

## OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Presbyterian Church in America or “The PCA” is a distinctly evangelical denomination in the Reformed tradition. The Bible as the Word of God is the primary standard for our faith. The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, although subordinate to the Bible in their authority, set forth our understanding of biblical truth in a consistent, concise, and reliable form. In the Reformed tradition, there are five key tenets, among others, that we hold to: By Scripture Alone; By Christ Alone; By Grace Alone; By Faith Alone; and To God Alone be the Glory.

- We believe the Bible is the written word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and without error in the original manuscripts. The Bible is the revelation of God’s truth and is infallible and authoritative in all matters of faith and practice.
- We believe in the Holy Trinity. There is one God, who exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- We believe that all are sinners and totally unable to save themselves from God’s displeasure, except by His mercy.
- We believe that salvation is by God alone as He sovereignly chooses those He will save. We believe His choice is based on His grace, not on any human individual merit, or foreseen faith.
- We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who through His perfect life and sacrificial death atoned for the sins of all who will trust in Him, alone, for salvation.
- We believe that God is gracious and faithful to His people not simply as individuals but as families in successive generations according to His Covenant promises.
- We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells God’s people and gives them the strength and wisdom to trust Christ and follow Him.
- We believe that Jesus will return, bodily and visibly, to judge all mankind and to receive His people to Himself.
- We believe that all aspects of our lives are to be lived to the glory of God under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.



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*Spreading A Love for God and His Glory*

**December 1, 2013**



*“Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands;  
seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden  
on the day of the anger of the LORD.” Zephaniah 2:3*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MOMENT FOR MINISTRY:** *Feed the Flathead*

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

### **His Calling and Our Praise**

**\*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)*

*We ask that you please turn off cell phones during the worship service. Thank you.*

**\*LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES!** – Hymn #198 vs. 1,4,5,6

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

**\*PRAYER OF PRAISE**

**\*HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD**

The splendor of the King clothed in majesty.  
Let all the earth rejoice, let all the earth rejoice.  
He wraps himself in light and darkness tries to hide  
and trembles at his voice, and trembles at his voice.

*(Chorus)*

*How great is our God, sing with me.  
How great is our God, and all will see  
how great, how great is our God.*

Age to age he stands and time is in his hands.  
Beginning and the end, beginning and the end;  
the Godhead three in one: Father, Spirit, Son.  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

*(Chorus)*

*(Bridge 2x)*

Name above all names, you are worthy of our praise  
and my heart will sing how great is our God.

*(Chorus 2x)*

## **His Renewal and Our Hope**

### **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)**

## **CALENDAR**

### **TODAY**

8:30 a.m. – WORSHIP SERVICE  
9:45 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship  
10:00 a.m. – Sunday School for All Ages  
11:00 a.m. – WORSHIP SERVICE  
12:30 p.m. – Pastors' Lunch

### **THIS WEEK**

Tuesday – Trustees Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the church  
Wednesday – Men's Prayer Breakfast, 6:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall  
– Senior High Youth Group, 7:00 p.m. at Neumanns' (111 E. Bluegrass Dr.)  
– Junior High Youth Group, 7:00 p.m. at the church  
Thursday – Women's Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m. at the church

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

Tuesdays – Music practice, 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays – Men's Prayer Breakfast, 6:45 a.m.  
– Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups (Sept.-May)  
Sundays – Adult Small Groups (Sept.-May)  
1st Sundays – Diaconal Offering  
1st Tuesdays – Elder home visits  
3rd Tuesdays – Elders/Deacons' meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
2nd & 4th Tuesdays – Elizabeth Women, noon, at Jo Anne Ross' home, (Sept.-May)

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Sunday, Dec. 8 – Ladies' Christmas Cookie Exchange, 2 p.m. at Piersons' home  
Thursday, Dec. 12 – Feed the Flathead, 5:30 p.m. at Central Christian Church  
Tuesday, Dec. 17 – Elder/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the church  
Tuesday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.

## LORD'S SUPPER OBSERVANCE

At Faith Covenant, the Lord's Supper is observed 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. By eating the bread and drinking the cup with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to our church that you are in covenant with God. You also acknowledge that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation. If you have any doubts about your participation, please speak to the pastor or one of the elders after the service. 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. The wine is located in the two outer rings and the juice is located in the center ring.

