

## 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 14, 2014**



*“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.” John 15:18*

## **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.*

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

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

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

\**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL* – Hymn #194 vs. 1, 2, 4, 5

## *His Renewal and Our Hope*

### COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

**SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION:** 2 Samuel 22:26-28

With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the blameless man you show yourself blameless; with the purified you deal purely, and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous. You save a humble people, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down.

**All: Lord of all mercy and compassion, I am neither blameless nor pure.**

**My heart is crooked, and I elevate myself at the expense of others.**

**Forgive me for my sins and cleanse me from my defilement, that through my Redeemer, Christ Jesus, I might be pure and spotless.**

**Grant me a humble heart, and by your Holy Spirit, enable me to strive for new and fresh obedience, all to the praise of your glorious grace. Amen.**

### SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

**DECLARATION OF GRACE:** 2 Samuel 22:29-31

For you are my lamp, O LORD, and my God lightens my darkness. For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

\**O COME DIVINE MESSIAH, COME*

O come, divine Messiah, come! The world in silence waits the day  
When hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away.

*O Come, O Come*

Dear Savior haste; come to the earth, dispel the night and show your face,  
Come take on flesh; and behold the birth, full of truth and grace

*O Come, O Come*

*(song continued on next page)*

## CALENDAR

### TODAY

8:30 a.m. – WORSHIP SERVICE  
9:45 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship  
10:15 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages  
11:15 a.m. – WORSHIP SERVICE

### THIS WEEK

Tuesday – Elders/Deacon’s meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the church  
Wednesday – Senior High Youth Group, 7:00-9:00 at the church  
– Junior High Youth Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the church

### LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesdays – Music practice, 5:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays – Men’s Fraternity Study, 6:00-7:30 a.m., at the church  
– Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups 7:00 p.m. (Sept.-May)  
Weekly – Adult Small Groups (Sept.-May)  
1st Sundays – Diaconal Offering  
1st Tuesdays – Trustee Meeting  
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, December 21 – Christmas Coffee Hour, 9:45-11:15 a.m. at church  
Tuesday, December 23 – Elizabeth Women’s Group, noon, Jo Anne Ross’ home  
Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, January 6 – Trustees Meeting, 6:00 p.m. at the church  
Saturday, January 10 – Habitat for Humanity Work Day, details TBA  
Sunday, January 11 – Prime Timers 50+ Potluck, 12:30 at the church  
Tuesday, January 13 – Elizabeth Women’s Group, noon, Jo Anne Ross’ home  
Tuesday, January 20 – Elders/Deacons’ meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the church  
Tuesday, January 27 – Elizabeth Women’s Group, noon, Jo Anne Ross’ home  
Wednesday, Jan. 28 – Annual Meeting & Soup Supper, 6 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](mailto:office@faithcov.com).*

### DECEMBER

DEACON OF THE MONTH ..... Mike Stahlberg  
NURSERY M.O.M. (Mom of the Month) ..... Carol Martin  
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 (11:15 AM) ..... Lloyd & Eileen Pierson  
CHILDREN'S CHURCH (11:15 AM service only) ..... Dar Wassink & Nilla Swenson  
WORSHIP NURSERY (8:30 AM) ..... Darcy Hearn  
WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM infants) ..... Motleys  
WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM toddlers thru 3 yrs.) ..... Lancasters  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS ..... Amy Bennett & Julie Thompson  
COMMUNION PREP ..... Barbara Makowski  
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP ..... Yvonne Hernandez

### NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 21

USHERS/GREETERS (8:30 AM) ..... Mike Stahlberg & Yvonne Hernandez  
USHERS/GREETERS (11:15 AM) ..... Lloyd & Eileen Pierson  
CHILDREN'S CHURCH (11:15 AM service only) ..... Tamie Jentz & Annie Hill  
WORSHIP NURSERY (8:30 AM) ..... Darcy Hearn  
WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM infants) ..... Nicole Waldron & Annalise Pierson  
WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM toddlers thru 3yrs) ..... Sharon Salyer  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS ..... Fellowship Committee  
COMMUNION PREP ..... Carolyn Duncan  
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP ..... Diane Nugent

### **\*O COME DIVINE MESSIAH, COME, continued**

You come in peace and meekness, and lowly will your cradle be;  
All clothed in human weakness, shall we your Godhead see.  
*O Come, O Come*

O Christ, for whom all nations cry, whom priest and prophet long foretold,  
Crush the evil serpent's lie, redeem the long-lost fold.  
*O Come, O Come*

Destroy sin's power; raise the dead, put death to death, and reign as head  
Return in glory at the hour, and gather the saints with your great power  
*O Come, O Come (2x)*

### **PUBLIC RECEPTION OF MEMBERS:**

*Phil & Carol Van Duyne  
Scott Family*

### **PRAYER, OFFERTORY & RESPONSE**

*Reminder: please sign and pass the Attendance Register down the pew.  
11:15 a.m. Service: Children ages 4-6 are excused for Children's Church  
(held downstairs in the Fellowship Hall)*

### **GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE – Hymn #207**

### **\*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

## **His Word and Our Response**

**Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.**  
**Sermon Series: Advent 2014 - A Light in the World**  
**Sermon Title: *The World's Response to the Light***  
**Sermon Text: John 3:17-21, 15:18-21**  
*(See pages 6-8 for sermon outline and text)*

### **\*LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE – Hymn #193**

### **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**

**\*GOD IS WITH US**

The glory of God has come to the earth,  
The glory of God in our Savior's birth,  
Join with the angels to sing and proclaim  
Glory to His name

*(Chorus)*

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us now.*

Eternity's likeness has come into time,  
A light in the darkness, now hope is alive,  
Down from the heavens on this holy night,  
Our God in a manger, Our God as a child.

