

FAITH   
COVENANT  

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C H U R C H

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*Spreading A Love for God and His Glory*

*December 15, 2019*



*“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor ...”  
Isaiah 61:1*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The pattern of  
our worship  
reflects the  
gospel.*

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*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.*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Luke 1:46-47, 50 Lam. 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 gen-  
eration. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scat-  
tered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

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

**\*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

**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.

*\*Indicates  
when to stand.  
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\*PRAYER OF PRAISE

CHILDREN'S CHOIR - *Magnificat*

\*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)*

## 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.

## WE HAVE NOT LOVED THEE WITH A PURE HEART

We have not loved Thee with a pure heart  
Nor have we loved each other  
We've not done justly and we've not loved mercy  
Nor walked humbly with God

(So) Have mercy, have mercy  
Jesus, have mercy, have mercy on us  
(Repeat all)

## 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."

### **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.

**\*IN CHRIST ALONE**

In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save;  
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied  
For ev'ry sin on him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
for I am his and he is mine bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
*No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand.  
Till he returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.*

## OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

*Reminder: please sign and pass the Attendance Register down the pew.  
Children ages 4-6 excused for Children's Church both services (downstairs in the Corner Classroom)*

### 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!

### **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: Rend the Heavens*  
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.  
*How Can We Be Redeemed? — Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11 (ESV)*

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup> to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

### Sermon Outline

I. Redeemed

II. Rejoicing



## Sermon Questions

1. Compare Isaiah 11:1-5 with Is 61:1-3. What are some similarities? How do these two passages act as book ends for Isaiah? In Is 61, one of the primary ways the Messiah works is through speaking and proclaiming. What does that tell us about his person and his work? (think also of John 1:1). How does a proclamation set people free?
2. In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus reads this portion of Isaiah's prophecy and declares that he is its fulfillment. Where does Jesus stop at in the Isaiah passage? What is significant about that?
3. In the OT, the place where the filling of the Holy Spirit and anointing are spoken of together are in the kingship of Saul and David (1 Sam 10:1, 6-7; 1 Sam 16:13; 2 Sam 23:1-2). What does this tell us about the Messiah? Christians have referred to Jesus as Prophet, Priest and King. Discuss Westminster Shorter Catechism questions 23-26.
4. In vs 10-11, we see that praise and thanksgiving are the natural response to God's grace. Thanksgiving flows from a heart which has received grace. How does a lack of gratitude or thanksgiving indicate someone has not comprehended God's grace and mercy?
5. Consider this quote: "Here is another great paradox of the Bible: try to make ourselves mighty, and we burn ourselves up; admit ourselves as helpless and doomed, and God gives us his beauty. We are made to be mirrors; when his beauty is reflected in us, we become beautiful." — John Oswalt. How is this an encouragement to you? In what areas of your 'mirror' would you like prayer?
6. What does an "oak of righteousness, the planting of the Lord" signify or symbolize? Look at Is 1:29-31 and Is 60:21. How do these contrasting images express Isaiah's message?
7. Would you say your life is marked by joy? Why or why not? How does this passage instruct us on biblical joy?

## Children's Question

*What about the hope of Jesus fills you with joy?*

## 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.

**\*O COME O COME EMMANUEL** - Hymn #194 vs. 1, 3-5

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 Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave

*(Chorus)*

O come, thou Dayspring from on high and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight

*(Chorus)*

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high  
And close the path to misery

*(Chorus)*

**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.

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.

## CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Wine is located in the two outer rings; juice is located in the center ring.  
(See FCC observance below)*

## 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.*

### **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 John Sackett

Youth/Refuge Director: Rev. Ben Melli Music Director: Bekah Marsh

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

Elders: Tim Anderson, Grady Bennett (*sabbatical*), Tom Jentz, Trent Neumann, Don Olmsted,

Matt Riley, Micah Tinkham 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](mailto:office@faithcov.com).  
For more about Faith Covenant and the Presbyterian Church in America, go to [faithcov.com](http://faithcov.com).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:** Great Plains Gathering PCA Native American church plant, Billings, Pastor Josh Charette
- MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:** The S family serving in Turkey.
- LADIES' CHRISTMAS LUNCH:** Ladies 3 to 93 are invited to Christmas lunch TODAY at 12:30 in the fellowship hall. We will enjoy lunch and meet some of the new Refuge mentors. We will also collect gift cards and assemble treat bags for Refuge clients; please bring, if you're able, gift card(s) from grocery and/or box stores (\$5-10).
- MISSION MEAL:** Sign up in the foyer for a mission meal Sunday, Dec. 22, after second service with Kevin and Sarah Johnson (Sandy and Gloria's son) who serve in Guatemala doing theological education and producing Old Testament videos for children.
- MEN'S FRATERNITY 33 SERIES** Volume 6: A Man & His Fatherhood will start Wednesdays, Jan. 8. Sign up in the foyer for these weekly studies that help men think strategically about fatherhood. Contact Rik Goodell (890-1973) with questions.
- YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY:** College/Young Adult annual Christmas Lefse Party at the Andersons! Sunday, Dec. 22, at 6:30 p.m. Bring finger-food to share and a favorite game to play. Contact Tim for info (270-4951) 225 Terrace Rd, Kalispell.
- FAMILY ADVENT DEVOTIONALS:** Each week during Advent, there will be a family devotional guide in the foyer and posted online (click on the Advent picture). Feel free to use in any way that encourages your family worship time. ~ Pastor John
- CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES** this year will be at 5 and 7 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 offering to those in need of assistance.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAK:** There will be no Sunday School December 22 and 29.

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**SERVING:** December Deacon - Mike Stahlberg

**WEEKLY/MONTHLY**

**Today (1st service/2nd service)**

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/Mason Family  
Children's Church: Rev. Ben/Julie Thompson  
Early Nursery: Hobus  
Late Nursery: Ockert/Putzler  
Fellowship Hosts: Kate Anderson & Carlynn Stahlberg  
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Susie Sullivan/Arline Tinkham

**Next Sunday December 22nd**

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/Mason Family  
Children's Church: Jenny Heyboer/Julie Thompson  
Early Nursery: J. Thompson  
Late Nursery: Andersons  
Fellowship Hosts: Fellowship Committee  
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carolyn Duncan/Benni Tulloch

**Worship Services**

Sundays 8:15 & 11 am

**Sunday School**

Sept.-May 10 am

**Music Practice**

Tuesdays 6 pm

**Elder/Deacon Meeting**

3rd Tuesdays 7 pm

**Youth Groups**

Sept.-May Wednesdays 7 pm

**Vespers**

2nd Sundays 6:30 pm

**Elizabeth Women Group**

2nd & 4th Tuesdays

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Faith Covenant Church - 611 Third Ave. East, Kalispell, MT 59901 - 406-752-2400 - [www.faithcov.com](http://www.faithcov.com)