



FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Sunday worship at Faith Presbyterian Church. If you are new to Faith, thank you for joining us. Would you please consider signing our guest book in the foyer?

Each Sunday we gather in Christian fellowship to glorify and enjoy God. We know that we are gathered here by grace alone. Motivated by His mercy, God sent His Son to die on the cross and rise again from the dead so that all those who trust in Him may be freed from the condemnation of sin and clothed with the righteousness of Jesus. Welcome to Faith Presbyterian Church.

**Please feel free to contact any of the Faith Presbyterian Church
Officers listed below with questions, prayer requests or needs:**

Elders:

John Jones	250.2087	jjones@faithanchorage.org
Bill March	345.2536	bmarch@faithanchorage.org
Mark Sprano	345.8650	msprano@faithanchorage.org
Jim Strong	522.3943	jstrong@faithanchorage.org
Bill Weiss	229.2730	bweiss@faithanchorage.org

Deacons:

Willie Rademaker	952.3511	Jeff Banker	830.5725
Greg Burkel	770.6556	Austin Phelps	980.1234

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN MINISTRIES:

Sunday School Superintendent:	Jay Gardner	222.7967
Volunteer Scheduling (Set-up, Clean-up, Greeter):	Cindy Strong	522.3943
Care Meals:	Colleen Cox	301.4158
Showers:		
Community Newsletter:	Elaine Cox & Ivy Bowler	communitynews@faithanchorage.org
Directory Changes:	Susan Weiss	directory@faithanchorage.org
Missions Committee:	Jackie Bennett	missions@faithanchorage.org

**If you know of a need in one of these areas, or are interested in serving, please contact a deacon, or speak with the ministry area chair.

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CCLI#: 2217486

Prayer for those not prepared to believe:

*God, no human mind could conceive or invent the gospel. Acting in eternal grace, you are both its messenger and its message, lived out on earth through infinite compassion, applying your life to insult, injury, death, that I might be redeemed, ransomed, freed. Glorious Trinity, impress the gospel on my soul, until its virtue diffuses every faculty. Teach me to secure this mighty blessing. Help me to give up every darling lust, to submit heart and life to its command, to have it in my will, controlling my affections, molding my understanding. Take me to the cross to seek glory from its infamy. Strip me of every pleasing pretense of righteousness by my own doings. O gracious Redeemer, I have neglected you too long, often crucified you, crucified you afresh in my impenitence, put you to open shame. I thank you for the patience that has borne with me so long, and for the grace that now makes me willing to be yours. O unite me to yourself with inseparable bonds, that nothing may ever draw me back from you, my Lord, my Savior.
Amen.*

Prayers for the Lord's table

Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper as a meal to be shared by his disciples. At Faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table all who are baptized believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, and are members in good standing of a Christian church. If you are not a professing Christian, or not a member of a church, we respectfully ask that you refrain from taking the bread and the wine. If you have any questions, you should ask Pastor John or one of our elders. You may also email the elders (elder@faithanchorage.org) or visit our website for more information.

Prayer for those not prepared for the Lord's table:

*My Father, I know that with body and soul, in life and death, I am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. With his precious blood, He has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil and so preserves me. Without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head and all things must be subservient to my salvation. Therefore, by your Holy Spirit, assure me of eternal life and make me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto you.
Amen.*

Prayer for baptized children not yet admitted to the Lord's table:

My Father, I could never look for happiness in your love, unless you first loved me. Your Spirit has encouraged me, by grace, to seek you. Your Spirit has made known to me your reconciliation in Jesus, has taught me to believe it, has helped me to take you for my God and portion. May your Spirit live in me that I may know my union with Jesus, and enter into constant fellowship with Him. I know but little. Increase my knowledge of your love in Jesus, keep me pressing forward for clearer discoveries of it so that I may find its eternal fullness. Amen.

