

FAITH 
COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 24, 2020



CHRISTMAS
EVE

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

INVOCATION

***JOY TO THE WORLD!**

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

Advent

The word
"Advent"
comes from
the Latin
meaning
"coming" or
"arrival."
Advent is a
time of prepara-
tion 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.

GOSPEL READING

The Annunciation

Luke 1:26-38

***O COME, O COME EMMANUEL**

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)

**Unto us a
Child is born**

“The Child as God, God as Child. It is the words “child” and “God” which give us the most striking revelation about the Christmas mystery. The child in that distant Bethlehem cave has no desire that we fear him. The world is ruled by authority and power, by fear and domination. The child God liberates us from that. All He desires from us is our love, freely given and joyful; all He desires is that we give him our heart.”

— A. Schmemmann

**Indicates when to stand.*

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**Christmas Eve
Offering**

We give back to God a portion of what he has given us to use to declare that he is Lord of all.

Each year the offering taken at our Christmas Eve services 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.

PROPHECY & FULFILLMENT READING

Isaiah 40:3

Malachi 4:5-6

Matthew 3:1-3

***LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE**

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!

PROPHECY & FULFILLMENT READING

Isaiah 9:6-7

John 1:1-5

MUSICAL OFFERING

GOSPEL READING

The Savior's Advent

*“Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened,
which the Lord has told us about. So they hurried off
and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby,
who was lying in the manger.”*

Luke 2:1-21

***WHAT CHILD IS THIS?**

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.

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Rev. Dr. Lloyd Pierson

Matthew 3:1-3

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

***O HOLY NIGHT**

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

*Fall on your knees O hear the angel voices
O night divine O night when Christ was born
O night O holy night O night divine*

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here came the wise men from Orient land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our Friend

*He knows our need to our weakness is no stranger
Behold your King before Him lowly bend
Behold your King before Him lowly bend*

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise His holy name

*Christ is the Lord O praise His name forever
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(after the service, candles will be collected in the foyer)

*SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, holy night
All is calm all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from Heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at Thy birth, Jesus Lord at Thy birth

Silent night, holy night
Wondrous star lend Thy light
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born

*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.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe the Bible is the written word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and without error in the original manuscripts. The Bible is the revelation of God's truth and is infallible and authoritative in all matters of faith and practice.

We believe in the Holy Trinity. There is one God, who exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We believe that all are sinners and totally unable to save themselves from God's displeasure, except by His mercy.

We believe that salvation is by God alone as He sovereignly chooses those He will save. We believe His choice is based on His grace, not on any human individual merit, or foreseen faith.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who through His perfect life and sacrificial death atoned for the sins of all who will trust in Him, alone, for salvation.

We believe that God is gracious and faithful to His people not simply as individuals but as families in successive generations according to His Covenant promises.

We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells God's people and gives them the strength and wisdom to trust Christ and follow Him.

We believe that Jesus will return, bodily and visibly, to judge all mankind and to receive His people to Himself.

We believe that all aspects of our lives are to be lived to the glory of God under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

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, 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