*(Chorus)*

Oh, let us bring Him more than our silver and gold  
Oh, let us bring Him all our pain and joy  
Oh, let us bring Him every fear untold  
Oh, let us bring Him our sin to pay full

*(Chorus 2x)*

**\*BENEDICTION**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:** Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalispell, Pastor Mark Cutler

**MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:** Pray for David and Ulrike Byle and family in Istanbul, Turkey, where Sunday afternoon, Dec. 7, an arsonist started a fire at the BCC office. Fortunately no one was hurt, but many materials and books were destroyed. Please pray for the man who started the fire that he will come to know Christ through this and for funds to help cover the loss.

**CALLING ALL NURSERY VOLUNTEERS!** In January we will start offering both nurseries for both services. Please contact Darcy Hearn as soon as possible regarding which service you would like to volunteer for - call Darcy at 270-8933.

**CHRISTMAS COFFEE HOUR:** Join your church family for holiday fellowship at an extended coffee hour with holiday treats between services 9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21 hosted by the fellowship committee. Christmas break for Sunday School will be Sunday, Dec. 21 and 28, and it will resume Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015.

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

**HABITAT WORK DAY JANUARY 10:** Mission volunteers needed for Habitat for Humanity! Faith Covenant is once again sponsoring a group of volunteers to help at the construction site in Columbia Falls on Saturday, January 11, at 7:45 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. You can volunteer all or part of the day. Lunch and hot and cold drinks are provided. There are jobs for men, women, and teens between the ages of 15 and 18 with parental permission. A sign up sheet along with parental permission forms and a map are located in the fellowship hall. Sign up by Jan. 4 so Habitat for Humanity organizers can plan for the day.

**MISSION PRESENTATION WITH KEVIN JOHNSON:** Everyone is invited to a missions presentation by Kevin Johnson, son of Sandy and Gloria Johnson, who is currently working with United World Mission in Medellin, Columbia. Learn more about his work TODAY, Dec. 14, at 1-2 p.m. at Faith Free Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

**HOPE PREGNANCY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** For parents suffering the loss of a child through miscarriage or extreme prematurity, often the only physical memories they have are mementos given by hospital staff. Hope Pregnancy Ministries is searching for volunteers to craft keepsake boxes for families. Very small handmade clothes, blankets, hats & booties are also requested. Contact Ladawna for specific measurements at [ladawnawlkr@yahoo.com](mailto:ladawnawlkr@yahoo.com) or 871-5710.

*Questions and thoughts for discussion:*

1. In light of John 3, what does this mean: “Not believing in the God-sent Son is tantamount to self-condemnation”?

2. What does it mean in vs 21 to say that our works have been carried out in God?

3. Consider: “For good reasons, Christian tradition thinks of genuine repentance not as a human possibility but as a gift of God. It is not just that we do not like being wrong, but that almost invariably the others are not completely right either.” —Miroslav Volf

4. What are some reasons that the world has for hating Christians? Do you think some of those are valid?

5. Roman historians Tacitus and Suetonius both referred to Christianity as “a mischievous superstition.” That assessment has not changed through the centuries. How are we encouraged by Jesus to overcome this opposition?

6. Anger at injustice is understandable. Yet we are clearly called on by Jesus to love our enemies. Where are we to go with this anger then?

*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

**PASTOR OF MUSIC:** Aaron Scott

**OFFICE STAFF:** Kristin Bay, Hanni Hanson

**BOOKKEEPER:** Carlynn Stahlberg

**CUSTODIAN:** Kelly Brown

**ELDERS**

Grady Bennett..... 314-4207  
Tom Jentz ..... 755-2029  
Duane Martin.....sabbatical  
Don Olmsted ..... 250-7915

Matt Riley ..... 756-8913  
Micah Tinkham ..... 471-0080  
Steve Thompson..... 857-3326  
Jan Wassink..... 249-6590

**DEACONS**

Buford Bennett ..... 261-7124  
Doug Brown ..... 890-0760  
Ike Eisentraut..... 257-2222  
Bill Gamble ..... 249-0152

Micah Hill ..... 270-7940  
Mike Stahlberg..... 270-2509  
Bruce Tulloch..... 755-4550

**BUILDING TRUSTEES**

Brian Bay..... 752-9087  
Paul Hobus ..... 270-5434  
Matt Vander Ark ..... 871-0615

Nick Hanson..... 253-4668  
Russ Hadley (lead)..... 752-3661

## SERMON OUTLINE

December 14, 2014

Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson

Sermon Series: Advent 2014 - A Light in the World

Sermon Title: *The World's Response to the Light*

### I. Responding to Jesus

### II. Responding to Jesus' Followers

## SERMON TEXT

John 3:17-21 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

John 15:18-27 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. <sup>21</sup> But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.