

FAITH COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

January 4, 2026



I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:13

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP: *Isaiah 60; Psalm 72*

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

*AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD - *Hymn #226*

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradle bed,
there to bend the knee before him whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

*Indicates
when to stand.

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*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*BEHOLD OUR GOD

Who has held the oceans in his hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at his voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.

(Chorus)

Behold our God, seated on his throne. Come let us adore him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare. Come let us adore him!

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of his words?
Who can teach the one who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

(Chorus)

Who has felt the nails upon his hands,
bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!

(Chorus)

You will reign forever, you will reign forever! (2x)
(Chorus)

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)

& death (only used
on Good Friday)
Green = life &

Green – life & growth

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: *1 John 2:9-11*

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

All: O Lord Almighty, you have called us out of darkness and have chosen us to be your people. We should be filled with gratitude for your mercy; we should be filled with courage to war against our flesh. Yet we consider ourselves worthy of your mercy, and barely lift a hand to fight against our lusts. Our conduct often gives no indication that we belong to you. Forgive us for abusing your grace by not resisting temptation. Forgive us for abasing your glory by not being a light to the world. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *John 1:9, 12*

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world... to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

COMMON CONFESSION OF FAITH: *The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth;
 of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of his Father before all worlds:
 God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
 begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made:
 Who for us and for our salvation
 came down from heaven,
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried;
 and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
 and ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 And he shall come again with glory
 to judge both the living and the dead
 whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son
 together is worshiped and glorified;
 who spoke by the prophets.
And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.
And we look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*ALL SUFFICIENT MERIT

All sufficient merit shining like the sun
A fortune I inherit by no work I have done
My righteousness I forfeit at my Savior's cross
Where all sufficient merit did what I could not

In love He condescended eternal now in time
A life without a blemish the Maker made to die
The law could never save us our lawlessness had won
Until the pure and spotless Lamb had finally come

(Chorus)
It is done it is finished
No more debt I owe
Paid in full all sufficient
Merit now my own

I lay down my garments any empty boast
Good works all corrupted by the sinful host
Dressed in my Lord Jesus
A crimson robe made white
No more fear of judgment His righteousness is mine
(Chorus 2x)

All sufficient merit firm in life and death
The joy of my salvation shall be my final breath
When I stand accepted before the throne of God
I'll gaze upon my Jesus and thank Him for the cross
Yes, I'll thank you for the cross
(Chorus 2x)

Merit now my own

Diaconal Offering

The first Sunday of
every month is the
Diaconal offering.

Please use the
Special Offering
envelopes located
in the pew racks.

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM OF:

Jarah Maddison Peek

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)*

THE GOD WE LOVE

We believe in one God the Father
The Almighty the Maker of all
The One who rules the seen and unseen
We believe and we adore
Jesus Christ one Lord of creation
From the Father begotten not made
He is the Light from Light eternal
And the God of every age

(Chorus)

*All glory to the Father now
All honor to the Son
And praise the Spirit now and always
This is the God we love*

For this world and for our salvation
He came down from the heavens above
Born of a virgin and the Spirit
Truly man and truly God
He was crucified under Pilate
Suffered death and was laid in the grave
And in accordance with the scriptures
On the third He rose again

(Bridge)

And He has made His ascent
Into the heavens above
Where He sits at the Father's right hand now
But He will come back again
And He will judge in truth
The Holy Spirit has come
Voice of the prophets of God
Sent to us he has given us new life
Forgiven now and baptized
One holy church we rise, we rise

(Chorus)

Now we wait to be resurrected
And we look for the world without end
This is our creed our faith our anthem
This is the God we love

Sermon Series—Epiphany
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.
To Know God—I John 5:13

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

I. Disconnected and fractured knowledge

II. Connected and covenantal knowledge

Questions for Further Reflection

1. God has created us to know. It is fundamental to being human. How has the fall changed this? How has the Lord redemptively given us access to knowledge of himself?
2. What role do others have in your pursuit of knowing God? What is the difference between authority and authoritarianism?
3. In what way does worship help us make sense of the world around us?
4. What are the dangers of disconnected virtual teachers? Why do you think so many entrust themselves to them? How does Acts 20:18 help us to have a criteria for trusting the input of others?
5. How does applying what we know in one area help us in another we may not know so well? What role does humility play in your life of understanding what is true?
6. How does knowing that we are known by God through His Son change everything for us?

