

FAITH COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 18, 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

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.

***IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR - Hymn #200**

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men from heavens all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

And ye beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow;
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
Oh rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hast'ning on, by prophets bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

*Our worship is
a response to
God's initiative.*

*The pattern of
our worship
reflects the
gospel.*

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.

***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!

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!

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

Advent

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.

**Indicates when to stand.*

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***ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING**

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!
O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light.

O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!

Praise, Praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!

O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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.

continued above

**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.

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.”

*SCRIPTURAL CONFESSION 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 preeminent. 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.

MY JESUS, I LOVE THEE - Hymn #648

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

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.)

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)

***JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS - Hymn #264**

Jesus keep me near the cross. there a precious fountain
Free to all a healing stream, flows from Calv'ry's mountain

(Chorus)

*In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever
Till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river*

Near the cross a trembling soul, love and mercy found me
There the Bright and Morning Star, sheds its beams around me
(Chorus)

Near the cross O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me
Help me walk from day to day, with its shadows o'er me
(Chorus)

Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping trusting ever
Till I reach the golden strand, just beyond the river
(Chorus)

Advent: Waiting for Jesus
Pastor Taylor Clark
The Magnificence of the Magnificat - Luke 1:46-55 (ESV)

⁴⁶ And Mary said,
⁴⁷ “My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

Advent: Waiting for Jesus
Pastor Taylor Clark
The Magnificence of the Magnificat - Luke 1:46-55 (ESV)

Sermon Outline

How are you waiting?

- I. The Inward Expression (v. 46-50)
 - A. Overflow (v. 46-48)

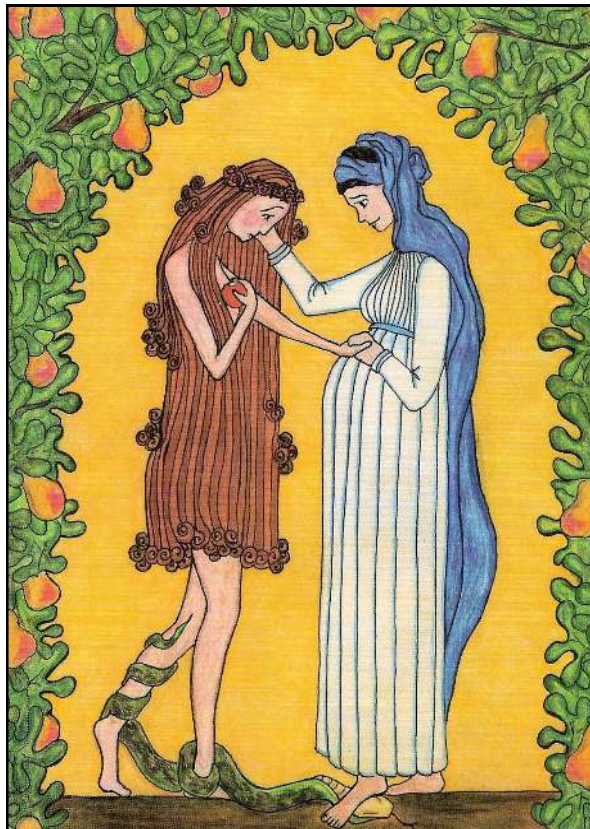
 - B. Recognition (v. 49-50)

- II. The Outward Assurance (v. 51-55)
 - A. Strength & Weakness (v. 51-53)

 - B. Promise & Fulfillment (v. 54-55)

Sermon Questions for Further Reflection

1. Both Mary and Elizabeth were made promises that involved the fulfillment of God's promise back in Genesis 3:15. How would knowing God's Word (Old Testament writings) have informed/encouraged their trust in God in each of their circumstances?
2. How does 'waiting' on the things of God, and being patient and trusting His purposes, collide with our human desire to control our circumstances?
3. What are some similarities between Mary's Magnificat and Zechariah's Benedictus, the angel's Gloria, & Simon's Nunc Dimittis?
4. What are some similarities/differences in Hannah's song and Mary's Magnificat?
5. Though not expressly mentioned in the message itself, what is the significance of Mary's lack of mention of the birth of the Savior in her song?



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**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.

***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."

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.

***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**

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: Neighbors in Need
MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Pray for Tim Bentson with MTW in Japan working at Genesis International College and a church plant in Osaka.
COME SING WITH US! Choir will practice Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. and sing for the Christmas Day service. All are welcome. Dress warm for practices.
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 on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.
YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE: Junior and Senior High Youth Groups will not meet Dec. 21 or 28. They will resume Wednesday, Jan. 4. However, the senior high youth (9th-12 grade) are invited to New Year's Eve party Dec. 31 at 7:30 p.m. at the Neumann home (111 E. Bluegrass Dr.) - bring your sledding clothes!
FIVESOLA.MUSIC: Associate Pastor Taylor Clark is a member of the Nashville Songwriters Association and recently released an acoustic album, "Reflections of the Runaway," under his publishing company, FiveSolaMusic. For more information go to www.fivesolamusic.com.
CHURCH OF THE CROSS SERVICE: You're invited to visit our PCA church plant in Whitefish for their monthly worship service, **TODAY, Dec. 18**, at 5 p.m. at the Whitefish Foursquare church (233 Kalispell Ave). Childcare available.
MOODY 50TH ANNIVERSARY: The Moody families invite everyone to celebrate Jim and Laura Moody's 50th wedding anniversary Friday, Dec. 30, at 6-8 p.m. at Faith Covenant in the fellowship hall.

SERVING: December Deacon: Micah Hill

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Mike & Carlynn Stahlberg/Tim & Kate Anderson
Children's Church: Tamie Jentz & Annie Hill
Nursery 8:15 a.m.: Petersen
Nursery 11 a.m.: Gomez/Goodell
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carolyn Duncan/Jeanie Brenneman

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 5 & 8 p.m. Dec. 24

Ushers: Stahlbergs/Goodells
Nursery 5 p.m./8 p.m.: Jentz/S. Thompson
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fenners/Yvonne Hernandez

Next Sunday - One Service @ 10 a.m. Dec. 25

Ushers: Tim & Kate Anderson
Children's Church: No Children's Church Dec. 25 or Jan. 1
Nursery 10 a.m.: Motleys & Tinkhams
Fellowship Hosts: No Coffee Hour Christmas Day
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Eileen Pierson/Hanni Hanson

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