

FAITH 
COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 10, 2017



*“Thus says the LORD of hosts:
If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge,
then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts,
and I will give you the right of access among
those who are standing here.”
Zechariah 3:7*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY: *The Refuge*

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Luke 1:46-47, 50; Lamentations 5:19*

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

All: You, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations.

Leader: His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

All: You, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations.

***O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL** - *Hymn #208*

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.*

*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 COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL** - *continued*

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)

***O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL** - *Hymn #194*

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)

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.*

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***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.

***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.

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.

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.

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.

***HE WILL HOLD ME FAST**

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

(Chorus)

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

(Chorus)

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!

(Chorus 3x)

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)

BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus, mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place:
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame, my glory, all the cross.

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.)

Advent: A Prophetic Purpose
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.
I Will Cleanse My People – Zechariah 3:1-10 (ESV)

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. ² And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?" ³ Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. ⁴ And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments." ⁵ And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD was standing by.

⁶ And the angel of the LORD solemnly assured Joshua, ⁷ "Thus says the LORD of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here. ⁸ Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch. ⁹ For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. ¹⁰ In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree."

Sermon Outline

I. Real sin, real defilement

Sermon Outline, continued

II. Real righteousness, real cleansing

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.

Sermon Questions

1. What is significant about Joshua being dirty and accused by Satan? How is this real problem of defilement and sin dealt with by the Lord?
2. In what way do we again see the grace of God combined with call to obedience? Why is important that this be understood first and foremost as coming from a personal reconciliation with the Lord?
3. What enables us to withstand the accusations of Satan? Why is justification by faith so important for us to get right?
4. The Branch is a messianic reference (cf. Jer 23:5). Why is this important for Israel to hear at this time in their history? How does this point us forward to Jesus?
5. *“Joshua receives a clean turban. Jesus a crown of thorns
Joshua receives a festive garment. Jesus is stripped.
Joshua was declared clean by God. Jesus was declared a sinner by men.
Joshua’s sins were removed. Jesus was made a sin offering.”* — Iain Duguid
How does this comparison show us the ministry of Jesus for his people?

**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.

***HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US**

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure.
That he should give his only Son and make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss; the Father turns his face away;
as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon the cross, my sin upon his shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection.
*Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart, his wounds have paid my ransom.*

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: Tim Anderson Grady Bennett, Tom Jentz, Trent Neumann, Don Olmsted, Matt Riley, Micah Tinkham, Steve Thompson *Deacons:* Terry Falk, Kyle Hanson, Micah Hill, Ryan Petersen, Mike Stahlberg, Bruce Tulloch, Phil Van Duyne

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: Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalispell,
Pastor Mark Cutler

MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Kevin & Sarah Johnson, Guatemala.

LADIES' CHRISTMAS LUNCH: Ladies 5 to 95 are invited to Christmas lunch TODAY at 12:30 in the fellowship hall. We will enjoy lunch, learn more about Turning Point for men, and assemble Christmas gift baskets for the women of the Refuge so, if you're able, bring a small gift item (or several) to contribute.

LIBRARY BOOK GIVE AWAY: Check out the tables of books in the fellowship hall. We've cleaned out these titles and they need new homes, so please take any that interest you!

CHRISTMAS EVE Candlelight Services will be held this year at 6 and 8 p.m.

VESPERS SERVICE: Join us Thursday, Dec. 28, at 7 p.m. for vespers, a brief evening service of silence and symbol, prayer and song. Come unplug from the constant distraction of modern life and recharge in reflective quiet as we follow this beautiful liturgy of worship.

COLLEGE SMALL GROUP: Young adults 18-25 are invited to meet at Trent and Becky Neumann's on the first and third Sunday of each month starting January 7 through May, at 6 to 8:30 p.m. for dinner and Bible Study (111 E. Bluegrass Drive). Contact Trent, 212-7625, or Becky, 212-7664, for more information.

50TH ANNIVERSARY: The cake for coffee hour today was provided in honor of Phil & Carol Van Duyne for their 50th Wedding Anniversary (Nov. 18, 1967) — congratulations!

COMMUNITY KITCHEN—FEEDING THE FLATHEAD: Those of you who are volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve next on Thursday, Dec. 14, at Central Christian. Contact Dawn Tinkham for details (208-640-6060).

CHURCH OF THE CROSS SERVICE: You're invited to visit our PCA church plant in Whitefish for their monthly worship service, **Sunday, Dec. 17**, at 5 p.m. at the Whitefish Foursquare church (233 Kalispell Ave). Childcare available.

SERVING: December Deacons are Terry Falk & Phil Van Duyne

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Mike & Carlynn Stahlberg/Jim Tinkham & Boys
Children's Church: Hanni & Zephy Hanson
Nursery 8:15 a.m.: Saldamando/Brenneman
Nursery 11 a.m.: Motleys
Fellowship Hosts: Gloria Hanson & Julie Thompson
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Barb Makowski/Yvonne Hernandez

Next Sunday - December 17th

Ushers: Mike & Carlynn Stahlberg/Jim Tinkham & Boys
Children's Church: Becky Neumann
Nursery 8:15 a.m.: Hernandez/Rowe
Nursery 11 a.m.: Ockert/Putzler
Fellowship Hosts: Sharon Salyer & Kelly Brown
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Amy Bennett/Theresa Paolini

Worship Services

Sundays 8:15 & 11 am

Sunday School

Sept.-May 10 am

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

Sept.-May Wednesdays 7 pm

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