

*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

His Word and Our Response

Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

Sermon Series: Advent: God Surprises Us

Sermon Title: *Weakness Evangelism*

Sermon Text: Matthew 2:1-12

***WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE** – words included

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar;
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

(Chorus)

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain; gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

(Chorus)

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, all men raising, worship him, God on high.

(Chorus)

Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

(Chorus)

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia! Earth to heaven replies.

(Chorus)

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Wine is located in the two outer rings; juice is located in the center ring.

PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

– Elder Steve Johnson

***IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE** – Hymn #38

*BENEDICTION

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OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Presbyterian Church in America or “The PCA” is a distinctly evangelical denomination in the Reformed tradition. The Bible as the Word of God is the primary standard for our faith. The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, although subordinate to the Bible in their authority, set forth our understanding of biblical truth in a consistent, concise, and reliable form.

In the Reformed tradition, there are five key tenets, among others, that we hold to: By Scripture Alone; By Christ Alone; By Grace Alone; By Faith Alone; and To God Alone be the Glory.

- 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.



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Displaying God's Glory in a Community of Grace

January 1, 2012

“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:2

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

His Calling and Our Praise

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Psalm 150 (Responsive reading) – Hymnal page 841

***ARISE, MY SOUL, ARISE** – words included

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;
the bleeding sacrifice, on my behalf appears.

Before the throne my surety stands,
before the throne my surety stands,
my name is written on his hands.

(Chorus)

Arise, arise, arise. Arise, my soul, arise.

*Arise, arise, arise. Arise, my soul, arise;
shake off your guilty fears and rise.*

He ever lives above, for me to intercede;
his all redeeming love, his precious blood, to plead;
his blood atoned for every race,
his blood atoned for every race,
and sprinkles now the throne of grace.

(Chorus)

(song continued on next page)

*(*Indicates when to stand)*

We ask that you please turn off cell phones during the worship service. Thank you.

Five bleeding wounds he bears; received on Calvary;
they pour effectual prayers; they strongly plead for me:

“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,
“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,
“Don’t let that ransomed sinner die!”

(Chorus)

*Arise, arise, arise. Arise, my soul, arise.
Arise, arise, arise. Arise, my soul, arise;
shake off your guilty fears and rise.*

My God is reconciled; his pardoning voice I hear;
he owns me for his child; I can no longer fear.

With confidence I now draw nigh,
with confidence I now draw nigh,
and “Father, Abba, Father!” cry.

(Chorus)

***O WORSHIP THE KING** – words included

O worship the King all glorious above,
O gratefully sing his wonderful love;
our shield and defender the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light and canopy space!
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

(Chorus)

*You alone are the matchless King, to you alone be all majesty.
Your glories and wonders, what tongue can recite?
You breathe in the air, you shine in the light.*

O measureless might, ineffable love;
while angels delight to worship above.
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.

(Chorus)

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

***AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD** – Hymn #226

His Renewal and Our Hope

COMMON CONFSSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *James 2:10*

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

Leader: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

All: You shall have no other gods before me.

Leader: You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

All: You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

Leader: Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do.

All: Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Leader: You shall not murder.

All: You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Leader: You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor’s house or land, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

All: Father, we have failed to wholly keep your most perfect and holy law. Forgive us, we ask through Jesus.

(Deuteronomy 5:6-21)

SILENT CONFSSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Hebrews 2:17-18*

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

***JESUS PAID IT ALL** – words included

I hear the Savior say, “Thy strength indeed is small;
child of weakness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all.”

(Chorus)

*Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe;
sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow.*

Lord, now indeed I find thy pow’r and thine alone,
can change the leper’s spots and melt the heart of stone.

(Chorus)

And when before the throne I stand in him complete,
I’ll lay my trophies down, all down at Jesus’ feet.

(Chorus)

(Bridge 4x)

O praise the one who paid my debt
and raised this life up from the dead.

(Chorus)

I hear the Savior say, “Thy strength indeed is small;
child of weakness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all.”

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM OF: *Noelle Joy Morrison*

PRAYER, OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

*(Diaconal Offering today: Please use the
Special Offering envelopes located in the pew racks.)*

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

*Children ages 4-6 are excused for Children’s Church
(held downstairs in the Fellowship Hall)*

***O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM** – Hymn #201

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:
Young Life, Flathead Valley.

MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:
Matt & Becky Allhands, former members of Faith Covenant, serving with Reformed Campus Fellowship in Eugene, Oregon. (Their address: PO Box 5524, Eugene, OR 97405.)

DIACONAL OFFERING: This morning we share in worshipping through our diaconal offering for those needing assistance in our church and community. Please use the Special Offering envelopes located in the pew racks.

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES today or next Sunday, January 8. All classes will resume meeting on January 15 at 11:15 a.m.

SOUP SIGNUPS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING are now available in the Fellowship Hall. 12 pots of soup are needed, enough to serve 20 each. Any kind of soup will be welcomed! Bread, rolls, coffee, tea and a light dessert will be provided. *Thank you!*

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN: Please remember to have your Annual Meeting reports turned into the church office by *this* Tuesday, January 3, along with a list of members who will be staying on your committee and the number of openings available for 2012.

