

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:** Stillwater Christian School and for our local Christian school teachers

**MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:** Please pray for Jim and Jill Hadlock as they labor for the Lord in The Jesus Film Project, managing the production of translations for the people in the Southern and Eastern African nations of South Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe (including the Nambya people), and Uganda.

**SOUND HELP NEEDED!** We may be down to having only two sound workers this winter so we are in desperate need of more volunteers. Please contact Pastor Aaron ASAP if interested.

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE CHANGES:** TODAY there will be no Sunday School or Children's Church (during the second service). They will both resume Sunday, Jan. 3, 2016. Youth groups will not meet Wednesdays, Dec. 30.

**MINISTRY/COMMITTEE CHAIRS:** Please remember to have your Annual Report information turned into the church office by Thursday, Dec. 31.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** on Wednesday, January 20, 2016, for our ANNUAL MEETING. A 6:00 p.m. soup supper will precede the 7:00 p.m. meeting. All members are encouraged to attend but you do not need to be a member to attend.

**COMMUNITY KITCHEN-FEEDING THE FLATHEAD:** Those of you who are volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve next Thursday, Jan. 14 at Central Christian Church. If you have questions, contact Joyce Schmutz (249-6370).



*Spreading A Love for God and His Glory*

*December 27, 2015*

<b>SERVING:</b> December Deacon - Ike Eisentraut		<b>WEEKLY/MONTHLY</b>
<b><u>Today (1st service/2nd service)</u></b>		<b>Worship Services</b>
Ushers: Russ Hadley & Carolyn Duncan/Tim & Kate Anderson		Sundays 8:15 & 11
Children's Church: NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH		<b>Music Practice</b>
Infant Nursery: Bennetts/Lancasters		Tuesdays 5:30 pm
Toddler Nursery: Nuemanns/Buckners		<b>Jr. &amp; Sr. High Youth Group</b>
Fellowship Hosts: Eileen Pierson & Sue Richardson		Wednesdays 7 pm
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fosberys/Yvonne Hernandez		<b>Trustees</b>
<b><u>Next Sunday - January 3rd</u></b>		1st Tuesdays 5:30 pm
Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/Bruce & Benni Tulloch		<b>Elder/Deacon Meeting</b>
Children's Church: Dar Wassink & Grace Anderson		3rd Tuesdays 7 pm
Infant Nursery: Hearn/Putzler		<b>Elizabeth Women</b>
Toddler Nursery: J. Thompson/Brown & Hernandez		2nd & 4th Tuesdays noon
Fellowship Hosts: Audrey Goodell & Sharon Thompson		<b>Men's Fraternity</b>
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Eileen Pierson/Diane Nugent		Tue. & Wed. 6 am

*"For as the lightning comes from the east  
and shines as far as the west,  
so will be the coming of the Son of Man."  
Matthew 24:27*

**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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Psalm 89:1, 2, 5*

Leader: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever.

All: **With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.**

Leader: For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

All: **Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!**

**\*HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING** - *Hymn #203*

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the favored one.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King."

Hail! the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King."

*\*Indicates when to stand.*  
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**\*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 Dayspring, come and cheer, our spirits by Thine advent here  
And drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light  
*(Chorus)*

O come, Desire of nations, bind, all people in one heart and mind  
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease, fill all the world with heaven's peace  
*(Chorus)*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear  
*(Chorus)*

**\*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.

Leaders & Staff  
Senior Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.  
Associate Pastor Shane Waldron & Pastor of Music Aaron Scott  
Staff: Kristin Bay, Hanni Hanson, Carlynn Stahlberg, Kelly Brown  
Elders: Grady Bennett, Tom Jentz, Don Olmsted, Matt Riley, Micah Tinkham, Steve Thompson,  
Jan Wassink Deacons: Buford Bennett, Ike Eisentraut, Bill Gamble, Micah Hill,  
Mike Stahlberg, Bruce Tulloch

To be added to church enews, and prayer lists, please contact us at [office@faithcov.com](mailto:office@faithcov.com).  
For more about Faith Covenant and the Presbyterian Church in America, go to [faithcov.com](http://faithcov.com).

**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.

**\*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, divine, O night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
Over the world a star is sweetly gleaming,  
Now come the wisemen from out of the Orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus lowly manger;  
In all our trials born to be our friends.  
He knows our need, our weakness is no stranger,  
O night divine, O night, when Christ was born;  
O night, divine, O night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another,  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.  
And in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, we praise thee,  
O night divine, O night, when Christ was born;  
O night, divine, O night, O night divine!

