

# FAITH COVENANT

---

C H U R C H

---

*Spreading A Love for God and His Glory*

*December 4, 2022*



SECOND SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT

Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel!”

---

Ruth 4:14

## 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: Luke 1:46-47, 50 Lam. 5:19

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**All: You, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations.**

Leader: His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

**All: You, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations.**

*\*Indicates*

*when to stand.*

*All Music Copied*

*Under CCLI*

*License #34680*

**\*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, forevermore

Forevermore

*(Chorus)*

**\*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever.  
Amen.

**\*O WORSHIP THE KING - Hymn #2, vs. 1-2, 4-5**

O worship the King all-glorious above,  
O gratefully sing his power and his love:  
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might and sing of his grace,  
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail.  
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

## COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

### SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *1 John 1:5-8*

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**All:** Do not remember against us our former iniquities; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake! (*Psalm 79:8-9*)

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

### DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Psalm 28:8-9*

The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed. Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

### **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.

**\*COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS - Hymn #196**

Come Thou long-expected Jesus born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the saints Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, dayspring from on high, appear;  
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:  
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;  
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

**DIACONAL  
OFFERING:**

This morning  
we share in  
worshiping  
through our  
diaconal  
offering for  
those needing  
assistance in  
our church  
and  
community.

Please use the  
Special Offer-  
ing envelopes  
located in the  
pew racks.

**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)*

## ABIDE WITH ME

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.  
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

You on my head, in early youth did smile;  
And, though rebellious, and perverse meanwhile,  
You did not leave me, as often I left Thee.  
On to the end Lord, abide with me.

I need Your presence, every passing hour.  
What but Your grace, can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like Yourself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with You at hand to bless  
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness  
Where is your sting death? Where grave your victory?  
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold up your cross Lord, before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's chains are freed;  
*In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.*

*Sermon Series: Unto Us a Child is Born*  
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.  
*Ruth, You Are Included!: Ruth 1:1-21 (ESV)*

<sup>1</sup>In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons...<sup>3</sup>But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup>and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. <sup>6</sup>Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food. <sup>7</sup>So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup>But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me...”<sup>16</sup>But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. <sup>17</sup>Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.”<sup>18</sup>And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more. <sup>19</sup>So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, “Is this Naomi?”<sup>20</sup>She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. <sup>21</sup>I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

**Sermon Outline**

*Learning how to wait upon the Lord's redemption stretches our faith to see beyond our own emptiness to God's goodness.*

I. An Empty Basket

## II. A House of Bread

### Questions for Further Reflection:

1. How is the inclusion of Ruth into Israel a fulfillment of God's covenant promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:3 & 18:18)?
2. Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth are all foreigners listed in Jesus' genealogy. This is rather shocking from a Jewish perspective. What does this tell us about the nature of the gospel both in how it comes to us and to whom it comes?
3. Boaz gives us a picture of Jesus as our kinsman redeemer. Ruth gives us a picture of great faith in the Lord. Naomi gives us a picture of most of us—a mixed bag of belief and doubt. In what way does the book of Ruth challenge you in your faith?
4. The idea of exile is prominent in both Naomi and Ruth. One leaves exile while the other enters in. Where have you felt in exile? How is Jesus the One who brings you back home?
5. Like the Book of Esther, God's direct intervention is muted and behind the scenes in Ruth. How is the ordinary and commonplace faith of Ruth an encouragement to you? Have you ever been waiting for a "miracle" from the Lord and missed what he was doing right in front of you?

### Children's Question

*Most of us feel like outsiders sometimes.*

*How does the story of Ruth encourage you to know that Jesus includes 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.

**\*YET NOT I BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME**

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer  
There is no more for heaven now to give  
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom  
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace  
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus  
For my life is wholly bound to his  
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine  
Yet not I but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken  
For by my side the Savior he will stay  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing  
For in my need his power is displayed  
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me  
Through the deepest valley he will lead  
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome  
Yet not I but through Christ in me

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven  
The future sure the price it has been paid  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon  
And he was raised to overthrow the grave  
To this I hold my sin has been defeated  
Jesus now and ever is my plea  
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free  
Yet not I but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus  
For he has said that he will bring me home  
And day by day I know he will renew me  
Until I stand with joy before the throne  
*To this I hold my hope is only Jesus, all the glory evermore to him  
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat  
Yet not I but through Christ in me*

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*Wine is located in the two outer rings; juice is located in the center ring.*

## PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

8:15 Pastor— 11 Elder Micah Tinkham

### \*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.*

#### 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

### 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:** Faith Free Lutheran Church, Pastor Steve Snipstead

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

**LADIES' CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON & COOKIE EXCHANGE:** Ladies of all ages are invited to join us TODAY after second service in the fellowship hall. We will be assembling gift baskets for Refuge clients and enjoying a cookie exchange along with a time of food & fellowship.

**COMMUNITY KITCHEN-FEEDING THE FLATHEAD:** Those of you who are volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve this Thursday, Dec. 8, at Central Christian Church. Contact Dawn Tinkham for details (406-471-0656).

**VESPERS SERVICE:** Join us next Sunday, Dec. 11, 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 a treat 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.

---

**SERVING:** December Deacon - Bruce Tulloch

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

Ushers: Petersens/von Olhausens

Children's Church: Carolyn Duncan/Tim Anderson

Nursery: K. Neumann

Fellowship Hosts: Judy Fosbery & Paula Saldamando

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fenners/Niam Moody

**Next Sunday December 11th**

Ushers: Petersens/Matterns

Children's Church: Carolyn Duncan/Tim Anderson

Nursery: Falks

Fellowship Hosts: Kim von Olhausen & Eileen Pierson

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fosberys/Jeanie Brennehan

---

**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

---

Faith Covenant Church - 611 Third Ave. East, Kalispell, MT 59901 - 406-752-2400 - [www.faithcov.com](http://www.faithcov.com)