Prayer Requests

- ◆ We pray for those struggling with very serious physical illness: Rosemary (friend of Faith member), Roger (father of Michael Schild, brain tumor), Debbie (enduring chemotherapy treatment), and Laura (her cancer has returned with more vigor); for those currently recovering, including Bonnie, Tanya (friend of Faith member, improving steadily), Carol, and James (recovering from heart surgery), and a couple of other friends of Faith in a recovery process; and for Kathleen Robertson and family (Grace OPC), grieving the loss of Ian.
- ◆ We pray for those with unmet earthly needs (financial provision, employment security, difficult decisions, physical health, etc.) and the depression, anxiety, and doubt that can flow from these needs; we thank God for His sufficiency in providing for these needs.
- ◆ We pray for the safety, health, and spiritual nurture of the children, youth, and high school students of our congregation and holiness for those called to instruct them Sunday mornings; we also pray for the growth in grace of our college students locally (Tom, Christine, Ivy, and others) and abroad, including Jacob Sprano (The College of Wooster), Zeb Rademaker (Rose-Hulman), Alexandra Sprano (NYU), and Shane Carver (UAF).
- ◆ We pray for expectant moms, Greta Palmer and Victoria Sprau.
- ◆ We pray for the advancement of the gospel in our neighborhoods, places of work, city, and state, and for Abraham and Esther and children (Bertie and Isaac) ministering in North India; we also pray for social and political rest in countries hostile to free assembly and gospel-proclamation.
- ◆ We pray for the advancement of the gospel in and through our own relationships with friends and family members who do not rest in Christ for salvation, and for the necessary courage, opportunity, and trust in our gospel proclamation.
- ◆ We pray for those in positions of political and civil authority (local, city, state, and federal), civil servants, and military personnel; those deployed or who may be anticipating deployment.
- ◆ We pray for those currently traveling or away for a season, including the Anderson and Alpert families, Jason, and others.
- ◆ We pray for gospel-proclaiming churches in our area; Jack Phelps of Covenant Bible (Chugiak) and Scott Johnson of Grace Orthodox Presbyterian (Wasilla), and others; church plants in our presbytery including All Souls in West Seattle and Ascension in Hillsboro, Oregon; we also pray for the difficulties at Hillcrest Presbyterian (West Seattle); we pray for Reconciliation Church at Evergreen in Beaverton, Oregon, for the leadership (James, Victoria, Anthony, Robert, Denise, Anita, Charlie, Nathan, Glenda, Everett, Benjamin, Sophia), for those struggling with doubt (Noah, Jeff, Alex's dad, Steve, Paul), those who need profound help (Jen, Vanessa, Marna, Clifford, Barbara, Jeff), for those grieving (Max, Jack), and for those enduring tough times of life (Joe, Ted, Stephanie, Robin, Joann, Penny, and her son, Paul).
- ◆ We pray for the love and unity and peace of our congregation; for zeal and Christ-like example in our elders and deacons; for wisdom for the committees, leadership, and teachers of Faith; and for God's guidance to a larger worship facility.

FAITH SUPPORTED MISSIONS

- ◆ Abraham and Esther, New Light and Life Mission in North India. Learn more at faithanchorage.org/mission/india.

*The Lord's Day, December 25, 2011
Morning Worship Service*

Prelude

Announcements

*Silent Prayer
and
Preparation*

Call to Worship

Isaiah 52.7-9

*How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation;*

Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

The voice of your watchmen -- they lift up their voice;

Together they sing for joy;

*For eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.*

***Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem;***

For the LORD has comforted his people;

He has redeemed Jerusalem.

Hark! the
Herald
Angels Sing

203

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Sermon Notes

God plants in barren places
(Jeremiah 31.27-30)

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 7/8. The word 'REFRAIN' is written above the first measure of the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the staves: 'Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."' The music features a mix of chords and single notes, with some measures containing rests.

Charles Wesley, 1739, 1753; alt.

