

FAITH 
COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 22, 2019



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

*“For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed,
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace
shall not be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.”*
Isaiah 54:10

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Our worship is
a response to
God's initiative.*

*The pattern of
our worship
reflects the
gospel.*

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:** *Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2:14*

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.**

***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)

CHOIR - He Who is Mighty

**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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*PRAYER OF PRAISE

*THIS IS JESUS

Night of wonder still and silent
Heaven's brilliance from above
Light of glory, pierced the darkness
Mercy pierced my heart with love

(Chorus)

*This is Jesus, King of glory
Here to rescue from the fall
Son of God who comes to save us
Prince of peace and Lord of all*

Oh the mystery, who could fathom
God would leave His Holy throne
For a manger, for a sinner
For us all to be His own

(Chorus)

*Rejoice He is with us
Rejoice Hope is here (4x)
(Chorus)*

For the hearts so prone to wander
For these feet so quick to flee
God is here and love is reaching
For the lost and least of these

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: We confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return, for Jesus' sake we pray, 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.

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 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.

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.

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM OF:

*Finley Putzler
Madeline, Luke & Nolan Davis
Elinor, Elisabeth, & Evelyn Anderson*

PUBLIC RECEPTION OF COMMUNICANT MEMBERS:

Benjamin & Emi Marsh

PUBLIC RECEPTION OF MEMBERS:

Jason & Christina Davis

OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

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

Children ages 4-6 excused for Children's Church both services (downstairs in the Corner Classroom)

LO HOW A ROSE E'RE BLOOMING - Hymn #221 vs. 1-2, 4-5

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us,
and lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know,
bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven
and to the endless day.

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.)

Advent: Rend the Heavens
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.
Will We Have Peace? — Isaiah 54, 53, 66 (ESV)

Isaiah 54:8-10

In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you," says the LORD, your Redeemer. ... For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

Isaiah 53:3-5

He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 66:8-14

Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be brought forth in one moment? For as soon as Zion was in labor she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the point of birth and not cause to bring forth?" says the LORD; "shall I, who cause to bring forth, shut the womb?" says your God. "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her ... For thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees.

Sermon Outline

I. The Covenant of Peace

Sermon Outline, *continued*

II. The Peacemaker

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.

Sermon Questions

1. In Isaiah 66:7-14, Isaiah is not necessarily focusing on one historical moment. Calvin speaks of the view being everything from Israel's return from exile, to Pentecost, to the final establishment of the kingdom of Christ. How does this help us see the Bible's repeated theme of "here but not yet?"
2. In Isaiah 54:10, "*my covenant of peace*" expresses the Lord's unfailing commitment to be at peace with his people and to secure them that peace. How does the Messiah bring this about? What does the phrase: "*with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,*" tell us of God's intent for his people?
3. Isaiah 53 seems in stark contrast to Isaiah 9:6-7. How would these contrasting images be a source of misunderstanding for the Jews in Jesus' day regarding the Messiah?
4. How does the Messiah (Is 53) taking our chastisement restore peace? What are some implications for modern tendencies to dismiss the wrath of God and substitutionary atonement?
5. Would you say your life is marked by peace? How does this passage instruct us in biblical peace? How then are we to live at peace with others?

Children's Question

How does Jesus bring peace to your heart when you are upset?

**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.

***IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR - Hymn #200 vs. 1, 3, 4**

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men from heavens all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

And ye beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow;
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
Oh rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hast'ning on, by prophets bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

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)*

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.

***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. — Associate Pastor John Sackett

Youth/Refuge Director: Rev. Ben Melli Music Director: Bekah Marsh

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

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:** Church of the Cross, Whitefish PCA, Pastors Aaron Scott and Jake Neufeld
- MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:** The S family serving in Turkey.
- MISSION MEAL:** Join us for a mission meal TODAY after second service with Kevin and Sarah Johnson (Sandy and Gloria's son) who serve in Guatemala doing theological education and producing Old Testament videos for children.
- MEN'S FRATERNITY 33 SERIES** Volume 6: A Man & His Fatherhood will start Wednesdays, Jan. 8. Sign up in the foyer for these weekly studies that help men think strategically about fatherhood. Contact Rik Goodell (890-1973) with questions.
- YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY:** College/Young Adult annual Christmas Lefse Party at the Andersons! TONIGHT at 6:30 p.m. Bring finger-food to share and a favorite game to play. Contact Tim for info (270-4951) 225 Terrace Rd, Kalispell.
- CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES** this year will be at 5 and 7 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 offering to those in need of assistance.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAK:** There will be no Sunday School December 22 and 29.
- NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** start Jan. 5. Pastor John will teach *The Life & Ministry of Paul*, and Rev. Ben will teach *The Life & Writings of C.S. Lewis*. Sign up in the foyer.
- YOUTH GROUP TIME CHANGE** starting Jan. 8, junior high youth (6th-8th grades) will meet 6:00-7:30 p.m. and senior high (9-12th grades) will meet 7:30-9 p.m.
- PRAYER CARDS** are available in the pew racks for your prayer requests. According to how you mark your request, prayers can be for the Elders and Deacons only, or put on the prayer chain. Place your request in the offering bag or give to an Elder or Pastor.

SERVING: December Deacon - Mike Stahlberg

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/Mason Family
Children's Church: Jenny Heyboer/Julie Thompson
Early Nursery: J. Thompson Late Nursery: Andersons
Fellowship Hosts: Fellowship Committee
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carolyn Duncan/Benni Tulloch

Christmas Eve Ushers: Tom & Tamie Jentz/Nick & Hanni Hanson
Early Nursery: Rileys, Richardsons Late Nursery: Rowses, Mileurs

Next Sunday December 29th

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/Jim & Ellen Rowe
Children's Church: Jenny Heyboer/Sharon Salyer
Early Nursery: E. Hanson Late Nursery: Lancaster
Fellowship Hosts: Audrey Goodell & Gloria Hanson
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fosberys/Gloria Johnson

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Worship Services

Sundays 8:15 & 11 am

Sunday School

Sept.-May 10 am

Music Practice

Tuesdays 6 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