

FAITH 
COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

November 27, 2022



And Leah conceived again and bore a son, and said,
“This time I will praise the Lord.”
Therefore she called his name Judah.

Genesis 29:35

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

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; 1 Timothy 3:16**

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: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, and was taken up in glory.

Leader: Proclaim it among the nations. Sing of his greatness you people of God.

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***O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL** - *Hymn #194 vs. 1, 3-5*

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)

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery

(Chorus)

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

***KING OF KINGS**

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running, there was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfill the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory, to a cradle in the dirt

(Chorus)

*Praise the Father, Praise the Son, Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory, Majesty, Praise forever to the King of Kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus for our sake You died

(Chorus)

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good for the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs and the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name in His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ who has resurrected me

(Chorus)

Praise forever to the King of Kings

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *Mark 7:15, 20-23*

There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.

All: Our Father, we are sinful and you are holy. Where we thought we were holy, we are in truth unholy and defiled. Out of our hearts come love of this world; our minds are dark and are assailed by doubts; our wills are too often given to selfishness and our bodies to laziness and unrighteousness. By sinning against our neighbors, we have also sinned against you, in whose image they were created. We thirst for your cleansing, O God. Forgive us, renew and transform us; take away our defilement through Jesus your Son, in whose name we pray.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Revelation 21:6-7*

And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

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.

***CONFESSION OF CHRIST'S GRACE:**

– *The Heidelberg Catechism (1563), Question 1*

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: **That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

Leader: He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

All: **Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

***BLESSED ASSURANCE - Hymn #693**

Blessed assurance; Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

(Chorus)

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

(Chorus)

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

(Chorus 2x)

OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

*Reminder: please sign and pass the Attendance Register down the pew.
Children ages 4-6 excused for Children's Church (downstairs Corner Classroom)*

HOW LONG

How long? Will You turn Your face away?
How long? Do You hear us when we pray?
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way - How long?

How long 'til Your children find their rest?
How long 'til You draw them to Your breast?
We go on holding to Your promises - How long?

(Chorus)

*'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye
'Til we see our home descending from the sky
Do we wait in vain?
Jesus, give us hope again!*

How long 'til Your word will still the storm?
How long 'til You bare Your mighty arm?
How we groan 'til You snatch us from the thorns - How long?

(Chorus)

How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the race.
How long? Weak our hearts but strong our legs.
Looking on - great that cloud of witnesses! How long?

(Chorus)

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: Unto Us a Child is Born
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.
Leah, You Are Loved!: Genesis 29:31-35 (ESV)

³¹When the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. ³²And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, "Because the Lord has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me." ³³She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the Lord has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon. ³⁴Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi. ³⁵And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "This time I will praise the Lord." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing.

Sermon Outline

*The longings of our hearts can ultimately only be satisfied in Christ,
and all of our desires must give way to him.*

I. The Failure

II. The Fulfillment

Questions for Further Reflection:

1. How do you see Leah grow personally with the birth of each child which culminates with her response to God in verse 35?
2. In Genesis 49:10, we see the promise of rule given to Judah. It is a surprise when we consider the favor that Joseph had with his father Jacob. How is this a reflection of God's grace given to Leah?
3. Genesis is filled with sinful people, broken families, and connivers trying to manipulate circumstances to get the life they wanted. How do we see the Lord working through all of this?
4. How do these seemingly petty family squabbles look forward to the coming of Christ?
5. What hope is given for us when we feel unfulfilled in our desires, goals, or aspirations?
6. What hope is given when they do become fulfilled and we are still empty?

Children's Question

We often have hopes and desires that don't get fulfilled and we are disappointed. We can also be disappointed when we do get them because they don't fill us like we think they will. How does Jesus fill these places?

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.

**God Communes
with Us**

The Lord
strengthens
and nourishes
our faith
through a sac-
ramental meal.
Through Je-
sus, commun-
ion 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.

***THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION - Hymn #347, vs. 1, 2, 4-6**

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord
she is his new creation by water and the Word
from heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued

The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend
To guide, sustain and cherish, is with her to the end
Though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale
Against or foe or traitor, she ever shall prevail

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee

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

8:15 Tom Jentz— 11 Elder Tim Anderson

We observe the Lord's Supper 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. Visiting children who have not been examined by their church's leadership, we ask to refrain. By sharing in the Supper, you are acknowledging to our church that you are in covenant with our Triune God through the person and work of Jesus Christ. If you are in doubt about your participation, please refrain. 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.

***O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING - Hymn #660**

O God beyond all praising,
We worship you today
And sing the love amazing
That songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder
At every gift you send,
At blessings without number
And mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you
And wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you,
Our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior,
Accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor
May serve you as our king;
And whether our tomorrows
Be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows
And rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty
And glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty
Our sacrifice of praise.

***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 John Sackett

Assistant Pastor (Youth): Ben Melli Music Director/Assistant: Lisa Iddings/Laura Sackett

Refuge Director: Sissy Hashley Staff: Jenny Mattern, Hanni Hanson, Carlynn Stahlberg, Kelly Brown

*Elders: Tim Anderson, Jason Davis, Sean Iddings, Tom Jentz, Trent Neumann, Don Olmsted,
Matt Riley, Micah Tinkham*

*Deacons: Wade Carroll, Terry Falk, Kyle Hanson, Micah Hill, Ryan Petersen,
Mike Stahlberg, Bruce Tulloch*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Rocky Mountain Community Church in Billings, Pastor Rolf Meintjes

MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Pastors Aaron Scott and Jake Neufeld serving at Church of the Cross, PCA, Whitefish

LADIES' CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON & COOKIE EXCHANGE: Sunday, Dec. 4, after church in the fellowship hall. We will again be collecting gift cards for Refuge clients Christmas gifts. Cards from grocery stores, box stores, coffee shops, and gas stations in any amount are appreciated and can be dropped off at the church office. Sign-up in the foyer.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN-FEEDING THE FLATHEAD: Those of you who are volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve next Thursday, Dec. 8, at Central Christian Church. Contact Dawn Tinkham for details (406-471-0656).

VESPERS SERVICE: Join us Sunday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m. for Vespers, a brief evening service of silence and symbol, prayer and song. Come prepare your hearts for the Advent season as we follow this beautiful liturgy of worship.

SERVING: November Deacon - Kyle Hanson

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Hobus/Davis

Children's Church: Petersens/Sharon Salyer

Nursery: Matterns

Fellowship Hosts: Kamela Anderson & Patti Albert

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Eileen Pierson/Arline Tinkham

Next Sunday December 4th

Ushers: Petersens/von Olhausen

Children's Church: Carolyn Duncan/Tim Anderson

Nursery: K. Neumann

Fellowship Hosts: Judy Fosbery & Paula Saldamando

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fenners/Niam Moody

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Sunday Worship Services

8:15 & 11 am

Vespers

2nd Sunday @ 6:30 pm

Elder/Deacon Meeting

3rd Tuesdays 7 pm

Wednesdays

Men's Breakfast 6:30 am

Jr High Youth @ 5 pm

Sr. High Youth @ 6:30 pm

Career Group 7 pm