

FAITH 
COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 8, 2019



*“But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.”*

Isaiah 64:8

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.

*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 Virgin's womb.

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."

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

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.

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

*BEHOLD OUR GOD

Who has held the oceans in his hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at his voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.

(Chorus)

*Behold our God, seated on his throne. Come let us adore him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare. Come let us adore him!*

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of his words?
Who can teach the one who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

(Chorus)

Who has felt the nails upon his hands,
bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!

(Chorus)

You will reign forever, you will reign forever! (2x)

(Chorus)

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.

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when to stand.
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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.

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.

***CONFESSION OF CHRIST’S GRACE:**

– *The Heidelberg Catechism (1563), Question 1*

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

Leader: He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

All: Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

***HIS MERCY IS MORE**

(Chorus)

*Praise the Lord! His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more*

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more

(Chorus)

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father, so tender, is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more

(Chorus)

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more

(Chorus 2x)

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)*

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.

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.
Will You Keep Silent? — Isaiah 64:8-12 (ESV)

- ⁸ But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
- ⁹ Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.
- ¹⁰ Your holy cities have become a wilderness;
Zion has become a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation.
- ¹¹ Our holy and beautiful house,
where our fathers praised you, has been burned by fire,
and all our pleasant places have become ruins.
- ¹² Will you restrain yourself at these things, O LORD?
Will you keep silent, and afflict us so terribly?

Sermon Outline

I. Are we not yours?

II. Are we not afflicted?

Sermon Questions

1. Earlier in Isaiah 29:16 and 45:9, the image of the potter and the clay was to show the foolishness of the creation criticizing the Creator. Here in verse 8, the image is used to question if the artist can throw away what he has so carefully made. How is this an appeal to God's grace? In what way does God's purpose for his people triumph over our sin?
2. In verse 9, Isaiah does not ask that God forfeit his justice, but that he not exact it to the uttermost. How does God's judgment work redemptively to restore God's people? (Consider Deut 8:5; Is 30:18-22)
3. According to John Owen, the danger of abiding in sin is that you will become "sermon proof and sickness proof." Under trials, the things of God that once moved you will no longer have an effect on you. Israel had grown "sermon proof" to Isaiah's preaching. How is this a danger for us? What can we do to keep our hearts tender toward the Lord?
4. God has made an everlasting covenant with Israel, that he would be their God and that they would be his people (Ex 6:7). How does this covenant relationship instruct us of Isaiah's plea to the Lord here? How does God keep this covenant?
5. Consider: "God's people must often be brought to the place of such urgent need in prayer before He will hear them, for when they pray so fervently as this they truly have a sense of their sin and misery." —E.J. Young. How has your own desperation moved you to both prayer and to the reality of your own sinfulness?
6. When it appears that God is silent to our plight, how does Isaiah instruct us here? How does the incarnation of Christ speak to this seeming silence?

Children's Question

*It can seem that when we need the Lord the most that he is not listening to us.
How does the coming of Jesus remind us that God hears our prayers?*

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.

*HOW LONG

How long? Will You turn Your face away?
How long? Do You hear us when we pray?
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way - How long?

How long 'til Your children find their rest?
How long 'til You draw them to Your breast?
We go on holding to Your promises - How long?

(Chorus)

*'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye
'Til we see our home descending from the sky
Do we wait in vain?
Jesus, give us hope again!*

How long 'til Your word will still the storm?
How long 'til You bare Your mighty arm?
How we groan 'til You snatch us from the thorns - How long?

(Chorus)

How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the race.
How long? Weak our hearts but strong our legs.
Looking on - great that cloud of witnesses! How long?

(Chorus)

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)*

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.

PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

*WE WILL FEAST

(Chorus)

*We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things we will say together
We will feast and weep no more*

We will not be burned by the fire, He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld protected gathered up
(Chorus)

In the dark of night before the dawn, my soul be not afraid
For the promised morning oh how long
Oh God of Jacob be my strength
(Chorus)

Every vow we've broken and betrayed, You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together bring shalom
(Chorus 2x)

*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.
For more about Faith Covenant and the Presbyterian Church in America, go to faithcov.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: 100 Fold Studio, John and Samantha Hudson

MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: The S family serving in Turkey.

VESPERS SERVICE: Join us TONIGHT at 6:30 p.m. for vespers, a brief evening service of silence and symbol, prayer and song. Come prepare your hearts for the Advent season as we follow this beautiful liturgy of worship. Childcare provided.

LADIES' CHRISTMAS LUNCH: Ladies 3 to 93 are invited to Christmas lunch Sunday, Dec. 15, 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). RSVP by signing up in the foyer.

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.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN—FEEDING THE FLATHEAD: Those of you who are volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve next on Thursday, Dec. 12, at Central Christian. Contact Dawn Tinkham for details (208-640-6060).

SERVING: December Deacon - Mike Stahlberg

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Mike & Carlynn Stahlberg/Bay Family
Children's Church: Rev. Ben/Judy Peters & Lori George
Early Nursery: H. Hansons
Late Nursery: Matterns
Fellowship Hosts: Sharon Salyer & Cathy Hanson
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Eileen Pierson/Theresa Paolini

Next Sunday December 15th

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/Benni Tulloch

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

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

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