

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 15, 2013



“For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord.” Zephaniah 3:9

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

His Calling and Our Praise

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Isaiah 52:7-10*

Leader: 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.”

All: 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.

Leader: Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

*(*Indicates when to stand)*

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

**ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH – Hymn #214*

**HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING – Hymn #203*

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

***SCRIPTURE OF PRAISE** *1 Samuel 2:1-2*

**All: My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high.
My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance.
There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.**

***YOU ARE HOLY**

You are holy (You are holy)
You are mighty (You are mighty)
You are worthy (You are worthy)
Worthy of praise (Worthy of praise)

I will follow (I will follow)
I will listen (I will listen)
I will love you (I will love you)
All of my days (All of my days)

I will sing to (You are Lord of lords)
And worship (You are King of kings)
The King who (You are mighty God)
Is worthy (Lord of everything)
I will love and (You're Emmanuel)
Adore you (You're the Great I Am)
And I will bow down (You're my Prince of Peace)
before you (Who is the Lamb)
I will sing to (You're my living God)
And worship (You're my saving grace)
The King who (You will reign forever)
Is worthy (You are Ancient of Days)
I will love and (You are alpha, omega)
Adore you (Beginning and end)
And I will bow down (You're my Savior, Messiah)
Before you (Redeemer and friend)
You're my Prince of Peace
And I will live my life for you.
(Repeat all)

You're my Prince of Peace
And I will live my life for you. (2x)

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

THIS WEEK

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

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)

Tuesday, Dec. 17 – Elder/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the church
Tuesday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 5 – Sunday School resumes at 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 7 – Trustees Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the church
Thursday, Jan. 9 – Feed the Flathead, 5:30 p.m. at Central Christian Church
Tuesday, Jan. 14 – Women's Ministry Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m. at the church
Tuesday, Jan. 14 – Fellowship Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the church
Tuesday, Jan. 21 – Elder/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the church
Wednesday, Jan. 22 – Annual Meeting & Soup Supper, 6:00 p.m. at the church

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.

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) Tim & Kate Anderson
CHILDREN'S CHURCH (11 AM service only) Shari Montague
WORSHIP NURSERY (8:30 AM) Darcy Hearn
WORSHIP NURSERY (11 AM infants) Heyboers
WORSHIP NURSERY (11 AM toddlers thru 3yrs) Rileys
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS Tami Jentz & Marlo Lancaster
COMMUNION PREP Gary & Barb Fenner
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP Diane Nugent

NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 22

USHERS/GREETERS (8:30 AM) Nick & Hanni Hanson
USHERS/GREETERS (11 AM) Tim & Kate Anderson
CHILDREN'S CHURCH (11 AM service only) Sharon & Zane Salyer
WORSHIP NURSERY (11 AM infants) Turners
WORSHIP NURSERY (11 AM toddlers thru 3yrs) Wendy Putzler
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS Carolyn Duncan & Alyssa Hobus
COMMUNION PREP Terry & Judy Fosbery
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP Donelle Holderbaum

His Renewal and Our Hope

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *Romans 2:1*

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

All: Righteous and Holy Sovereign, save me from myself, from the deceits of my sin, from the treachery of my perverse nature, from denying your charge against my offenses, from a life of continual rebellion against you; for I know that all my thoughts, affections, desires, and pursuits are easily alienated from you. Father of my spirit, King of my life, drive me not from your presence, but wound my heart that it may be healed, break it so that your own hand may make it whole. Amen. (*Adapted from prayer in Valley of Vision*)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Revelation 21:3-4*

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

***THERE IS A REDEEMER**

There is a Redeemer – Jesus, God's own son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

(Chorus)

*Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.

(Chorus)

When I stand in glory, I will see his face;
there I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.

(Chorus 2x)

PRAYER, OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

*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)*

AWAY IN A MANGER – Hymn #204

*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

His Word and Our Response

Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson

Sermon Series: Advent 2013

Sermon Title: A New Nation

Sermon Text: Zephaniah 3:8-13

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

*BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

All my days I will sing this song of gladness,
give my praise to the fountain of delights;
for in my helplessness you heard my cry,
and waves of mercy poured down on my life.

I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer;
I will sing of the blood that never fails,
of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed,
of death defeated and life without end.