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.D.ref.
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840
Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

Isaiah 59.1-3

*Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,
or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;
but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,
and your sins have hidden his face from you
so that he does not hear.
For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity;
your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness.*

*Prayer of
Confession*

Isaiah 61.10-11

*I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.*

*Word of
Assurance*

It Came
upon a
Midnight
Clear
200

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et bards fore - told,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;

“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all - gra - cious King”;
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



the world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Edmund H. Sears, 1850

CAROL C.M.D.
Richard S. Willis, 1850

Notes for Little Theologians

When your Little Theologians listen to this morning's sermon, help them be thinking about the **Big Idea!** of the Scripture text. Little ones may want to spend time drawing the **Big Idea!** during the sermon.

The **Big Idea!** is often so big that it encompasses several Scripture passages. Therefore, each sermon has main points that always lead the listener from the **Big Idea!** to two important components of the sermon: our **Fallenness**  and our **Treasure** . Every passage in the Bible tells us something about our need as weak sinners (2 Timothy 3.16) and our one Treasure, Jesus the Redeemer (Luke 24.27). Little Theologians should listen for these! At the conclusion of each sermon your Little Theologian should listen for the Holy Response in which the Scripture tells us how to walk.

Jeremiah 31.27-30

The Big Idea!

The political landscape of Judah has changed. Half of the nation is in exile, and half is in a city of rubble. Both sets of people have a foreign ruler. There is not nation of Israel. There is no unifying worship. It is a confusing time politically, culturally, and spiritually.

As a response, three opinions have formed. One is abject pessimism. One is naïve optimism. And the other is personal, quiet, individual trust. It is the latter that Jeremiah stresses, for he insists that every individual must look to the personal-absolute God of the Bible for salvation!

A. The land is barren because of sin.



B. But God plants on barren land.



HOUSE TO HOUSE MINISTRY SCHEDULE

House to House is a ministry of Faith Presbyterian Church elders. In the history of the church, it has been the habit of elders to minister from “house to house (Acts 20.20-21 and James 5.14).” The Bible teaches that elders are a gift to the church (Ephesians 4.11-12) who are called to “pay careful attention to the flock,” (Acts 20.28) . . . not just on Sunday and not just in the sanctuary.

Each visit lasts one hour and is intended for the entire family. There is no need to prepare. After opening with a short rationale for the ministry, followed by a devotion, we encourage one another’s growth in grace and pray together.

As is within your power to do so, could you please schedule this time? If you must reschedule, you may swap with another family, or contact the church office as soon as possible.

Tuesday, January 10	Hilde (6:30 pm)	Goertzen (7:45 pm)
Tuesday, January 17	Larson (6:30 pm)	Lieno (7:45 pm)
Tuesday, January 24	Stephens (6:30 pm)	R. Rademaker (7:45 pm)
Tuesday, January 31	Whitley (6:30 pm)	Potter (7:45 pm)
Tuesday, February 21	Sprau (6:30 pm)	Reed (7:45 pm)
Tuesday, February 28	Yeager (6:30 pm)	H. March (7:45 pm)
Tuesday, March 20	Banker (6:30 pm)	Peters (7:45 pm)
Tuesday, March 27	Schild (6:30 pm)	Weiss (7:45 pm)
Tuesday, April 17	I. Vreeman (6:30 pm)	C. Cox (7:45 pm)
Tuesday, April 24	Behnen (6:30 pm)	Burkel (7:45 pm)
Tuesday, May 1	J. Johnson (6:30 pm)	Becker (7:45 pm)
Tuesday, May 15	W. Rademaker (6:30 pm)	E. Cox (7:45 pm)
Tuesday, May 22	Cryder (6:30 pm)	Dickerson (7:45 pm)

The Lord’s Prayer

*Our Father, who is 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.*

John 15.1-17

*Prayers of the
People*

*Lesson from
the New
Testament*

Angels We
Have Heard
On High

214

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep- herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun- tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Traditional French carol

GLORIA 7.7.7.ref.
Traditional French melody
Arr. by Edward S. Barnes, 1937

Faith Volunteer Schedule – Winter 2011

If possible, please arrange ahead if you are unable to serve during your scheduled time. If you are interested in serving the church by volunteering, please speak with Cindy Strong.