*For Prayer Chain requests or to be added to the prayer chain, please contact the church office at 752-2400 or email to [office@faithcov.com](mailto:office@faithcov.com).*

## DECEMBER MINISTRIES

DEACON OF THE MONTH ..... Micah Hill  
NURSERY M.O.M. (Mom of the Month) ..... Sharon Riley  
NURSERY COORDINATOR ..... Darcy Hearn  
*Direct Nursery questions, concerns, praises, etc., to Darcy at 270-8933.*

### TODAY

USHERS/GREETERS (8:30 AM) ..... Nick & Hanni Hanson  
USHERS/GREETERS (11 AM) ..... Nick & Hanni Hanson  
CHILDREN'S CHURCH (11 AM service only) ..... Tamie & Kathryn Jentz  
WORSHIP NURSERY (8:30 AM) ..... Darcy Hearn  
WORSHIP NURSERY (11 AM infants) ..... Yvonne Hernandez & Kelly Brown  
WORSHIP NURSERY (11 AM toddlers thru 3yrs) ..... Lancasters  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS ..... Kate Anderson & Jenae Schmautz  
COMMUNION PREP ..... Carol Martin  
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP ..... Hanni Hanson

### NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 8

USHERS/GREETERS (8:30 AM) ..... Nick & Hanni Hanson  
USHERS/GREETERS (11 AM) ..... Nick & Hanni Hanson  
CHILDREN'S CHURCH (11 AM service only) ..... Shari Montague  
WORSHIP NURSERY (11 AM infants) ..... Heyboers  
WORSHIP NURSERY (11 AM toddlers thru 3yrs) ..... Salyers  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS ..... Tamie Jentz & Carol Stewart  
COMMUNION PREP ..... Dar Wassink  
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP ..... Yvonne Hernandez

## 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.

### \*AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

*(Chorus)*

*My chains are gone. I've been set free, my God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood his mercy rains unending love, amazing grace.*

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

*(Chorus 2x)*

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow; the sun forbear to shine.  
But God, who called me here below, will be forever mine, will be forever mine.  
You are forever mine.

### PRAYER, OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

*Diaconal Offering today: Please use the Special Offering envelopes located in the pew racks.  
Reminder: please sign and pass the Attendance Register down the pew.  
11:00 a.m. Service: Children ages 4-6 are excused for Children's Church  
(held downstairs in the Fellowship Hall)*

\***NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD** – Hymn #307

\***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

## His Word and Our Response

**Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson**

**Sermon Series: Advent 2013**

**Sermon Title: Making Sense of Judgment**

**Sermon Text: Zephaniah 1:1-2:3**

*(See pages 6-8 for sermon outline and text)*

**\*JESUS MESSIAH**

He became sin who knew no sin,  
that we might become his righteousness.  
He humbled himself and carried the cross.  
Love so amazing, love so amazing!

*(Chorus)*

*Jesus Messiah, name above all names;  
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.  
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven,  
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.*

His body the bread, his blood the wine,  
broken and poured out all for love.  
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn.  
Love so amazing, love so amazing!

*(Chorus)*

*(Bridge)*

All our hope is in you, all our hope is in you.  
All the glory to you, God, the Light of the world.  
*(Chorus)*

*Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.*

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*Wine is located in the two outer rings; juice is located in the center ring.  
(See FCC Observance on page 10)*

**PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION**

**\*JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME**— Hymn #195

**\*BENEDICTION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:** The Salvation Army,  
Major Steven Svenson

**MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:** Community Kitchen  
- Feed the Flathead: Pray for guests to come to and grow in Christ and for provision for  
the needs of the ministry.

**DIACONAL OFFERING:** This morning we share in worshipping through our diaconal  
offering for those needing assistance in our church and community. Please use the Special  
Offering envelopes located in the pew racks.

**PASTORS' LUNCH:** Newcomers to Faith Covenant in the last year are invited to lunch  
with the pastors in the Fellowship Hall **TODAY**, after the second service.

**BULLETIN VOLUNTEER NEEDED:** The church office needs a volunteer (or  
volunteers) to assemble the worship bulletin every Friday. Contact Kristin Bay in the  
church office if you can help. Thank you to Carolyn Steward, our retiring volunteer, who  
has faithfully served us in this vital capacity for many years!

**CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE:** Ladies, mark your calendars for a Christmas  
Cookie Exchange NEXT Sunday, December 8, at 2 p.m. at Laura Pierson's home (30  
Chip Court). Bring two dozen cookies to exchange, and an item for the Hope Pregnancy  
Center: they are in need of size 4 & 5 diapers, baby blankets for boys, and 3T-5T  
clothing. However, cookies and gifts are optional - you are welcome to just bring yourself  
for Christmas fellowship!

**CHILDCARE VOLUNTEER NEEDED:** Adult volunteers are needed for childcare  
for the Refuge domestic abuse support group on a weekly basis for two hours. If you can  
help with this pressing need, contact the church office (752-2400 or [office@faithcov.com](mailto:office@faithcov.com)).

Our **CHRISTMAS EVE** Candlelight Service will be held this year at 7:00 p.m.

