

FAITH 
COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

November 29, 2020



*“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.”
Matthew 1:21*

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: Psalm 136:26, 23-25**

Leader: Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

All: It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever;

Leader: And rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever;

All: He who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever.

***COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY**

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, he the perfect Son of Man
In his living, in his suffering, never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in him we stand.

continued above

COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY, *continued

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain him, praise the Lord, He is alive
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes.

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

***O COME, O COME EMMANUEL - Hymn #194 vs. 1, 3-4**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

(Chorus)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave

(Chorus)

O come, thou Dayspring from on high and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

(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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**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.

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *1 John 1:5-8*

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

All: Do not remember against us our former iniquities; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake! (*Psalm 79:8-9*)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Psalm 28:8-9*

The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed. Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

***SCRIPTURAL CONFESSION OF FAITH:** *Colossians 1:15-20*

All: Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

***CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE**

Mine are days that God has numbered, I was made to walk with Him
Yet I look for worldly treasure and forsake the King of kings
But mine is hope in my Redeemer though I fall, his love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing, I am His forevermore

Mine are tears in times of sorrow, darkness not yet understood
Through the valley I must travel where I see no earthly good
But mine is peace that flows from heaven and the strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted, Christ completes his work in me

Mine are days here as a stranger, pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter harm and hatred for his name
But mine is armor for this battle, strong enough to last the war
And he has said he will deliver safely to the golden shore

And mine are keys to Zion city, where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore

*Come rejoice now, O my soul, for his love is my reward
Fear is gone and hope is sure, Christ is mine forevermore! (3x)*

And mine are keys to Zion city, where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore (3x)

OFFERTORY: *(Offerings can be mailed to the church or given online at faithcov.com)
Children ages 4-6 excused for Children's Church during 11 a.m. services (downstairs 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.)

Sermon Series: Advent—A Surprising God
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.
Surprise, I'm Pregnant — Matthew 1:18-25 (ESV)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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 Outline

- I. An Unprovable Miracle
- II. A Wise Foolishness

Sermon Questions

1. For Joseph and Mary, the coming of a son in this way would have caused them a great deal of embarrassment. What would have been some of their struggles in this? For Mary? For Joseph? For Jesus as he grew older?
2. Why is it important for the incarnation to take place in this way, from conception through birth? Why couldn't Jesus have just arrived already fully grown?
3. The Incarnation is a miracle like the Resurrection. There is no way to explain how this took place other than God did it. How are these consistent with God's dealing with his people from the very beginning?
4. What does Jesus birth teach us about the path of humility? Read 1 Corinthians 1:25-31.

Children's Question

The birth of Jesus surprises us in many ways. What surprised you about Jesus' birth?

*COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

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 saints 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.

***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

***BENEDICTION**

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Calvary Lutheran Church, Kalispell

MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Church of the Cross, PCA, Whitefish

LADIES' CHRISTMAS LUNCH Sunday, Dec. 6, at 12:30 p.m. We will again collect gift cards for Refuge client Christmas gifts — they can be dropped off at the church office or with Susan Sackett or Becky Neumann anytime. RSVP by signing up in the foyer.

SERVING: November Deacon – Bruce Tulloch

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Children's Church: 9:30 Sunday School — 11 Judy Peters

Nursery: 9:30 Sunday School — 11 Turners

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Eileen Pierson/Gloria Johnson

Next Sunday December 6th

Children's Church: 9:30 Sunday School — 11 Don Olmsted

Nursery: 9:30 Sunday School — 11 Hobus

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Susie Sullivan/Jessica Brown

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Sunday Worship Services

8, 9:30 & 11 am, 6:30 pm

Streaming 11 am

Vespers

2nd Sunday of the month

6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Youth Group

Jr High 4:30-6 pm, Sr High 7-9