

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 13, 2020*



*“My eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared  
in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”*

*Luke 2:30-32*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Isaiah 9:6; 1 Timothy 3:16*

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: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, and was taken up in glory.

Leader: Proclaim it among the nations. Sing of his greatness you people of God.

**\*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

*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**

**\*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)*

*Amen, Jesus Come (4x)*

**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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**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.

**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.

**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 offences, 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."

**\*IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR**

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, good will to men, from heav'n's 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:  
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age foretold;  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

**CHRISTIAN BAPTISM OF:**

*Gracyn Ann Von Olhausen*

**PUBLIC RECEPTION OF COMMUNICANT MEMBERS:**

*Clara Carroll*  
*Alice Motley*  
*Margaret Petersen*  
*Gunnar Von Olhausen*

**PUBLIC RECEPTION OF MEMBERS:**

*Wade & Traci Carroll*  
*Dave & Susan Cox*  
*Jim & Laura Moody*  
*Adam & Kim Von Olhausen*

**OFFERTORY:** (Offerings can be mailed to the church or given online at [faithcov.com](http://faithcov.com))  
Children ages 4-6 excused for Children's Church during 11 a.m. services (downstairs corner classroom)

**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.)

*Sermon Series: Advent — A Surprising God*  
Pastor John Sackett  
*A Curious Consolation — Luke 2:22-35 (ESV)*

<sup>29</sup> “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

**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.

### Sermon Outline

- I. A Glorious Blessing
- II. A Curious Blessing

### Sermon Questions

1. What do we learn about Joseph and Mary as they come for the rite of purification?
2. Simeon was waiting for the consolation of Israel, yet it seems others (even the disciples?) were hoping for a conquering king. Why the disconnect?
3. Simeon had also been promised he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Christ. How would that focus and purpose affect one's life? Is there a similar vision we can have?
4. The blessing to Mary is certainly curious. We can only imagine how a young mother would hear these words, yet Simeon is perfectly on point with all he speaks. How might God's word been an encouragement even if difficult to hear?

### Children's Question

*Have you ever seen anyone so full of joy at seeing a baby? That's how Simeon is when he sees the baby Jesus; he's full of joy. God had promised that Simeon wouldn't die until he has seen the Messiah. All his life he had been waiting to see his Savior. Now the day had come. How can you grow that kind of joy in your heart for Jesus?*

## \*IS HE WORTHY?

*(Women Lead – Men Echo)*

Do you feel the world is broken? *(We do)*

Do you feel the shadows deepen? *(We do)*

But do you know that all the dark won't stop  
the light from getting through? *(We do)*

Do you wish that you could see it all made new? *(We do)*

*(Men Lead – Women Echo)*

Is all creation groaning? *(It is)* Is a new creation coming? *(It is)*

Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? *(It is)*

Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? *(It is)*

*(All Together)*

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave

He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave

Is He worthy? Is He worthy?

Of all blessing and honor and glory, is He worthy of this? He is!

*(Women Lead – Men Echo)*

Does the Father truly love us? *(He does)*

Does the Spirit move among us? *(He does)*

And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those He loves? *(He does)*

Does our God intend to dwell again with us? *(He does)*

*(All Together)*

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave

He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave

From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue

He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son

Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory

Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Is He worthy of this? He is!

## CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

### **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.

## PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

### \*GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN - Hymn #211

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might."  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind  
And left their flocks a feeding in tempest storm and wind  
And went to Bethlehem straight way, the son of God to find  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

### \*BENEDICTION

**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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LOCAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:** Community chaplains at KRH, Braveheart Ministry  
**MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:** Missionary family serving in the Middle East  
**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES** will be at 3:30, 5:00, 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. Please sign up to attend at [faithcov.com](http://faithcov.com) (5 p.m. service will have enhanced COVID protocols).

**SERVING:** December Deacon – Phil Van Duyne

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

Children's Church: 9:30 Sunday School — 11 Don Olmsted

Nursery: 9:30 Sunday School — 11 J. Thompson

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carolyn Duncan/Jeanie Brenneman

### Next Sunday December 20th

Children's Church: 9:30 Sunday School — 11 Sharon Salyer

Nursery: 9:30 Sunday School — 11 D. Tinkham

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fenners/Yvonne Hernandez

## **WEEKLY/MONTHLY**

### **Sunday Worship Services**

8, 9:30 & 11 am, 6:30 pm

Streaming 11 am

### **Vespers**

2nd Sunday of the month

6:30 p.m.

### **Wednesday Youth Group**

Jr High 4:30-6 pm, Sr High 7-9

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