**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**

**\*JOYFUL, JOYFUL. WE ADORE THEE**

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began;  
father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us upward in the triumph song of life.

**\*PRAYER OF PRAISE**

**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.

**\*WHAT CHILD IS THIS - Hymn #213**  
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.

- Sermon Questions for Further Reflection**
1. Why is Jesus’ s second coming a central part of the Christian faith? How does his return give meaning to history?
  2. People are often fearful when they discuss the end times (eschatology). If some end times teaching causes us to fear and go into a bunker, can we evaluate that teaching as deficient? Why should we be hopeful? How does the teaching of Jesus drive us out of a bunker mentality?
  3. Consider: “If you want to start a debate, simply ask a group of Christians to explain what the Bible has to say about church government. If you want to start a shouting match, ask them what the Bible has to say about the second coming of Jesus...While most professing Christians agree on the fact of the second coming, virtually everything about it is debated.” —Keith Mathison
  4. Consider: “Every worship service is a sign that Jesus now reigns in sovereign grace and will return in glorious splendor.” —Dennis Johnson. Why is this important?
  5. Consider: “The events of sacred history are not self-explanatory but require the Word of God to interpret the revelatory character of the acts of God. The Bible is both the record of these events and the inspired interpretation of the divinely intended meaning of these events.” —G.E. Ladd
  6. Some NT scriptures speaking of the Second Coming: Luke 21:25-28; John 5:28; Acts 1:11; 1Cor 1:4-8, 15:23-24; Col 3:4; 1Thes 2:19, 4:15-16, 5:1-3,23; 2Thes 1:1,7,8; 1Tim 6:13-14; Titus 2:13; 1 Pet 1:5, 1:13; 4:13, 5:1; 2 Pet 3:4,12; James 5:7-8; 1 John 2:28, 3:2; 2 John 1:7; Rev 22:7,12,20.

**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 SERIES  
*Advent - Help Is On The Way*  
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.  
*The Coming King*

**1 Corinthians 15:19-24 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

**Matthew 24:27, 30-31 (ESV)**

<sup>27</sup> For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man... <sup>30</sup> Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

**Sermon Outline**

I. Living in between times

A. Here

B. Not Yet

II. Living with meaning in time

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *Isaiah 58:13-14*

If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Minister: Let us confess our sins together.

**All: Father, we confess that we often do not delight in you; we seek our own pleasures, our own priorities.**

Minister: We confess that we are satiated and bored:

**All: Creation has bored us. Work has bored us. Family and friends have bored us. Your truth has bored us.**

Minister: We have so much, but are jaded and cynical. We think that your world is here to serve us, and so we are ungrateful when things go well for us, and we are not patient when they do not.

**All: We believe our every desire should be satisfied, so we are not delighted when they are, and we are not humbled when they do not. We celebrate, but do not worship; we laugh but do not know joy. Have mercy on us, and forgive us.**

Minister: Renew us, by your Spirit, that we would be amazed with your grace—incarnate, blood-stained, resurrected, Messianic grace—that Jesus would be glorified.

**All: Amen**

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Lamentations 3:22-23*

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

**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.)

**\*THE FIRST NOEL**

The first Noel the angel did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*(Chorus)*  
*No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el*  
*Born is the King of Is-rael*

They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east beyond them far:  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
*(Chorus)*

And by the light of that same star,  
three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a King was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.  
*(Chorus)*

Then let us all with one accord,  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
and with his blood mankind has bought.

**OFFERTORY & RESPONSE**

*Reminder: please sign and pass the Attendance Register down the pew.*  
*11 a.m. Service: There is NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH today.*

**BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR**

All my days I will sing this song of gladness,  
give my praise to the fountain of delights;  
for in my helplessness you heard my cry,  
and waves of mercy poured down on my life.

I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer;  
I will sing of the blood that never fails,  
of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed,  
of death defeated and life without end.

*(Chorus)*  
*Beautiful Savior, Wonderful Counselor,*  
*clothed in majesty, Lord of history,*  
*you're the Way, the Truth, the Life.*  
*Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness,*  
*you're the Risen One, heaven's champion,*  
*and you reign, you reign over all!*

I long to be where the praise is never ending;  
yearn to dwell where the glory never fades,  
where countless worshipers will share one song,  
and cries of "worthy" will honor the Lamb!  
*(Chorus 2x)*