

FAITH COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 11, 2022



THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

And she vowed a vow and said,
“O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your
servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will
give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all
the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

1 Samuel 1:11

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

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: 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.

**Indicates*

when to stand.

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***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.*

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 happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father
Late in flesh appearing:

(Chorus)

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

***WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME**

You were the Word at the beginning, one with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation, now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful name it is, what a beautiful name it is
The name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful name it is, nothing compares to this
What a beautiful name it is, the name of Jesus

So great a love poured out upon us
When Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater
What could separate us now

What a wonderful name it is, what a wonderful name it is
The name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful name it is, nothing compares to this
What a wonderful name it is, the name of Jesus
What a wonderful name it is, the name of Jesus

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

What a powerful name it is, what a powerful name it is
The name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful name it is, nothing can stand against
What a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus (3x)

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.

***IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL - Hymn #691**

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

(Chorus)

It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

(Chorus)

My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

(Chorus)

O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
even so, it is well with my soul.

(Chorus)

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.)

OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

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

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Sermon Series: Unto Us a Child is Born

Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

Hannah, You Are Not Forgotten!: I Samuel 1:1-20 (ESV)

¹There was a certain man of ...Ephraim whose name was Elkanah. ²He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. ³Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh... ⁴On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. ⁶And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. ⁷So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat... ¹⁰She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. ¹¹And she vowed a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head." ...¹⁹They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her. ²⁰And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, "I have asked for him from the Lord."

Sermon Outline

*Because the Lord alone can remove our shame and fill our longing hearts,
we must learn to wait upon him with expectation and joy.*

I. An End to Her Shame— I have not been forgotten

II. Connected to a Greater Story— I will remember my Covenant

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.

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. In Scripture, barrenness precedes birth in the lives of Sarah, Rebecca, Leah, Rachel, Sampson's mother, Hannah, 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 (chapter 2). 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. How does Hannah's song (I Samuel chapter 2) compare to Mary's song (Luke 1:46-56)? What are repeated themes in both? IN what ways does the story of Hannah anticipate the coming of Jesus?
5. How do you keep the tension of rejoicing in our God who intervenes in the lives of his people along with the trust and faith when our circumstances do not seem to change? How does the gospel keep us from moralism and fatalism in these cases?

Children's Question

We often can feel forgotten by the Lord when things are hard.

How does Jesus remind us that we are not forgotten?

**God Communes
with Us**

The Lord
strengthens
and nourishes
our faith
through a sac-
ramental meal.
Through Je-
sus, commun-
ion 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 LOW WAS OUR REDEEMER BROUGHT**

How low was our Redeemer brought, the King who held the stars
Lay helpless in a maiden's arms and pressed against her heart
While sheep and cattle raised their voice the babe could speak no words
The ever flowing Spring of Joy had come to share our thirst

How low was our Redeemer brought, the Lord the worlds obeyed
Would stumble as He learned to walk upon the ground He'd made
The One the angels bowed before would kneel to wash our feet
And be at home among the poor though He owned everything

(Chorus)

*Gloria, gloria in the highest
Gloria, gloria in the highest*

How low was our Redeemer brought to raise us from our shame
And now the highest praise of all belongs to Jesus' name
The Healer wounded on a tree to bear our grief and sin
The King gave up His crown so we could ever reign with Him

(Chorus 4x)

How low was our Redeemer brought to raise us from our shame
And now the highest praise of all belongs to Jesus' name

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)*

We observe the Lord's Supper 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. Visiting children who have not been examined by their church's leadership, we ask to refrain. By sharing in the Supper, you are acknowledging to our church that you are in covenant with our Triune God through the person and work of Jesus Christ. If you are in doubt about your participation, please refrain. 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

8:15 Elder Matt Riley— 11 Elder Trent Neumann

*LIGHT OF THE WORLD (SING HALLELUJAH)

Light of the world, treasure of Heaven
Brilliant like the stars, in the wintry sky
Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness
Shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight

Light of the world, from the beginning
The tragedies of time, were no match for Your love
From great heights of glory, You saw my story
God, You entered in, and became one of us

(Chorus)

*Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the world*

Light of the world, crown in a manger
Born for the Cross, to suffer, to save
High King of Heaven, death is the poorer
We are the richer, by the price that He paid

(Chorus)

Light of the world, soon will be coming
With fire in His eyes, He will ransom His own
Through clouds He will lead us, straight into glory
And there He shall reign, forevermore

(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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Fresh Life Church, Pastor Levi Lusko

MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: J&R, serving in the Middle East

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.

HOLIDAY SEASON SERVICE TIMES: Please note that there will be NO Sunday school and the service times will change to 8:15 & 10:15 for the following dates: Dec. 18, Dec. 25, & Jan. 1. We will resume our regular schedule Jan. 8.

YOUTH GROUP CAROLING & CHRISTMAS PARTY: Everyone is invited to join with the youth group on Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 6pm for Christmas caroling followed by a time of fellowship. Please bring a plate of holiday cookies or goodies to share.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TIMES: Candlelight services will be held at 4pm, 5:30pm, & 7pm on Saturday, Dec. 24. Nursery will be available at the 4pm service only.

SNOW-SHOVELERS NEEDED: In search of a few people who are available to shovel the church sidewalks as needed. Please contact the FCC office at (406) 752-2400 or office@faithcov.com if you're interested in being one of our paid on-call shovelers.

SERVING: December Deacon - Bruce Tulloch

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Petersens/Matterns

Children's Church: Carolyn Duncan/Tim Anderson

Nursery: Falks

Fellowship Hosts: Kim von Olhausen & Eileen Pierson

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fosberys/Jeanie Brenneman

Next Sunday December 18th

Ushers: N. Hansons/Matterns

Children's Church: Russells/Fishers

Nursery: Wrights

Fellowship Hosts: Kelly Brown & Marlo Lancaster

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Gloria Hanson-Tronstad/Y. Hernandez

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Sunday Worship Services

8:15 & 11 am

Vespers

2nd Sunday @ 6:30 pm

Elder/Deacon Meeting

3rd Tuesdays 7 pm

Wednesdays

Men's Breakfast 6:30 am

Jr High Youth @ 5 pm

Sr. High Youth @ 6:30 pm

Career Group 7 pm