Nursery Volunteers
December 25 - Karen & Linnea Jones
January 1 - Barbara Strong & Ivy Bowler
January 8 - Alicia Beattie & Andrea Pelenato
January 15 - Jennifer & Hannah Cryder
January 22 - Bernadette March & Hannah Vreeman
January 29 - Barb Burkel & Naomi Cryder
February 5 - Beth & Tommy Rademaker
February 12 - Ron & Christine Yeager
February 19 - Shiloh Vreeman & Guang Ming Whitley
February 26 - Cindy Strong & Rachel Rademaker

Set-Up Volunteers
December - Beattie & Becker
January - Schneider & Reed
February - Rademaker

Clean-Up Volunteers
December - Gardner
January - Strong
February - Cryder

Greeters
December - B. Strong
January - Burkel
February - March

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE YEAGER FAMILY on the birth of Evelyn Otillia! Evelyn was born on Tuesday, December 20. She was 7 pounds, 5 ounces and 19 3/4 inches long.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Thursday, January 19, 7:15 pm at Tanglewood.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the Winter Theology Conference on Friday & Saturday, January 27 & 28. Pastor Rob Rayburn will be the guest speaker.

FAITH HAS A MISSIONS COMMITTEE THAT SERVES the bridge between our church and the missions that we financially support. There are many things to do and the Committee is always looking for more people who are excited about missions. Meetings are held monthly, typically on a Tuesday. If anyone would like to participate on the Committee please contact Jackie Bennett (you can find her contact information on the inside cover of the bulletin).

DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE IN THE BULLETIN? Send it to bulletin@faithanchorage.org by 5:00 pm, Wednesday evening.

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CALENDAR

For up to date calendar events, check out our online calendar at www.faithanchorage.org.

This Week, December 26-January 1:

Tuesday

9:30 am – Ladies' Prayer Meeting at Tanglewood – Contact Bernadette March (345.2536)

Wednesday

7:00 pm – Choir Practice at the Whitley Home - Contact Joel or Guang Ming (830.0311)

Thursday

6:00-7:00 am – Men's Prayer Meeting at the Yeager Home – Contact Ron Yeager (223.2828)

Sunday

9:00 am – R.C. Sproul on the Radio - Radio Broadcast Supported by Faith PCA - Tune into to KATB-FM 89.3

11:00 am – Morning Worship Service

Future Events:

2nd Sunday of Each Month – Celebration of the Lord's Supper

2nd Sunday of Each Month – Fellowship Meal – Please join us for fellowship meal immediately following the morning worship service

Thursday, January 5, 7:00 pm – Roman's Bible Study at the Jones Home. All are invited to examine Christian doctrine in Paul's letter to the congregations at Rome. This study meets every other Thursday.

Thursday, January 19, 7:15 pm – Annual Congregation Meeting at Tanglewood

January 27-29 – Winter Theology Conference with guest Rob Rayburn

*Presentation
of God's
Tithe*

Jeremiah 31.27-30

Scripture

God plants in barren places

Sermon

*Prayer of
Application*

Heidelberg Catechism, 1

Christian, what is your only comfort in life and death?

That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

*Confession of
Faith*

Joy to the
World! The
Lord Is
Come

195

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
and heav'n and na - ture sing,

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Based on Psalm 98
Isaac Watts, 1719

ANTIOCH C.M.rep.
George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1836

Doxology

733

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea - tures

here be - low: al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise him a -

bove, ye heav'n - ly host, praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Thomas Ken, 1709; alt.

LASST UNS ERFREUEN L.M.al.
"Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623

Postlude

Benediction