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP. They welcome anyone who would be interested in helping the committee from time to time with the different activities they plan (food events, etc.). You are welcome to attend the next meeting that will be held on January 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the church to find out more about what they do as a committee. Questions? Contact Nancy Christenson at 752-5056.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN—FEEDING THE FLATHEAD: Those of you who are volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve this month on Thursday, January 12 at St. Matthews school cafeteria. If you have questions, contact Sharon Thompson or Joyce Schmautz.

FLATHEAD FOOD BANK'S Second Helpings Thrift Store is now open. They are located next to the Food Bank. Their mission is to use the income to create sustainability for the Food Bank. Items of the month requests are coats, boots & home decor. They accept donations Tuesday-Saturdays from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

FLATHEAD FOOD BANK FOOD OF THE MONTH: Turkeys and peanut butter may be dropped at the food bank, 1203 Hwy 2 W., Ste. 2 in Kalispell or left in the containers in the church kitchen.

ANNUAL MEETING Wednesday, January 18, 2012



6:00 PM Soup Supper

7:00 PM Meeting begins



*All members are encouraged to attend but you do not need to be a member to attend.
We hope to see you there!*

*For Prayer Chain requests or to be added to the prayer chain, please contact the church office at 752-2400 or email to office@faithcov.com.
After hours contact Carlynn at home.*

DECEMBER MINISTRIES

DEACON OF THE MONTH Bruce Tulloch
NURSERY M.O.M. (Mom of the Month)..... Karen Hunnicutt
NURSERY COORDINATOR.....Darcy Hearn
Direct Nursery questions, concerns, praises, etc., to Darcy at 471-9770.

TODAY

USHERS/GREETERS..... TBD
CHILDREN'S CHURCH.....Sharon & Liz Riley
WORSHIP NURSERY (infants)Heyboers
WORSHIP NURSERY (toddlers thru 3yrs).....Martins
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS.....Cathy Hanson & Sharon Salyer
COMMUNION PREP Donelle Holderbaum
COMMUNION CLEAN-UPJeanie Brenneman

NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 8

USHERS/GREETERS..... TBD
CHILDREN'S CHURCH.....Dar Wassink & Annalise Pierson
WORSHIP NURSERY (infants) Tracey & Talitha Stahlberg
WORSHIP NURSERY (toddlers thru 3yrs)..... Wiersmas
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS....Nicole Fisher & Paula Saldamando
COMMUNION PREP Dar Wassink
COMMUNION CLEAN-UPNancy Christenson

CALENDAR

TODAY

9:30 a.m. – WORSHIP SERVICE
10:45 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship
11:15 a.m. – No Sunday School today

THIS WEEK

Tuesday – Trustees' meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday – Men's Prayer Breakfast, 6:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
– Sr. High Youth Group, 7:00 p.m. at the Bennett's, 513 Crestview Rd, Kalispell

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesdays – Music practice, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays – Men's Prayer Breakfast, 6:45 a.m.
– Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups (Sept.-May)
Sundays – Adult Small Groups (Sept.-May)
1st Sundays – Diaconal Offering
1st Tuesdays – Elder home visits
3rd Tuesdays – Elders/Deacons' meeting, 7:00 p.m.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays – Elizabeth Women's group, 12:00 p.m. at Jo Anne Ross' home, (Sept.-May)
Last Sunday of month – Prayer & Worship Service, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 8 – No Sunday School
Tuesday, January 10 – Women's Ministries meeting, 6:30 p.m.
– Fellowship Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 12 – Community Kitchen: Feeding the Flathead
Sunday, January 15 – Sunday School resumes, 11:15 a.m.
Tuesday, January 17 – Elder/Deacon meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Weds., January 18 – Soup Supper, 6:00 p.m. followed by the Annual Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, February 7 – Trustees' meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 9 – Community Kitchen: Feeding the Flathead
Tuesday, February 14 – Women's Ministries meeting, 6:30 p.m.
– Fellowship Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 21 – Elder/Deacon meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 6 – Trustees' meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 8 – Community Kitchen: Feeding the Flathead

SERMON OUTLINE

January 1, 2012

Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

Sermon Series: Advent: God Surprises Us

Sermon Title: *Weakness Evangelism*

Sermon Text: Matthew 2:1-12

I. Called by the Father...

II. ... to worship the Son

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’” ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Questions and thoughts for discussion:

1. The birth of Jesus has clear echoes of the birth of Moses. In what way does Herod behave like Pharaoh?
2. Some have described the birth of Jesus as a ‘reverse Exodus.’ What would account for this? Considering the unfolding story of redemption in the Bible, what does this signify?
3. How are the events of the wise men related to God’s promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 (see also Isaiah 61:6-9)?
4. How does the coming of the wise men relate to 1 Corinthians 1:26-31? Whose weakness does the magi’s coming highlight?
5. What other OT examples also show this pattern of Gentiles coming to Israel in her weakness? (Cf Genesis 47; Ruth; 1 King 17; 2 King 5; Daniel 3-4; Esther)
6. What about God’s success plan through weakness is an encouragement for the Church? While not using this as an excuse for poor living, how does God’s use of weakness encourage our evangelism?