FAITH COVENANT CHURCH

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

November 29, 2026



Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Philippians 4:4

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; 1 Timothy 3:16*

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: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, and was taken up in glory.

Leader: Proclaim it among the nations. Sing of his greatness you people of God.

**Indicates when to stand.*
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***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 earth 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.

***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

***ANCIENT OF DAYS**

Though the nations rage
Kingdoms rise and fall
There is still one King
Reigning over all
So I will not fear for this truth remains:
That my God is the Ancient of Days

(Chorus)
None above Him, none before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power, all the glory
I will trust in His name
For my God is the Ancient of Days

Though the dread of night
Overwhelms my soul
He is here with me
I am not alone
O His love is sure and He knows my name
For my God is the Ancient of Days
(Chorus)

Though I may not see
What the future brings
I will watch and wait
For the Savior King
Then my joy complete standing face to face
In the presence of the Ancient of Days
(Chorus)

For my God is the Ancient of Days

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *1 Samuel 15:22-23*

Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.

All: Have mercy on us Lord. We often choose sacrifice over obedience. We presume upon your grace, and delight in our show of faith; yet our hearts can be far from you. Forgive us of our disobedience, when we have chosen to love our sin more than to love you. Forgive us of our rebellion, when we have willingly walked away from your commands, in order to pursue the sins of our flesh. Keep us from self-worship, disguised as true religion. Purify and cleanse us by the blood of our Savior, Jesus. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Hebrews 9:13-14*

Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity. Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

***CONFESSION OF CHRIST'S GRACE:**

(*The Heidelberg Catechism (1563), Question 1)*

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

Leader: He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

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.

***NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS** - *Hymn #307*

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

(Chorus)
O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know; nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my cleansing, this I see: nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my pardon this my plea: nothing but the blood of Jesus.
(Chorus)

Nothing can for sin atone: nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done: nothing but the blood of Jesus.
(Chorus)

This is all my hope and peace: nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness: nothing but the blood of Jesus.
(Chorus)

Now by this I'll overcome, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Now by this I'll reach my home, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
(Chorus)

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)

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.)

Online Giving

BE THOU MY VISION - *Hymn #642*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art
thou my best thought, by day or by night;
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father; I thy true son,
thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r:
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Sermon Series—Advent through Philippians 4

Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

Christ Came to Bring Reconciliation & Joy to His People—Philippians 4:1-7

[1]Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. [2]I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. [3]Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. [4]Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. [5]Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; [6]do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7]And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I. Reconciled

II. Rejoice

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.

Questions for Further Reflection

1. 1 John 3:8 tells us that Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil. Broken relationships with God and with one another are part of the Devil's work. How do we see Jesus reconciling us to the Father and to one another? (Cf Romans 5:8-10, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, Ephesians 2:15-16)
2. What role can others have in helping people to reconcile in the church?
3. The joy and peace we are to have are "in the Lord," and "from God" and "in Christ Jesus." How does the coming of Jesus bring us this joy?
4. In what way does Jesus guard your heart? How are we to keep from anxiety?
5. The community that Paul speaks to is to be a community centered on Jesus. Receiving the good news changes how we think and live from the inside out. The Lord acts and we are enabled to respond. What areas of this Christmas work are you currently laboring in?

Children's Question

Jesus came so that we could be reconciled to the Father and one another. Our joy flows from what Jesus has done. How does this restored relationship with the Lord help you to labor in getting along with others?

***CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE**

Mine are days that God has numbered, I was made to walk with Him
Yet I look for worldly treasure and forsake the King of kings
But mine is hope in my Redeemer though I fall, his love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing, I am His forevermore

Mine are tears in times of sorrow, darkness not yet understood
Through the valley I must travel where I see no earthly good
But mine is peace that flows from heaven and the strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted, Christ completes his work in me

Mine are days here as a stranger, pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter harm and hatred for his name
But mine is armor for this battle, strong enough to last the war
And he has said he will deliver safely to the golden shore

And mine are keys to Zion city, where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore

Come rejoice now, O my soul, for his love is my reward
Fear is gone and hope is sure, Christ is mine forevermore! (3x)

And mine are keys to Zion city, where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore (3x)

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)

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

*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.
Elders: Tim Anderson, Jason Davis, Sean Iddings, Tom Jentz, Trent Neumann, Lloyd Pierson, Matt Riley*, Micah Tinkham
Deacons: Wade Carroll*, Scott Cunningham, Terry Falk, Kyle Hanson, Patrick Jentz, Jeff McGarvey, Tom Moody, Mike Thompson, Bruce Tulloch
Coordinator of Women's Ministries: Deanna Kotila | *Director of the Refuge:* Sissy Hashley
Assistant to the Deacons/Mercy Ministries: Dawn Tinkham
Music Director: Lisa Iddings | *Youth & Family Intern:* Caleb Cole
Staff: Kelly Brown, Hanni Hanson, Jenny Mattern, Niam Moody
**currently on sabbatical*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Presence Church, Kalispell

NOVEMBER MISSION FOCUS: Mission to the World (MTW), the global mission-sending agency of the PCA

GENEVA RELIEF FUND OFFERING: We are collecting our annual special offering today to benefit retired pastors, widows, and other PCA ministry staff in need. Please make checks out to The Relief Fund or use one of the special offering envelopes located in the pew backs.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE: Ladies of Faith Covenant are invited to a cookie exchange at 6 pm on the evening of Sun., Dec. 6. Bring 2 dozen of your favorite cookies and go home with an assortment of delicious treats.

REFUGE GIFT CARDS: Our church's annual gift card drive for clients of the Refuge is going on now through Dec. 6! ($10-$20 gift cards to area grocery stores like Walmart/ Smiths/Super 1/etc. are the easiest to distribute) The more donations we get, the more we can bless these ladies! Drop your gift cards off in the box at the church office by Thurs., Dec. 3, or bring them to the cookie exchange on Dec. 6.

COOKIE DECORATING CLASS: will be held in the church kitchen on Wed., Dec. 16 at 6 pm. Class is limited to 12, but a mom+child combo counts as 1. No cost, supplies provided. Sign up in the foyer!

SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAK: Next Sun, Dec. 6, will be the last day of Sunday school for this calendar year.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES: Christmas Eve services at Faith Covenant will be at 4, 5:30, & 7 pm on Thurs., Dec. 24. There are postcards available in the foyer if you want to take some to share with family and friends!

SERVING: November On-Call Deacon - Scott Cunningham

Today (1st service/2nd service)
Ushers: R&M Wilkerson / Bonner Family
Children's Church: H. & Z. Hanson / A. Brown & Family
Nursery: N. Streeter & T. Jentz / K. Anderson & Family
Fellowship Hosts: A. Haymond & P. Albert
Communion Prep/Cleanup: G. Tronstad / S. Calvi

Next Sunday December 6
Ushers: Petersen Family / M&J Thompson
Children's Church: C. Duncan & E. Morin / J. Adney & C. Kliem
Nursery: D. Tinkham / Hunter Family
Fellowship Hosts: L. Pierson & J. Haugestuen
Communion Prep/Cleanup: J. Eck / J & C Funk

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Sunday Worship Services
8:15 & 11 am
Sunday School
Sept.-May 10 am
Vespers
2nd Sunday @ 6 pm
Wednesday Youth Group
MS & HS @ 6-7:45 pm
Elder/Deacon Meeting
3rd Monday @ 7 pm
Men's Breakfast
Wednesdays @ 6:30 am