

FAITH COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 28, 2025

And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.
And the favor of God was upon him.

Luke 2:40

**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

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY: *Joe & Kelly Swenson*

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Psalms 89:1, 2, 5*

Leader: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever.

All: With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to
all generations.

Leader: For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the
heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

All: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your
faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

**Indicates
when to stand.
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***GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE - Hymn #207**

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today
Earth and heaven before Him bow, and He is in the manger now
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men rejoice, with heart and soul and voice
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

***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

***LIGHT OF THE WORLD (Sing Hallelujah)**

Light of the world, treasure of heaven
Brilliant like the stars in the wintery 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 forever more

(Chorus)

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *Isaiah 58:13-14*

If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly, then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

All: Lord Jesus, I have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, and of neglect to seek you in my daily life. My sins and shortcomings present me with a list of accusations, but I thank you that they will not stand against me, for all have been laid on Christ. Deliver me from every evil habit, every interest of former sins, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in me, everything that prevents me taking delight in you. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Lamentations 3:22-23*

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

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.

***WHAT LOVE, MY GOD**

What love my God would bring you down to earth
What king would take a low and lonely birth
Yet to this dark and broken place you came
To sleep beneath the stars that you had made

What love my God would send the Way of Life
To walk the road, rejected and despised
That you might know the weakness I possess
And be my rock of strength and righteousness

(Chorus)

*O Your love my God like a flood
As heaven opened up pouring out on us
O praise the King who came to the world
In his love like a mighty flood*

What love my God could hold you to the tree
To bear that overwhelming debt for me
The Son of heaven leaves the Father's side
The Healer bleeds, the Life was made to die
(Chorus)

What love my God, so gracious and extreme
Was strong enough to come and fight for me
To go through hell and down into the grave
And raise me up to see you face to face
You raise me up to see you face to face
(Chorus 2x)

In his love like a mighty flood

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)*

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM - Hymn #201

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

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.)

Jesus' Early Years: Real Growth—Luke 2:39-52
Pastor John Sackett

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

In order to grow, both Jesus and his parents had to show intentionality.

Growth comes from...

I. Observing wise customs and laws

II. Investigating God's word and will

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.

III. Submission to God-given structures and authority

Questions for Further Reflection

1. In all the Gospels, this pericope is the only insight into Jesus' young adult years. Why do you suppose Luke thought it so significant as to include it?
2. What is the focal, or central, point of this story?
3. Luke gives us a picture of Mary and Joseph's parenting, both their piety, as well as some of their common fears. How can this be an encouragement to our own interactions with friends and family?
4. The first words of Jesus are considered, by some, as a mild rebuke to Mary – his mother. Since we know that Jesus never sinned, what does this tell us about Jesus' priorities, and how can this inform our own relationship and interactions with friends and family?
5. How does Godly submission foster growth? How are you doing with submitting to these God given structures?

Children's Question

This is a short but important story which tells us a lot about Jesus. Is there one short story that summarizes your life and shows your priorities?

***IN CHRIST ALONE**

In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save;
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied
For ev'ry sin on him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand.
Till he returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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.

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)*

PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

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.

*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

*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: The Rock Foursquare Church, Pastor Steve White

DECEMBER MISSION FOCUS: Joe & Kelly Swenson

YOUTH GROUP GAME NIGHT: Come (almost) ring in the new year at Faith Covenant from 6-9 pm on Dec. 31.

UNHANGING OF THE GREENS: Many hands make light work, so if you can pitch in to undecorate the church on Sat., Jan. 3 at 10 am, it would be much appreciated!

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

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

BABY SHOWER: 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.

YOUTH GROUP WINTER RETREAT: will be Jan. 16-18 at Dickey Lake Bible Camp. Kids can meet at the church on Fri, Jan. 16 @ 4:30 pm and will return on Sun, Jan. 18 around 1 pm. A signup link will be sent to parents next week.

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

FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP: Faith Covenant's mix-and-match gathering will be 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, sign up in the foyer by Jan. 11.

*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.

SERVING: December On-Call Deacon - Bruce Tulloch

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Today (1st service/2nd service)

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

Next Sunday January 4

Ushers: Wilkersons / Bonners

Children's Church: S. Duncan & C. Carroll / A. Brown

Nursery: D. Tinkham / K. Neumann

Fellowship Hosts: J. Orndorff & L. Cole-Tinkham

Communion Prep/Cleanup: B. Fenner / A. Tinkham & K. Brown

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