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

God has made us to know him and the world he has made.

What are ways that help me know him more clearly?

*HE WILL BE

God is faithful to His word
Even when there seems no way
Though time may pass His memory will not fade
His promises will never fail

Faithful He has been, faithful He will be
Time and time again His Word returns complete
To His truth I cling when the night is deep
Faithful He has been, faithful He will be

God is gracious when I doubt
He draws near though I retreat
Though I may wander through the wilderness
He goes with me and gives me peace

Gracious He has been, gracious He will be
What I don't deserve the Father gives to me
Where He leads my feet I shall not want or need
Gracious He has been, gracious He will be

God is worthy of my song
Countless are His awesome deeds
His mighty hand has parted raging seas
For those He loves, He has redeemed

(Chorus)
Worthy He has been, Worthy He will be
Crowned in endless praise all earth and heaven sing
Holy is the Lord who reigns in majesty
Worthy He has been, worthy He will be

(Bridge 2x)
He is my provider, covenant protector
All my hope is in the Lord my God
He is my sustainer, merciful redeemer
All my hope is in the Lord my God

(Chorus)

Worthy He has been, worthy He will be

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

*CHRISTUS VICTOR (AMEN)

O Most High King of the ages
Great I AM God of Wonders
By the blood You have redeemed us
Led us through mighty waters
Our strength, our song, our sure salvation

Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing honor glory power
For the battle You have won
Hallelujah Amen

O Most High Dwelling among us
Son of man sent for sinners
By Your blood You have redeemed us
Spotless Lamb mighty Savior
Who lived who died who rose victorious

(Chorus)
Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing honor glory power
For the battle You have won
Hallelujah

With every tribe and every tongue
We join the anthem of the angels
In the triumph of the Son
Hallelujah Amen

O Most High King of the nations
Robed in praise crowned with splendor
On that day who will not tremble
When You stand Christ the Victor
Who was and is and is forever
(Chorus 2x)

Sing the victory of the Lamb
Hallelujah Amen

*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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Alethia Christian Fellowship, Pastor Scott Keller

JANUARY MISSION FOCUS: MTW (Mission to the World) Internships

SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER SERVICE: Come close out your Sunday in prayer tonight at 6pm.

BABY SHOWER: On Sat., Jan. 10, ladies of all ages are invited to join us at the church from 9:30–11:30 am to celebrate God's gift of covenant children. For more details, contact Hannah Cunningham.

VESPERS SERVICE: Join us for Vespers next Sun., Jan. 11, at 6 pm. Come unplug and recharge with this evening service of prayer and song.

REVELATION READ-ALOUD: Ladies, join us on Wed., Jan. 14, from 9:30-11:30 am as we read the book of Revelation together prior to the beginning of our study.

YOUTH WINTER RETREAT: for 6th-12th graders is Jan. 16-18 at Dickey Lake Bible Camp. You can register using the QR code in the foyer or the link in the Friday eNewsletter.

WOMEN'S WINTER BIBLE STUDY: Begins Wed., Jan. 21. Sign up sheets are in the foyer. The cost for book + workbook will be \$15. Payment can be dropped off in the church office or paid with a credit card using the QR code.

SAVE THE DATE: The annual congregational meeting will be Wed., Jan. 28. A 6 pm soup supper will precede the 7 pm meeting. All members are encouraged to attend but you do not need to be a member to attend.

SERVING: January On-Call Deacon - Wade Carroll

Today (1st service/2nd service)

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

Next Sunday January 11

Ushers: Wilkersons / Bonners

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

Nursery: S. Morin / Wilburs

Fellowship Hosts: D. Corder & A. Ingram

Communion Prep/Cleanup: A. Haymond / J. Brown

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Sunday Worship Services

8:15 & 11 am

Sunday School

10 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