Tinkham
Toddler Nursery: H. Hanson/C. Miller
Fellowship Hosts: Laura Pierson & Cathy Hanson
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carol Martin/Theresa Paolini

Worship Services

Sundays 8:15 & 11

Music Practice

Tuesdays 5:30 pm

Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group

Wednesdays 7 pm

Trustees

1st Tuesdays 5:30 pm

Elder/Deacon Meeting

3rd Tuesdays 7 pm

Elizabeth Women

2nd & 4th Tuesdays noon

Men's Fraternity

Tue. & Wed. 6 am

"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."*

Matthew 2:2

Epiphany

Epiphany is a Greek word which means 'to show,' 'to appear,' or 'to manifest.'
*The Season of Christmas begins with the First Sunday of Advent,
marked by expectation and anticipation, and concludes with Epiphany,
which looks ahead to the mission of the church to the world in light of the Incarnation.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP: *Isaiah 60; Psalm 72*

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

All: **Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.**

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest.

All: **Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory.**

Leader: And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

All: **Amen and amen.**

*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 folks 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)

*GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN - *Hymn #224*

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,

Behold throughout the heavens there shone a Holy Light.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth,

Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born

And brought us God's salvation that bless-ed Christmas morn!

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

*BENEDICTION

Leaders & Staff

Senior Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

Associate Pastor Shane Waldron & Pastor of Music Aaron Scott

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

Elders: Grady Bennett, Tom Jentz, Don Olmsted, Matt Riley, Micah Tinkham, Steve Thompson,

Jan Wassink Deacons: Buford Bennett, Ike Eisentraut, Bill Gamble, Micah Hill,

Mike Stahlberg, Bruce Tulloch

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.

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

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.

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.

**God Communes
with Us**

The Lord strengthens and nourishes our faith through a sacramental meal.

Through Jesus, communion with God has been re-established. 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.

***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

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

***GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS REJOICE**

Good Christian friends 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 friends, 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!

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

***O COME DIVINE MESSIAH, COME**

O come, divine Messiah, come! The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away.
O Come, O Come

Dear Savior haste; Come to the earth, Dispel the night and show your face,
Come take on flesh; behold the birth; Full of truth and grace
O Come, O Come

You come in peace and meekness, And lowly will your cradle be;
All clothed in human weakness; Shall we your Godhead see.
O Come, O Come

O Christ, for whom all nations cry; Whom priest and prophet long foretold,
Crush the evil serpent's lie; Redeem the long-lost fold.
O Come, O Come

Destroy sin's power; Raise the dead; Put death to death, And reign as head
Return in glory at the hour; And Gather the saints with your great power
O Come, O come (x3)

**Indicates when to stand.*

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. Please fill us with boldness and righteousness in our words and in our deeds, so that the appearing of Christ Jesus our Lord would be evident in our lives, to his praise. 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 receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Sermon 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 them to the birth of his son?
2. The Scribes quote from Micah 5:2 to tell Herod where the Messiah was to be born. How does Micah 5:4 tell us who the Messiah is going to be? (see also 2 Sam 5:2)
3. In what way can people miss the point about the star in the East? Read Balaam's oracle in Num 24:17. How are these Magi an anti-type of Balaam? Read 2 Pet 2:19. What is the theological significance of the start of that passage?
4. The beginning of Matthew's gospel is "come and see" and the end is "go and tell." Who 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?
5. Consider: "Missions exist because worship does not. In light of God's redemptive plan for humanity, mission is just a temporary necessity, but worship is forever. Worship then is the fuel for missions."—John Piper
6. The book ends of Matthew are about the Messiah and the Gentiles. How does this fit into Matthew's very "Jewish" gospel?

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.

***GOD IS WITH US**

The glory of God has come to the earth,
The glory of God in our Savior's birth,
Join with the angels to sing and proclaim
Glory to His name

(Chorus)

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us now.*

Eternity's likeness has come into time,
A light in the darkness, now hope is alive,
Down from the heavens on this holy night,
Our God in a manger, our God as a child.

(Chorus)

Oh, let us bring Him more than our silver and gold
Oh, let us bring Him all our pain and joy
Oh, let us bring Him every fear untold
Oh, let us bring Him our sin to pay full

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us (3x)
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us now.*

OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

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

Reminder: please sign and pass the Attendance Register down the pew.

11 a.m. Service: Children ages 4-6 excused for Children's Church (downstairs in the Fellowship Hall)

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

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.

continued above

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY - continued

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.

SERMON SERIES

Epiphany

Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

The Light of Christ is the Dawning of Missions

Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "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." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶"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."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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." ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.