

FAITH COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

November 27, 2016



*“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.”*

Isaiah 9:6

Our worship is
a response to
God's initiative.
The pattern of
our worship
reflects the
gospel.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***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.

***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, ALL YE FAITHFUL**

O come, all ye faithful. Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
born the King of angels:

(Chorus)

*O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, all
glory in the highest:
(Chorus)

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this holy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father
now in flesh appearing:
(Chorus)

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

Advent

The word
“Advent”
comes from
the Latin
meaning
“coming” or
“arrival.”
Advent is a
time of prepa-
ration 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.

**Indicates when to stand.*

***THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD - Hymn #111**

This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears
All nature sings and around me rings, the music of the spheres
This is my Father's world, I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees of skies and seas, His hand the wonders wrought

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise
The morning light the lily white, declare their maker's praise
This is my Father's world, He shines in all that's fair
In the rustling grass I hear him pass, He speaks to me ev'rywhere

This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet
This is my Father's world, the battle is not done
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heav'n be one

**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 peo-
ple. It is a great
privilege of the
gospel that we
can stand for-
given before the
Lord of glory.

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: 1 Samuel 15:22-23

Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.

All: Have mercy on us Lord. We often choose sacrifice over obedience. We presume upon your grace, and delight in our show of faith; yet our hearts can be far from you. Forgive us of our disobedience, when we have chosen to love our sin more than to love you. Forgive us of our rebellion, when we have willingly walked away from your commands, in order to pursue the sins of our flesh. Keep us from self-worship, disguised as true religion. Purify and cleanse us by the blood of our Savior-Jesus. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Hebrews 9:13-14*

For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

– *The Heidelberg Catechism (1563), Question 32*

Minister: Why are you called a Christian?

All: Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for all eternity.

***JESUS, I COME**

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of my sickness into thy health, out of my wanting and into thy wealth,

Out of my sin and into thyself, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into the glorious gain of thy cross, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of earth's sorrows into thy balm, out of life's storms and into thy calm,

Out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of myself to dwell in thy love, out of despair into raptures above,

Upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into the joy and light of thy home, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of the depths of ruin untold, into the peace of thy sheltering fold,

Ever thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to thee.

Jesus, I come to thee.

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 Corner Classroom)

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.)

JESUS I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow thee;
destitute, despised, forsaken, thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition, all I've sought or hoped or known;
yet how rich is my condition, God and heav'n are still my own.

Take, my soul, thy full salvation, rise o'er sin and fear and care;
joy to find in every station something still to do or bear;
think what Spirit dwells within thee, what a Father's smile is thine,
what a Savior died to win thee: child of heav'n, shouldst thou repine?

Hasten on from grace to glory, armed by faith and winged by prayer;
heav'n's eternal day's before me, God's own hand shall guide me there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, swift shall pass thy pilgrim days;
hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight and prayer to praise.

Sermon Series: Advent

Pastor Aaron Scott

Waiting for Jesus with Leah, Jacob & Rachel - Genesis 29:15-35 (ESV)

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?”¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.”¹⁹ Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. ²⁴ (Laban gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.) ²⁵ And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” ²⁶ Laban said, “It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” ²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. ²⁹ (Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.) ³⁰ So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.

³¹ When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. ³² And 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.” ³³ She 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. ³⁴ Again 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. ³⁵ And 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 Questions for Further Reflection

1. What is the physical difference between Leah and Rachel?
2. What does it mean to be truly seen?
3. How does Leah use her children to replace God?
4. How do you respond to disappointment?
5. If “idols are are good things that we make into ultimate things”, what good thing are you making into an ultimate thing?
6. In what areas in your life is God calling you to have faith that he'll work it out long after you're gone?

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 sacramental meal. Through Jesus, communion 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.

***BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE**

Before the throne of God above I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands, My name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heav'n he stands no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! The risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness;
the great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace!
*One with himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God,
with Christ, my Savior and my God.*

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

At Faith Covenant, the Lord's Supper is observed 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. By eating the bread and drinking the cup with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to our church that you are in covenant with God. You also acknowledge that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation. If you have any doubts about your participation, please speak to the pastor or one of the elders after the service. 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.

***'TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS - Hymn #679**

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word;
just to rest upon His promise, just to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"

(Chorus)

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!*

O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust His cleansing blood;
and in simple faith to plunge me 'neath the healing, cleansing flood!

(Chorus)

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease;
just from Jesus simply taking life and rest, and joy and peace.

(Chorus)

*I'm so glad I learned to trust Him, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
and I know that Thou art with me, will be with me to the end.*

(Chorus)

***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 Taylor Clark

Staff: Kristin Bay, Hanni Hanson, Carlynn Stahlberg, Kelly Brown, Sara Motley (Nursery)

Elders: Grady Bennett, Tom Jentz, Don Olmsted, Matt Riley, Micah Tinkham, Steve Thompson,

Deacons: Terry Falk, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Salvation Army, Major Steven Svenson

MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Pray for Jamie and Alissa Shattenberg, World Ventures Madagascar, working on reforestation and women's health.

LADIES' CHRISTMAS LUNCH: Ladies 5 to 95 are invited to Christmas lunch Sunday Dec. 11, at 12:30 in the fellowship hall. We will enjoy lunch and assemble Christmas gift baskets for the Refuge clients so, if you're able, bring a small gift item (or several) to contribute. Please RSVP by signing up in the foyer.

CHRISTMAS EVE Candlelight Services will be held this year at 5 and 8 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY: On Sunday, Dec. 25, there will be one service at 10 a.m. and no Sunday School or Children's Church.

IT'S TIME TO UPDATE OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY: Please fill out the form in the foyer to update your contact information. *For a new photo, please see Kristin in the nursery between services.* Return forms in the foyer or to the office.

SNOW REMOVAL: WANTED: one early rising snow removal technician for the church sidewalks. **NEEDED:** whenever it snows! Contact the office to volunteer.

SALVATION ARMY: Alan and Joyce Schmautz coordinate counting the bucket money on Saturday nights until Christmas from 7:30 til 8:15 p.m. If you would like to come and help on one or several of those Saturdays, please contact Joyce (249-6370). Bell ringers are also needed for the Kettle Campaign. If you would like to volunteer, contact Bev at the Salvation Army office (257-4357).

SERMON RECORDINGS can be found at our website faithcov.com. Listen online, subscribe to the podcast or download by clicking on the sermon title.

SERVING: November Deacon: Terry Falk

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/Ken & Terri Miller

Children's Church: Carol Van Duyne

Nursery 8:15 a.m.: Motley

Nursery 11 a.m.: Jentz/Albert

Fellowship Hosts: Tami Jentz & Glenda Quick

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carolyn Duncan/Theresa Paolini

Next Sunday - December 4th

Ushers: Mike & Carlynn Stahlberg/Joe & Kelly Swenson

Children's Church: Sharon Salyer

Nursery 8:15 a.m.: Motley

Nursery 11 a.m.: TBA

Fellowship Hosts: Laura Pierson

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Gloria Hanson/Mark Rice

Worship Services

Sundays 8:15 & 11 am

Sunday School

Sundays 10 pm

Music Practice

Tuesdays 5:30 pm

Trustees

1st Tuesdays 5:30 pm

Elder/Deacon Meeting

3rd Tuesdays 7 pm

Elizabeth Women

2nd & 4th Tuesdays noon

Sr. & Jr. Youth Groups

Wednesdays 7 pm

College/Career Small Group

Wednesdays 7 pm

Faith Covenant Church - 611 Third Ave. East, Kalispell, MT 59901 - 406-752-2400 - www.faithcov.com