

FAITH   
COVENANT  

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C H U R C H

*Spreading A Love for God and His Glory*

*December 18, 2022*



After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

Luke 1:24-25

## 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 9:6-7; Luke 2:14, Revelation 19:5**

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: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.**

Leader: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.**

Leader: Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.

*\*Indicates*

*when to stand.*

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**\*ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH - Hymn #214**

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing 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)*

**\*PRAYER OF PRAISE**

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

God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Savior, was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray

*(Chorus)*

*Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy  
Oh tidings of comfort and joy*

From God our heavenly 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

*(Chorus)*

"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 power and might."

*(Chorus)*

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.

*(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

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

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."

## 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.

**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.)

**PUBLIC RECEPTION OF MEMBERS:**

*Chris Scrima*

*Andrew & Kristy Scrima  
Stella, Lucas, & Gia Scrima*

*Lane Votapka*

*Gary & Sue Votapka*

*Robert (Chuck) Souder*

**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)*

## THIS IS JESUS

Night of wonder, still and silent  
Heaven's brilliance from above, light of glory  
Pierced the darkness, mercy pierced my heart with love

*(Chorus)*

*This is Jesus, King of glory, here to rescue from the fall  
Son of God who comes to save us, Prince of peace and Lord of all*

Oh the mystery who could fathom,  
God would leave His Holy throne  
For a manger, for a sinner, for us all to be His own

*(Chorus)*

Rejoice He is with us, Rejoice Hope is here (4x)

*(Chorus)*

For the hearts so prone to wander, for these feet so quick to flee  
God is here and love is reaching, for the lost and least of these

## *Sermon Series: Unto Us a Child is Born*

Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

### *Elizabeth, Reproach Removed! Mary, Reproach Given! : Luke 1 (ESV)*

<sup>5</sup>...There was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. <sup>7</sup>But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years... <sup>11</sup>And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord... <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. <sup>14</sup>And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. <sup>16</sup>And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, <sup>17</sup>and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.” <sup>26</sup>...the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” <sup>30</sup>... “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

### **Sermon Outline**

*The Lord brings glory to his name through our weakness, and we must be willing to wait to be vindicated by him as we live through these events.*

#### I. A familiar story



## II. Something new and unexpected

### Questions for Further Reflection:

1. Elizabeth resembles both Sarah and Hannah in her birth narrative. Jewish people would think “this fits into our story.” How does this prepare the way for Jesus?
2. The Lord comes to a well respected couple of the priesthood to remove their reproach through the birth of a son. The Lord comes to a teenaged girl who is poor, powerless, and placed well outside the center of Jewish life and she endures reproach through the birth of a son. How does this foreshadow the life and ministry of Jesus?
3. In a patriarchal society, the Lord centers his redemptive plan around two women’s births. The lives of John and Jesus do not follow the expected script. We like this today, but it was an embarrassment then. Why do you think the Lord did it this way? What are ways that embarrass us today about the story of Christ our cultural expectations?
4. The Lord weaves together the miraculous and the ordinary in the coming of Jesus. How do we see John, Elizabeth and Mary all living by faith in the midst of the ordinary? Where do you struggle with this?

### Children’s Question

*What is different about John’s and Mary’s response to the angel Gabriel’s announcement? How does Mary’s faith and obedience encourage you?*

### 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.

**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.

**\*O COME, ALL YOU UNFAITHFUL**

O come, all you unfaithful; come, weak and unstable  
Come, know you are not alone

O come, barren and waiting ones, weary of praying  
Come see what your God has done

*(Chorus)*

*Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you*

O come, bitter and broken, come with fears unspoken  
Come, taste of His perfect love

O come, guilty and hiding ones, there is no need to run  
See what your God has done

*(Chorus)*

*(Bridge)*

He's the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon  
His promise is peace for those who believe  
He's the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon  
His promise is peace for those who believe

So come, though you have nothing, come, He is the offering  
Come, see what your God has done

*(Chorus 2x)*

**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 Pastor— 11 Elder Tim Anderson

### \*ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY - Hymn 218, v. 1-4, 7

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*(Chorus)*

*Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King*

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night;  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:

*(Chorus)*

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations, ye have seen His natal star:

*(Chorus)*

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;  
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:

*(Chorus)*

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son;  
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:

*(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.

#### Leaders & Staff

Senior Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D. — Associate Pastor John Sackett

Assistant Pastor (Youth): Ben Melli Music Director/Assistant: Lisa Iddings/Laura Sackett

Refuge Director: Sissy Hashley Staff: Jenny Mattern, Hanni Hanson, Carlynn Stahlberg, Kelly Brown

Elders: Tim Anderson, Jason Davis, Sean Iddings, Tom Jentz, Trent Neumann, Don Olmsted,  
Matt Riley, Micah Tinkham

Deacons: Wade Carroll, Terry Falk, Kyle Hanson, Micah Hill, Ryan Petersen,  
Mike Stahlberg, Bruce Tulloch

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LOCAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:** Refuge & Turning Point

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

**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 this 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. (Caroling will be temperature-dependent, but fellowship is ON no matter the weather!)

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE:** The annual congregational meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023. Details to follow.

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**SERVING:** December Deacon - Bruce Tulloch

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

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

**Next Sunday December 25th**

Ushers: N. Hansons/von Olhausen

Children's Church: Russells/Fishers

Nursery: D. Tinkham

Fellowship Hosts: Hanni Hanson & Eileen Pierson

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Traci Carroll/Theresa Paolini

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**WEEKLY/MONTHLY**

**Sunday Worship Services**

8:15 & 10:15 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