

# 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 21, 2025*



Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be made known in all the earth.

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Isaiah 12:5

**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.

**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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**\*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.*

God of God, Light of Light;  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten, not created;  
*(Chorus)*

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**

**Colors in the Church**

We use different colored banners in a symbolic way throughout the liturgical year.  
White = purity & holiness  
Purple = royalty & suffering.  
Red = blood & fire  
Blue = royalty  
Black = mourning & death (only used on Good Friday)  
Green = life & growth

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.

## 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.

## BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

*Blessed are the merciful (3x)*

For they shall receive mercy, mercy

Forgive us as we forgive those who sin against us

Forgive us as we forgive those who sin against us

*Lord have mercy on us*

*Show Your mercy through us (2x)*

Mercy

## 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.

**\*I WILL WAIT FOR YOU**

Out of the depths I cry to You  
In darkest places I will call  
Incline Your ear to me anew  
And hear my cry for mercy, Lord

Were You to count my sinful ways  
How could I come before Your throne  
Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze  
I stand redeemed by grace alone

*(Chorus)*

*I will wait for You, I will wait for You  
On Your word, I will rely  
I will wait for You, surely wait for You  
Till my soul is satisfied*

So put your hope in God alone  
Take courage in His power to save  
Completely and forever won  
By Christ emerging from the grave  
*(Chorus)*

Now He has come to make a way  
And God Himself has paid the price  
*That all who trust in Him today  
Find healing in His sacrifice*

*I will wait for You, I will wait for You  
Through the storm and through the night  
I will wait for You, surely wait for You  
For Your love is my delight (2x)*

**INSTALLATION OF PASTOR:**

*Jake Neufeld*

## 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)*

### GOD REST YOU 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 straightway, the Son of God to find.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

## 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 New King is Coming*  
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.  
*The Triumph of Grace—Isaiah 12:3-6*

*Isaiah 12:1-6 (ESV):* <sup>1</sup>You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. <sup>2</sup>"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. <sup>5</sup>"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. <sup>6</sup>Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

I. A Shared Joy

II. A Transformed Dread



### Questions for Further Reflection

1. Consider: For the Christian, joy is the central thing in life; sorrow is peripheral.” –G.K. Chesterton. What role does biblical joy have in your life in Christ? How are you challenging yourself to be happy in Jesus?
2. Consider: “Joy is not light-hearted laughter—it is an effort, a daily exercise of seeing the beauty of one’s life through thick and thin, of singing ‘Alleluia!’ on a happy day as well as on one’s dying day.” –Juliana Schmemmann. What part of joy is an effort for you right now?
3. This song of praise flows from God redeeming his people. How is evangelism a product of our joy in Christ? Is this a dominant note in your own telling of Jesus?
4. In chapter 6, Isaiah was in dread of a holy God and here this holy God is dwelling with his people. How does this transition take place in Isaiah’s message?
5. Biblical joy is not simply an intense feeling of happiness, it is rooted deeply in truth. What truths does Isaiah draw on here to anchor the response of praise and gladness of God’s people? Explain this in light of Paul when he says: “In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy” (2 Corinthians 7:4).

### 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.

### Children’s Question

*How does your relationship with Jesus encourage you to walk in joy?*

**\*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 on 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.

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

### \*CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Praise God who came in infant low  
To bear our flesh and grace bestow  
Born in a lowly manger stall  
A child who shall redeem us all

And as creation held its breath  
The firstborn came in our defense  
To stand before his father's throne  
And through his blood our lives atone

For this our mighty Savior came,  
To wed our hearts and bear our shame  
For condemnation has no place  
For those who trust in Jesus' name

To us a child is born today  
Immanuel in flesh displayed  
To once for all his people save  
Rejoice! Give thanks, and praise his name

### \*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 & Family Pastor: Jake Neufeld

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

Deacons: Wade Carroll, Scott Cunningham, Terry Falk, Kyle Hanson, Patrick Jentz,  
Jeff McGarvey, Tom Moody, Ryan Petersen, Mike Thompson, Bruce Tulloch

Assistant to the Deacons/Mercy Ministries: Dawn Tinkham

Music Director/Assistant: Lisa Iddings/Laura Sackett

Director of Women's Ministries: Sarah Morrison Refuge Director: Sissy Hashley

Staff: Kelly Brown, Hanni Hanson, Jenny Mattern, Niam Moody

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LOCAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:** Easthaven Baptist Church, Pastor Chad Warren

**DECEMBER MISSION FOCUS:** Joe & Kelly Swenson

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES:** will be at 4, 5:30, & 7 pm this Wed., Dec. 24. Nursery will be available at the 4pm service. \*Please note, the 4 pm service is traditionally VERY full, so if you prefer a little more space the 5:30 or 7 pm are more spacious.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Youth Group Winter Retreat will be January 16-18 at Dickey Lake Bible Camp. More information coming soon.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Ladies of all ages are invited to join us at the church as we celebrate God's gift of covenant children. Ladies' Combined Baby Shower will be Saturday, Jan. 10, from 9:30-11:30 am. Contact Hannah Cunningham with any questions.

**WOMEN'S WINTER BIBLE STUDY:** begins Wed., Jan. 21, with *BLESSED*, Nancy Guthrie's study of Revelation. More information and signups coming soon.

**JANUARY 2026 SHEPHERDING GROUP POTLUCKS** (following the 2nd service):

- Jentz/Moody Group: January 4
- Tinkham/Falk/Cunningham Group: January 18

**FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP:** Faith Covenant's mix-and-match gathering will be happening in 2026 during February, March, and April. If you would like to share a meal with other adults on three different occasions over the course of three months, you will have a chance to sign up starting next Sunday! \*Please note, if you have young children and are interested in meeting with other young families, reach out to the church office and we can help you get connected.

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**SERVING:** December On-Call Deacon - Bruce Tulloch

**WEEKLY/MONTHLY**

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

Ushers: Ingrams / Matterns

Children's Church: H&Z Hanson / Jake Neufeld

Nursery: Buis Family / Wilbur Family

Fellowship Hosts: A. Haymond & J. Orndorff

Communion Prep/Cleanup: T. Carroll / N. Moody

**Next Sunday December 28**

Ushers: Ingrams / Matterns

Children's Church: H&Z Hanson / J. Thompson

Nursery: Bergstedts / Matterns

Fellowship Hosts: E. Pierson, C. Scrima, & L. Scrima

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Susie Sullivan / Theresa Paolini

**Sunday Worship Services**

8:15 & 10:15 am

**Vespers**

2nd Sunday @ 6 pm

**Sunday Evening Prayer Svc**

Non-Vespers Sundays @ 6 pm

**Wednesday Youth Group**

6-7:30 pm (MS) / 6:30-8:15 pm (HS)

**Elder/Deacon Meeting**

3rd Monday @ 7 pm

**Men's Breakfast**

Wednesdays @ 6:30 am