

FAITH 
COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 23, 2018



*“And suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace
among those with whom he is pleased!”*

Luke 2:13

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: The Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight. Behold, he is coming; the righteous Savior, who shall speak peace to the nations.

CHOIR: *Congregation will join for Hark! The Herald Angels Sing when directed.*

***HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING - Hymn #203 v. 1-2**

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King."

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

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

*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 happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father
now in flesh appearing:

(Chorus)

**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: *Galatians 3:10-11*

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."

All: While we ask, Lord, for the most meaningful Advent season ever, we sadly confess having done so little with so much. Forgive us Lord, for not bending the knee, for not reading your Word, for not searching our hearts, for not facing our sins. Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God! Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year, we may have a fresh sense of your presence and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ's glory. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Luke 1:49,50*

For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

– *The Heidelberg Catechism (1563), Question 32*

Minister: Why are you called a Christian?

All: Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for all eternity.

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.

*COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY



1. Come, be - hold the won - drous mys - tery, in the dawn - ing of the King.
2. Come, be - hold the won - drous mys - tery, He the per - fect Son of Man.
3. Come, be - hold the won - drous mys - tery, Christ the Lord up - on the tree.
4. Come, be - hold the won - drous mys - tery, slain by death the God of life.



He, the theme of heav - en's prais - es, robed in frail hu - man - i - ty.
In His liv - ing, in His suf - fer - ing, nev - er trace nor stain of sin.
In the stead of ru - ined sin - ners hangs the Lamb in vic - tor - y.
But no grave could e'er re - strain Him; praise the Lord; He is a - live!



In our long - ing, in our dark - ness, now the light of life has come!
See the true and bet - ter Ad - am, come to save the hell - bound man.
See the price of our re - demp - tion, see the Fa - ther's plan un - fold.
What a fore - taste of de - liv - 'rance, how un - wav - er - ing our hope.



Look to Christ Who con - de - scend - ed, took on flesh to ran - som us.
Christ the great and sure ful - fill - ment of the law; in Him we stand.
Bring - ing man - y sons to glo - ry, grace un - meas - ured, love un - told.
Christ in pow - er res - ur - rect - ed as we will be when He comes.

OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

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 Corner Classroom)

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.)

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE - Hymn #193

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of Lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful, His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven; spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth, from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to His presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!

Advent: The Coming of the Son of Righteousness
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.
Angels Everywhere - Luke 1 & 2 (ESV)

¹ Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, ² just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, ³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”

2:8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

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Sermon Outline

I. Divine Messengers

II., Divine Message

Sermon Questions

1. The gospels do not read like the myths of their day. Supernatural events are expressed in rather straightforward ways without the embellishment that we see in other texts of the same period. Why is this important to keep in mind when we consider the angelic visitations at the birth of Jesus?
2. Considering the small amount of angelic activity in the OT and the rest of the NT, what is significant about the robust activity we find at the coming of Jesus?
3. Our deep longings tells us that we are a people who have innate desires that have not been fulfilled in this life. How does the Bible address the “here but not yet” side of our faith?
4. How does who the messengers are speak to the greatness of the message? What is the gospel message?
5. Our celebration of Jesus coming is not meant to be a little oasis in the midst of frantic activity and business, rather we come to worship as the new-creation that is then sent into the world as human messengers of a divine message.

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.

***COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS - Hymn #196**

Come Thou long-expected Jesus born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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

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.

**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.

***GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN - Hymn #211**

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind.
And went to Bethlehem straight-way, the Son of God to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

***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.

Staff: Kristin Bay, Hanni Hanson, Carlynn Stahlberg, Kelly Brown, Sara Motley (Nursery)
Elders: Tim Anderson, Grady Bennett (*sabbatical*), 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 *Music Director:* Bekah Marsh

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

MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Pray for Kevin and Sarah Johnson ministering, writing and teaching in Guatemala with United World Mission.

CHRISTMAS EVE Candlelight Services will be held this year at 6 and 8 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING: Each year the offering taken at our Christmas Eve service is given to families or individuals of Faith Covenant who have particular needs. Our Deacons determine need and distribute the entire offering to those in need of extra assistance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAK: There will be no Sunday School December 23 and 30 for the holidays.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Please remember to have your Annual Meeting reports turned into the church office by December 31. Our annual church meeting and soup supper will be Wednesday, Jan. 23.

NEW 33 MEN'S GROUP: A new 33 Series, Volume 4, for men starts Wednesdays, Jan. 2, at 6 a.m. Then 33 Series Volume 2 will begin Thursdays, Jan. 3, at 6 a.m. Sign up for either class in the foyer or contact Rik Goodell (890-1973) with questions.

SERVING: December Deacon - Kyle Hanson

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/Scott & Sue Richardson
Children's Church: Becky Neumann & Grace/Emma Anderson
Early Nursery: Paolinis Late Nursery: Andersons
Fellowship Hosts: Fellowship Committee
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fosberys/Yvonne Hernandez

Christmas Eve December 24

Ushers: Tom & Tami Jentz/Nick & Hanni Hanson
Early Nursery: Neumanns Late Nursery: Motleys
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carol Martin/Lorrie Gomez

Next Sunday December 30th

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/Scott & Sue Richardson
Children's Church: Sharon Salyer
Early Nursery: S. Thompsons Late Nursery: Clarks
Fellowship Hosts: Carolyn Duncan & Alyssa Hobus
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Barb Makowski/Jeanie Brenneman

Worship Services

Sundays 8:15 & 11 am

Sunday School

Sept.-May 10 am

Music Practice

Tuesdays 5:30 pm

Elder/Deacon Meeting

3rd Tuesdays 7 pm

Youth Groups

Sept.-May Wednesdays 7 pm

Vespers

2nd Sundays 6:30 pm

Elizabeth Women Group

2nd & 4th Tuesdays