

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Neighbors in Need

MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Please ask God for abundant grace and wisdom as Kevin Johnson teaches and equips students for ministry at the Biblical Seminary of Colombia, Medellin, Colombia.

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.

Our **CHRISTMAS EVE** Candlelight Services will be held this year at 5:30 and 8:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING: Each year the offering taken at our Christmas Eve service 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.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE CHANGES: On Sunday, Dec. 27, 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. 23 and 30.

Our **CHRISTMAS EVE** Candlelight Services will be held this year at 5:30 and 8:00 p.m.

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

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 Schmautz (249-6370).

SCS FOREIGN STUDENT HOST: A host family is needed in January for a foreign student coming to Stillwater Christian School. All tuition and fees are paid by the student and a monthly stipend is offered to the host family. If interested, contact Renee Wynne, Admissions and International Study Director at SCS at 471-1177.

FAITH COVENANT

CHURCH

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 20, 2015



4TH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

SERVING: December Deacon - Ike Eisentraut

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Russ Hadley & Carolyn Duncan/Tim & Kate Anderson

Children's Church: Sharon Salyer

Infant Nursery: J. Thompson/C. Hanson

Toddler Nursery: H. Hanson/Carlsons

Fellowship Hosts: Kate Anderson & Judy Fosberry

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carolyn Duncan/Jeanie Brenneman

Next Sunday - December 27

Ushers: Russ Hadley & Carolyn Duncan/Tim & Kate Anderson

Children's Church: NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH DEC. 27

Infant Nursery: Bennetts/Lancasters

Toddler Nursery: Nuemanns/Buckners

Fellowship Hosts: Eileen Pierson & Sue Richardson

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fosberys/Yvonne Hernandez

Worship Services

Sundays 8:15 & 11

Music Practice

Tuesdays 5:30 pm

Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group

Wednesdays 7 pm

Trustees

1st Tuesdays 5:30 pm

Elder/Deacon Meeting

3rd Tuesdays 7 pm

Elizabeth Women

2nd & 4th Tuesdays noon

Men's Fraternity

Tue. & Wed. 6 am

*“And his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
Isaiah 9:6*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*CALL TO WORSHIP: *Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2:14, Rev. 19:5*

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: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.**

Leader: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

All: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.**

Leader: Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.

*ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH - *Hymn #214*

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

(Chorus)
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be? Which inspire your heav'nly song?

(Chorus)

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

(Chorus)

**Indicates when to stand.*

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*JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME - *Hymn #195*

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

*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.
For more about Faith Covenant and the Presbyterian Church in America, go to faithcov.com.

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.

**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.

***COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS - Hymn #196**

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.

PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

***WE THREE KINGS**

We three Kings of Orient are bearing gifts; we travel 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.

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising all folks raising, worshiping 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.

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and sacrifice,
Alleluia, alleluia; Sounds through the earth and skies.

(Chorus)

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

***INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY - Hymn #216**

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow;
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

*Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.*

*Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow;
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.*

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: *Romans 2:1*

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

All: Righteous and Holy Sovereign, save me from myself, from the deceits of my sin, from the treachery of my perverse nature, from denying your charge against my offenses, from a life of continual rebellion against you; for I know that all my thoughts, affections, desires, and pursuits are easily alienated from you. Father of my spirit, King of my life, drive me not from your presence, but wound my heart that it may be healed, break it so that your own hand may make it whole. Amen. (Adapted from prayer in Valley of Vision)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Revelation 21:3-4*

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Sermon Questions for Further Reflection

1. What darkness and gloom have you faced, either in the present or in the past?
2. Why is it hard for us to trust in God's wisdom more than our own? What challenges do you face when trying to do this?
3. Share about an experience in your life when God's wisdom was shown to be clearly superior to yours.
4. As you face the gloom and darkness in your life, how does it help to know that your Mighty God is fighting alongside you?
5. What quick fixes or unhelpful coping mechanisms do you turn to when you face darkness? How is your Everlasting King superior to those things?
6. The Hebrew word *shalom* describes what life will be like at the end of the age, when all of creation is living under Christ's gracious rule. When we live in *shalom* there will be no more death, or mourning, or crying, or pain (Rev. 21:4). How does catching this glimpse of the finish line help you to continue running the race?

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.

All Hail The King
Isaiah 9:1-7 (ESV)
Sermon Notes

I. Wonderful Counselor

II. Mighty God

III. Everlasting Father

IV. Prince of Peace

*SCRIPTURAL CONFESSON 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 pre-eminent. 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.

*GOD WITH US

The glory of God has come to the earth,
The glory of God in our Savior's birth,
Join with the angels to sing and proclaim
Glory to His name

(Chorus)

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us now.

Eternity's likeness has come into time,
A light in the darkness, now hope is alive,
Down from the heavens on this holy night,
Our God in a manger, our God as a child.

(Chorus)

Oh, let us bring Him more than our silver and gold
Oh, let us bring Him all our pain and joy
Oh, let us bring Him every fear untold
Oh, let us bring Him our sin to pay full

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us (3x)
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us now.

OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

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

11 a.m. Service: Children ages 4-6 excused for Children's Church (downstairs in the Fellowship Hall)

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE - Hymn #193

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!

SERMON SERIES

Advent - Help Is On The Way

Pastor Shane Waldron

All Hail The King

Isaiah 9:1-7 (ESV)

¹ But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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.)