(Chorus)

*Beautiful Savior, Wonderful Counselor,
clothed in majesty, Lord of history,
you're the Way, the Truth, the Life.
Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness,
you're the Risen One, heaven's champion,
and you reign, you reign over all!*

I long to be where the praise is never ending;
yearn to dwell where the glory never fades,
where countless worshipers will share one song,
and cries of "worthy" will honor the Lamb!

(Chorus 2x)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: New Covenant Church,
Kalispell, Pastor Lance Dannic

MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Jim & Jill Hadlock with
CRU Jesus Films

There will be **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** classes on Sunday, Dec. 22 and Sunday, Dec. 29.
Classes will resume Jan. 5.

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).

LADIES BIBLE STUDY - SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: Ladies are invited to study
the age-old spiritual disciplines practiced by Christians for hundreds of years such as
prayer, fasting, silence and celebration. The study will meet monthly (January-May)
with time to practice each selected discipline between meetings. Sign up in the foyer and
contact Chany Ockert with questions (260-3221).

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

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 Schmautz to donate money to help with the costs of food and gifts.

CLARISSE and ANDRY Sunday school offering status:

Monthly goal = \$100; November amount: \$74.03

NEIGHBORS IN NEED BENEFIT CONCERT: Missoula guitarist and singer-
songwriter John Floridis will perform a benefit concert for Neighbors in Need TODAY,
Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. at Whitefish United Methodist Church, 1150 Wisconsin Ave.

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT: A free annual community Christmas concert,
Home for Christmas, will be Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 22 and 23, at 6 p.m. at the
Bigfork Center for the Performing Arts. Special guests include Mel Haug, Nikki Frizzell
and Carlene Prince, and the concert benefits Neighbors in Need.

HOPE PREGNANCY DONATIONS: Thank you to all the ladies who brought
donations for the Hope Pregnancy Center at the recent cookie exchange!

SALVATION ARMY NEEDS YOU! The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers
for two important duties: 1) Sit at the Angel Tree at Kalispell Center Mall to accept the
donations of new toys and clothes that are given out to children for Christmas, or 2) Ring
the bell for the red kettles in all Flathead Valley communities. This is our major fund-
raiser for the year, therefore it is very important to have volunteers to ring. If you are able
to help, please call 257-4357 or email sandy.reich@usw.salvationarmy.org.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- 1. In the Hebrew, verse 9 is structurally connected to verse 8. The twin themes of judgment and hope are connected repeatedly by the prophets. What happens to the biblical message of the gospel when we remove the theme of judgment?**
- 2. What does this emphasis on pure speech indicate?**
- 3. Consider: “As the lips of Isaiah, the sinful member of a sinful people, had been purified by the fiery coal from the altar typifying the Cross of Calvary, so the Lord will change in the lips of Gentile nations by the preaching of this Cross...All will put their shoulder to his service and joyful gratitude for his salvation.” – T. Laetsch**
- 4. What are we to make of the timing of verses 9 and 11: “at that time” or “on that day”?**
- 5. How is verse 9 a reference to the tower of Babel? In what way is Pentecost the undoing of Babel?**
- 6. In what way does Zephaniah’s message encourage God’s people in his day? And how are we to understand his message in the greater message of the coming of Jesus?**

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

****COME THOU FOUNT, COME THOU KING***

Come, thou fount of ev’ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount, I’m fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

I was lost in utter darkness ‘til you came and rescued me.
I was bound by all my sin when your love came and set me free.
Now my soul can sing a new song; now my heart has found a home.
Now your grace is always with me and I’ll never be alone.

(Chorus)

*Come, thou Fount, come thou King, come thou precious Prince of Peace.
Hear your bride, to you we sing. Come, thou Fount of our blessing.
Come, thou Fount, come thou King, come thou precious Prince of Peace.
Hear your bride, to you we sing. Come, thou Fount of our blessing.*

O to grace, how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be.
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wand’ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

(Chorus)

***BENEDICTION**

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

**Worship
Outreach
Relationship
Discipleship**

SERMON OUTLINE
December 15, 2013
Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.
Sermon Series: Advent 2013
Sermon Title: *A New Nation*

I. The move of a new people

II. The marks of a new people

SERMON TEXT
Zephaniah 3:8-13 (ESV)

⁸ “Therefore wait for me,” declares the LORD, “for the day when I rise up to seize the prey. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger; for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed.

⁹ “For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord.

¹⁰ From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, the daughter of my dispersed ones, shall bring my offering.

¹¹ “On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain.

¹² But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD,

¹³ those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.”