**CLARISSE and ANDRY Sunday school offering status:**  
Monthly goal = \$100; November amount: \$73.14

**CHRISTMAS FOR FEED THE FLATHEAD:** Each year the Community Kitchen  
- Feed the Flathead ministry serves Christmas dinner and provides gifts for about 100  
guests including children. They are currently collecting gifts items such as shampoo,  
toothbrushes/paste, lotion, calendars, gloves, knit hats, scarves, socks, coffee or drink  
mixes and toys for children from babies to age 12. If you would like to contribute, leave  
your gift in the box by the tree in the fellowship hall or contact Sharon Thompson or  
Joyce Schmutz to donate money to help with the costs of food and gifts.

**COMMUNITY KITCHEN-FEED THE FLATHEAD:** Those of you who are  
volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve next on **Thursday, December 12** at  
Central Christian Church. If you have questions, contact Sharon Thompson or Joyce  
Schmutz.

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Why are the Minor Prophets such “fly over states” for many Christians?
2. What does “the Day of the Lord” refer to?
3. Consider: *“We Christians sometimes believe that the cross will always shield us from similar condemnation, but there is no automatic guarantee in the gospel of Christ against such death. Where the worship of his Lordship becomes mixed with allegiance to other lords, where there is belief that luck or the stars or the powers of this world ultimately control our destiny, where we therefore neglect the worship of the Lord and conform to the ways of society and water down his commands for convenience for ideological servitude, we too are confronted by a God who can say to us, “I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth.” And perhaps in this nuclear age we have had a glimpse of the instruments of that sweeping.”*—Achtemeier
4. A famous poem (Dies irae) was written in the 13th century using verses 14-18. It was widely used in liturgy and translated into multiple languages. Today it is little known and used. What are some reasons for the cultural shift regarding God’s judgment?
5. In what way is 2:3 a key verse in this prophecy of judgment?
6. How does the coming of Christ both soften the hard edge of this judgment as well as harden and sharpen it?

***Faith Covenant Church  
exists to spread a love for God and His glory,  
through the WORD:***

**Worship  
Outreach  
Relationship  
Discipleship**

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

*“Serving One Another in Love” Galatians 5:13*

**CHURCH OFFICE:** 752-2400 / [office@faithcov.com](mailto:office@faithcov.com)

**SENIOR PASTOR:** Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR:** Shane Waldron

**OFFICE STAFF:** Kristin Bay, Shari Montague

**BOOKKEEPER:** Carlynn Stahlberg

**CUSTODIAN:** Kelly Brown

**SR. HIGH YOUTH LEADER:** Trent Neumann

### ELDERS

Grady Bennett.....	314-4207	Don Olmsted .....	250-7915
Dave Hanson .....	249-8893	Matt Riley .....	756-8913
Tom Jentz .....	755-2029	Steve Thompson.....	857-3326
Duane Martin (sabbatical) ..	756-6026	Jan Wassink.....	249-6590

### DEACONS

Buford Bennett .....	261-7124	Micah Hill .....	890-2058
Doug Brown .....	890-0760	Mike Stahlberg .....	270-2509
Ike Eisentraut.....	257-2222	Bruce Tulloch.....	755-4550
Bill Gamble .....	249-0152		

### BUILDING TRUSTEES

Brian Bay.....	752-9087	Nick Hanson.....	253-4668
Donnie Burns.....	261-9830	Matt Vander Ark.....	871-0615
Russ Hadley (lead) .....	752-3661		



## SERMON OUTLINE

December 1, 2013

Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

Sermon Series: Advent 2013

Sermon Title: *Making Sense of Judgment*

### I. Day of the Lord

### II. Seek the Lord

## SERMON TEXT Zephaniah 1:1-2:3 (ESV)

**1:1** The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.

<sup>2</sup> “I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth,” declares the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> “I will sweep away man and beast; I will sweep away the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, and the rubble with the wicked. I will cut off mankind from the face of the earth,” declares the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> “I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off from this place the remnant of Baal and the name of the idolatrous priests along with the priests,

<sup>5</sup> those who bow down on the roofs to the host of the heavens, those who bow down and swear to the LORD and yet swear by Milcom,

<sup>6</sup> those who have turned back from following the LORD, who do not seek the LORD or inquire of him.”

<sup>7</sup> Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.

<sup>8</sup> And on the day of the LORD’s sacrifice— “I will punish the officials and the king’s sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire...

<sup>12</sup> At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, ‘The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.’...

<sup>14</sup> The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup> A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

<sup>16</sup> a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup> I will bring distress on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the LORD; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung... In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

**2:1** Gather together, yes, gather, O shameless nation,

<sup>2</sup> before the decree takes effect—before the day passes away like chaff— before there comes upon you the burning anger of the LORD, before there comes upon you the day of the anger of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD.