

FAITH COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 11, 2016



*“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him
who brings good news, who publishes peace,
who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation, who says to Zion,
‘Your God reigns.’”*
Isaiah 52:7

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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Isaiah 52:7-10*

Leader: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

All: The voice of your watchmen - they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

Leader: Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

***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)

***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.

***PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever.
Amen.

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.*

**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.

***ARISE, MY SOUL, ARISE**

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)

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)

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: 2 Samuel 22:26-28

With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the blameless
man you show yourself blameless; with the purified you deal purely,
and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous. You save a
humble people, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them
down.

continued above

All: Lord of all mercy and compassion, I am neither blameless nor pure. My heart is crooked, and I elevate myself at the expense of others. Forgive me for my sins and cleanse me from my defilement, that through my Redeemer, Christ Jesus, I might be pure and spotless. Grant me a humble heart, and by your Holy Spirit, enable me to strive for new and fresh obedience, all to the praise of your glorious grace. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *2 Samuel 22:29-31*

For you are my lamp, O LORD, and my God lightens my darkness.
For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

*COME YE SINNERS

Come ye sinners, poor and wretched, weak and wounded, sick and sore.
Jesus, ready, stands to save you, full of pity joined with power.
He is able, he is able; he is willing; doubt no more.

Come ye needy, come and welcome; God's free bounty glorify:
True belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.
Without money, without money, come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come ye weary, heavy laden, bruised and broken by the fall.
If you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.
Not the righteous, not the righteous; sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream.
All the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him.
This he gives you, this he gives you, 'tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended; pleads the merit of his blood.
Venture on him; venture wholly, let no other trust intrude.
None but Jesus, none but Jesus can do helpless sinners good.

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)

BY THY MERCY

Jesus, Lord of life and glory, bend from heaven your gracious ear;
While our waiting souls adore thee, friend of helpless sinners, hear:
From the depth of nature's blindness, from the hardening power of sin,
From all malice and unkindness, from the pride that lurks within,

(Chorus)

By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord

By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord, good Lord.

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.)

When temptation sorely presses, in the day of Satan's power,
In our times of deep distresses, in each dark and trying hour.
When the world around is smiling, in the time of wealth and ease,
Earthly joys our hearts beguiling, in the day of health and peace.

(Chorus)

In the weary hours of sickness, in the times of grief and pain,
When we feel our mortal weakness, when all human help is vain.
In the solemn hour of dying, in the awful judgment day,
May our souls, on thee relying, find thee still our Rock and Stay.

(Chorus 2x)

Advent: Waiting for Jesus
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.
Waiting for Jesus with Hannah - 1 Samuel 1 & 2(ESV)

- ¹ And Hannah prayed and said,
"My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation.
- ² "There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.
- ³ Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.
- ⁴ The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength.
- ⁵ Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.
The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn.
- ⁶ The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
- ⁷ The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.
- ⁸ He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor.
For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world.
- ⁹ "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail.
- ¹⁰ The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven.
The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the power of his anointed."

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Sermon Outline

I. A Personal Problem—Reproach Removed

II. A Public Provision—Fortunes Reversed

Sermon Questions for Further Reflection

1. Why do we need to keep the larger story of redemption in mind when we are reading a particular OT book? How does redemptive history keep us from moralistic messages in the OT?
2. The three great men of Israel in 1 Samuel are shown against the backdrop of a desperate woman in the person of Hannah. Other examples in Scripture where barrenness precedes fruitfulness include: Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Elizabeth. How does this relate to the message of redemption? How has it encouraged your own faith?
3. Hannah's great story finally resolves itself in worship (ch2). God opened a way where none existed before. How does this speak to God's people in all ages? Worship of God is done in the community of God's people. How do the prayers of desperation mixing with the praises of adoration and answered prayers transform us?
4. Hannah's song is likely a national song of Israel that she appropriates for the occasion. What is surprising is that the song is not so much a thanksgiving for a son, as it is a celebration of the Almighty God who reverses human fortunes (cf Psalm 113). A private occasion takes on far greater public significance. Where else have you seen this theme in Scripture? What does it tell you about our God?
5. Hannah's song also anticipate the coming of King David. How does Mary's song (Luke 1:46-56) use the same themes for the birth of Jesus?
6. How do you keep the tension of rejoicing in our God who intervenes and reverses the fortunes of his people along with the trust and faith when our fortunes do not seem to change? How does the gospel keep us from moralism and fatalism in these cases?

**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.

***ABIDE WITH ME**

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

Thou on my head, in early youth didst smile;
and, though rebellious, and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, though I oft left Thee,
On to the close Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless,
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

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.

PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

*GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

(Chorus)

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a Holy Light.

(Chorus)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

(Chorus)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born
And brought us God's salvation that bless-ed Christmas morn!

(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: Braveheart Chaplain Ministry and Chaplain Drew Buckner

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.

LADIES' CHRISTMAS LUNCH: Ladies 5 to 95 are invited to Christmas lunch TODAY 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 to contribute.

COME SING WITH US! Choir will practice Tuesdays, Dec. 13 and 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.

GENERAL OFFERING SUMMARY THRU NOVEMBER 27:

Targeted Budget = \$337,636.62; Offerings received = \$312,388.22

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, **Sunday, Dec. 18**, at 5 p.m. at the Whitefish Foursquare church (233 Kalispell Ave). Childcare available.

ENEWSLETTER: If you would like to be added to the email list for our Friday e-newsletter, contact the office at office@faithcov.com.

SERVING: December Deacon: Micah Hill

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Mike & Carlynn Stahlberg/Joe & Kelly Swenson

Children's Church: Sharon Salyer

Nursery 8:15 a.m.: Hobus

Nursery 11 a.m.: Longenecker/Falk

Fellowship Hosts: Gloria Hanson & Donelle Holderbaum

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fosberys/Mark Rice

Next Sunday - December 18th

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

Fellowship Hosts: Fellowship Committee

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carolyn Duncan/Jeanie Brenneman

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