

FAITH 
COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 25, 2016



*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son
from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

John 1:14

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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***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!

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Angels We Have Heard on High - Choir*

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

***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.

**Indicates when to stand.*

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.

PUBLIC RECEPTION OF COMMUNICANT MEMBERS:

*Hannah Buckner, Hannah Embry, Noah Embry,
Lydia Cole-Tinkham, Hudson Longenecker, Noah Longenecker,
Joey Paolini, Katherine Paolini*

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM:

Juliana Dawn Tinkham

OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Micah & Rachel Hunter*

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.

Christmas Day
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.
Waiting for God: In the Fullness of Time
Luke 2:1-7, John 1:1-5 (ESV)

Luke 2:1

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ...

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Sermon Outline

I. A Real History

II. A Real Mystery

Further Reflection

1. Consider: “Our celebration of Christmas should thus be marked by humility, and perfect humility casts out envy, anger, strife, and resentment. The proud person never thinks he gets all that he deserves, and thinks that others always get more than they deserve. The proud person focuses on the injustice of inequality. In humility we recognize that we have nothing that we have not received, and all that we receive is a gift of sheer grace. We celebrate the humility of God rightly only when we celebrate in humility, which translated means, when we celebrate with gratitude.” —P. Leithart
2. Consider: “The Christian life is not about us, it is about God. Christian spirituality is not a life project for becoming a better person, it is not about developing a so-called deeper life. We are in on it, to be sure. But we are not the subject. Nor are we the action ... the great weakness of north American spirituality is that it is all about us: for filling our potential, getting in on the blessing of God, expanding our influence, finding our gifts And the more there is of us, the less there is of God.” —E. Peterson

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.

***ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY - Hymn #218**

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth

(Chorus)

Come and worship, come and worship

Worship Christ the newborn King

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light

(Chorus)

Sages leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar
Seek the great Desire of nations, ye have seen His natal star

(Chorus)

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord descending, in His temple shall appear

(Chorus 2x)

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

**God Communes
with Us**

The Lord strengthens and nourishes our faith through a sacramental meal. Through Jesus, communion 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.

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.

***JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME - 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 Taylor Clark

Staff: Kristin Bay, Hanni Hanson, Carlynn Stahlberg, Kelly Brown, Sara Motley (Nursery)

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

Deacons: Terry Falk, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Faith Lutheran Church, Kalispell, Pastor Steve Snipstead

MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Pray for Tim Bentson with MTW in Japan working at Genesis International College and a church plant in Osaka.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE CHANGES: There will be no Sunday School or Children's Church Dec. 25 or Jan. 1. They will both resume Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017.

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE: Junior and Senior High Youth Groups will not meet Dec. 28. They will resume Wednesday, Jan. 4. However, the senior high youth (9th-12 grade) are invited to New Year's Eve party Dec. 31 at 7:30 p.m. at the Neumann home (111 E. Bluegrass Dr.) - bring your sledding clothes!

WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL: New Adult Sunday School classes will begin Sunday, Jan. 8. Pastor Lloyd will teach *The Mission of God: The Global Spread of Christianity*; and Pastor Taylor will teach *A Journey Through Romans: Guilt, Grace & Godly Living*.

MINISTRY/COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Please remember to have your Annual Report information turned into the church office ASAP.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 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.

MOODY 50TH ANNIVERSARY: The Moody families invite everyone to celebrate Jim and Laura Moody's 50th wedding anniversary Friday, Dec. 30, at 6-8 p.m. at Faith Covenant in the fellowship hall.

ONLINE GIVING: You may now give your offerings through the church website at www.faithcov.com. Click on the "launch secure giving" button and follow the simple directions to set up an account. Contact the office (752-2400) if you have questions.

SERVING: December Deacon: Micah Hill

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Tim & Kate Anderson
Children's Church: No Children's Church
Nursery 10 a.m.: Motleys & Tinkham
Fellowship Hosts: No Coffee Hour
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Eileen Pierson/Hanni Hanson

Next Sunday - Jan. 1

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/ Bruce & Benni Tulloch
Children's Church: No Children's Church
Nursery 8:15 a.m.: Ecks
Nursery 11 a.m.: Buckners
Fellowship Hosts: Kelly Brown & Tamie Jentz
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carol Martin/Theresa Paolini

Worship Services

Sundays 8:15 & 11 am

Sunday School

Sundays 10 pm

Music Practice

Tuesdays 5:30 pm

Trustees

1st Tuesdays 5:30 pm

Elder/Deacon Meeting

3rd Tuesdays 7 pm

Elizabeth Women

2nd & 4th Tuesdays noon

Sr. & Jr. Youth Groups

Wednesdays 7 pm

College/Career Small Group

Wednesdays 7 pm