

FAITH 
COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

January 1, 2017

*“If anyone would come after me,
let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
For whoever would save his life will lose it
but whoever loses his life for my sake
and the gospel's will save it.”
Mark 8:34-35*

*Our worship is
a response to
God's initiative.
The pattern of
our worship
reflects the
gospel.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 150**

Leader: Praise the LORD.

All: Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.

Leader: Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.

All: Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,

Leader: Praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe,

All: Praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

Leader: Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

All: Praise the LORD.

***ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME! - Hymn #296 vs. 1, 3, 5-6**

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed of the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball,
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng, we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!

**Indicates when to stand.*

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY - *Hymn #53 vs. 1, 3, 5*

Praise to the Lord the Almighty
The King of creation
O my soul praise Him
For He is thy health and salvation
All ye who hear now to His temple draw near
Join me in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord Who doth prosper
Thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee
Ponder anew what the Almighty will do
If with His love He befriend thee

Praise to the Lord
O let all that is in me adore Him
All that hath life and breath
Come now with praises before Him
Let the amen sound from His people again
Gladly forever we adore Him

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

**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.

***THE LOVE OF CHRIST IS RICH AND FREE**

The love of Christ is rich and free; fixed on His own eternally;
Nor earth, nor hell, can it remove; long as He lives, His own He'll love.

His loving heart engaged to be their everlasting Surety;
'Twas love that took their cause in hand,
And love maintains it to the end.

(Chorus)

*Love cannot from its post withdraw; Nor death, nor hell, nor sin, nor law,
Can turn the Surety's heart away; He'll love His own to endless day.*

Love has redeemed His sheep with blood;
and love will bring them safe to God;
Love calls them all from death to life; and love will finish all their strife.

He loves through every changing scene,
nor aught from Him can Zion wean;
Not all the wanderings of her heart can make His love for her depart.

(Chorus)

At death, beyond the grave, He'll love;
In endless bliss, His own shall prove
The blazing glory of that love which never could from them remove.

(Chorus)

COMMON CONFESSON OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *James 2:10*

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become
accountable for all of it.

continued above

**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.

Leader: You shall have no other gods before me.

All: But I often place other things on the throne of my heart above you.

Leader: You shall not make for yourself a carved image...You shall not bow down to them or serve them.

All: But I make you into who I want you to be.

Leader: You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

All: But I treat your name lightly and do not bring honor to you.

Leader: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work.

All: But I make excuses for spending the day pursuing my own pleasures with little thought on how I can set apart the Sabbath to you.

Leader: Honor your father and your mother.

All: But I spurn authority and set my own rules.

Leader: You shall not murder.

All: But I often hate my brother in my heart.

Leader: You shall not commit adultery.

All: But my thought life is often x-rated and my heart filled with lust.

Leader: You shall not steal.

All: But I devote my life to pursue convenience and consumption.

Leader: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

All: But I often speak against my neighbors and run them down to others.

Leader: You shall not covet.

All: But I desire and chase after far more than I need and I am not content with what I have.

All: Forgive us, O God. Put to death our sinful inclinations and practices through the power of your Holy Spirit. Renew us in the image of your Son, our Savior-Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Adapted from the Ten Commandments - Exodus 20)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Hebrews 2:17-18*

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

*BLESSED ASSURANCE - *Hymn #693*

Blessed assurance; Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

(Chorus)

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

(Chorus)

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

(Chorus 2x)

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.

*BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus, mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place:
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame, my glory, all the cross.

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.)

Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.
Christianity - A Way of Life
Mark 8:34-38 (ESV)

³⁴ And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Sermon Outline

I. Who is first in your life?

II. How is he first in your life?

III. What are you trying to substitute?

Sermon Questions for Further Reflection

1. A wrong view of Jesus leads to a wrong view of discipleship. Peter was rebuked in the preceding verses because of this. What do you do to make sure you get the Jesus part right? How can you check to see if you are on the right track?
2. In Matt 10:34-39, Jesus speaks on the difficult nature of discipleship. This has always been a challenge in every time and culture. What are some specific challenges we face in our time and place?
3. Consider: “The claim of Jesus is a total and exclusive one. It does not allow a convenient compartmentalization of natural life and religious life, of secular and sacred. The whole person stands under Christ’s claim.” —J. R. Edwards
4. J.O.Y—Jesus first, then Others, then Yourself. We all struggle with reversing the order. What are things you can do to help make this order a rhythm and pattern in your life?
5. Consider: “What we're talking about is the Christian life. It's following Jesus. Spirituality is no different from what we've been doing for two thousand years just by going to church and receiving the sacraments, being baptized, learning to pray, and reading Scriptures rightly. It's just ordinary stuff.”—Eugene Peterson. Why is doing the “ordinary” stuff so hard for us that we want to find the “extra-special” stuff to fill our life of faith?
6. We are in desperate need of a “self-ectomy”. How does following Jesus as a way of life assist you in this?

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.

***HE WILL HOLD ME FAST**

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

(Chorus)

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

(Chorus)

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!

(Chorus 3x)

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 below)*

**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.

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.

PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

***COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING** - *Hymn #457*

Come, thou fount of every 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 God's unchanging love

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I've come
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love
here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above

***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. & Associate Pastor Taylor Clark

Staff: Kristin Bay, Hanni Hanson, Carlynn Stahlberg, Kelly Brown, Sara Motley (*Nursery*)

Elders: Grady Bennett, Tom Jentz, Don Olmsted, Matt Riley, Micah Tinkham, Steve Thompson

Deacons: Terry Falk, Micah Hill, Mike Stahlberg, Bruce Tulloch

To be added to church enews, and prayer lists, please contact us at office@faithcov.com.
For more about Faith Covenant and the Presbyterian Church in America, go to faithcov.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Calvary Lutheran Church, Evergreen, Pastor Kurt Rau

MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Pray for Dan & Naomi Emerson with Worldwide Evangelization for Christ on the Tajikistan/Uzbekistan border.

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.

WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL: New adult Sunday School classes will begin Sunday, Jan. 8. Pastor Lloyd will teach *The Mission of God: The Global Spread of Christianity*; and Pastor Taylor will teach *A Journey Through Romans: Guilt, Grace & Godly Living*. Sign up in the foyer.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, for our **ANNUAL MEETING**. A 6:00 p.m. soup supper will precede the 7:00 p.m. meeting. All members are encouraged to attend but you do not need to be a member to attend.

SOUP SIGNUPS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING are available on the table in the foyer. Twelve pots of soup, any kind, are needed, enough to serve 12 (or more) each.

Please bring your pot of soup to the church ready to serve by 5:45 p.m. on January 18.

FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP: We invite YOU to sign up to have a monthly dinner with 7-9 other individuals from our church family. You will meet once a month, February - April and share a meal with a different group of people each month (couples stay together). A host will be assigned for each month to host in their home (or another location of their choice). Sign up by January 22 in the foyer!

COMMUNITY KITCHEN-FEEDING THE FLATHEAD: Those of you who are volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve next Thursday, Jan. 12, at Central Christian.

ENEWSLETTER: If you would like to be added to the email list for our Friday enewsletter, contact the office at office@faithcov.com.

SERVING: January Deacon: Bruce Tulloch

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/Bruce & Benni Tulloch

Children's Church: No Children's Church Jan. 1

Nursery 8:15 a.m.: Ecks

Nursery 11 a.m.: Buckners

Fellowship Hosts: Kelly Brown & Tamie Jentz

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carol Martin/Theresa Paolini

Next Sunday - Jan. 8

Ushers: Jevon Clark & Lloyd Pierson/Bruce & Benni Tulloch

Children's Church: Tamie Jentz & Annie Hill

Nursery 8:15 a.m.: Russells & G. Hanson

Nursery 11 a.m.: C. Hanson & Lancasters

Fellowship Hosts: Sharon Salyer & Yvonne Hernandez

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Barbara Makowski & Mark Rice

Worship Services

Sundays 8:15 & 11 am

Sunday School

Sundays 10 pm

Music Practice

Tuesdays 5:30 pm

Trustees

1st Tuesdays 5:30 pm

Elder/Deacon Meeting

3rd Tuesdays 7 pm

Elizabeth Women

2nd & 4th Tuesdays noon

Sr. & Jr. Youth Groups

Wednesdays 7 pm

College/Career Small Group

Wednesdays 7 pm