

FAITH 
COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

September 3, 2017

*“O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.”*

Psalm 63:1

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 96:1-4**

Leader: Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

All: Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Leader: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

All: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.

***IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE - Hymn #38**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above,
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

***ARISE MY SOUL, ARISE!**

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;
the bleeding sacrifice, on my behalf appears.
Before the throne my surety stands, before the throne my surety stands,
my name is written on his hands.

(Chorus)

*Arise, arise, arise. Arise, my soul, arise.
Arise, arise, arise. Arise, my soul, arise;
shake off your guilty fears and rise.*

He ever lives above, for me to intercede;
his all redeeming love, his precious blood, to plead;
his blood atoned for every race, his blood atoned for every race,
and sprinkles now the throne of grace.

(Chorus)

Five bleeding wounds he bears; received on Calvary;
they pour effectual prayers; they strongly plead for me:
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry, "forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"Don't let that ransomed sinner die!"

(Chorus)

My God is reconciled; his pardoning voice I hear;
he owns me for his child; I can no longer fear.
With confidence I now draw nigh, with confidence I now draw nigh,
and "Father, Abba, Father!" cry.

(Chorus)

***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.

**Indicates when to stand.*

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***THOU LOVELY SOURCE OF TRUE DELIGHT**

Thou lovely source of true delight whom I unseen adore;
unveil thy beauties to my sight that I might love thee more,
Oh that I might love thee more.

Thy glory o'er creation shines but in thy sacred word
I read, in fairer, brighter lines, my bleeding dying Lord,
see my bleeding, dying Lord.

(Interlude)

'Tis here, whene'er my comforts droop and sin and sorrow rise,
thy love with cheering beams of hope my fainting heart supplies,
Oh, my fainting heart's supplied.

But ah! too soon the pleasing scene is clouded o'er with pain.
My gloomy fears rise dark between and I again complain,
Oh, and I again complain.

(Interlude)

Jesus, my Lord, my life, my light, Oh come with blissful ray;
break radiant through the shades of night and chase my fears away,
won't you chase my fears away.

Then shall my soul with rapture trace the wonders of thy love;
but the full glories of thy face are only known above,
they are only known above.

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *Isaiah 29:13-14*

And the Lord said: Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men, therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden.

All: O Lord, forgive us our failure to keep your commandments. We confess that we often cleanse the outside of our lives, yet do nothing about the inside of our hearts. Outside we look righteous, moral and upright, yet inside we are filled with anger, lust, greed and idolatry. Outwardly we go to church, give money and read your Word, yet inwardly we neglect justice, purity, love, encouraging speech and mercy. Lord, we should have done the latter without neglecting the others. We have thrust ourselves into the best positions, because we thought we deserved them, yet the truth is we are unworthy of any blessing. Have mercy on us for being like the Pharisees. May you cleanse us—all of us and all of who we are—from the inside out. (*Adapted from Luke 11:37-52*)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Joel 2:12-13*

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

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.

*JESUS I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow Thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition, all I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while Thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me, show Thy face and all is bright.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure, come disaster, scorn and pain
In Thy service, pain is pleasure, with Thy favor, loss is gain
I have called Thee Abba Father, I have stayed my heart on Thee
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather; all must work for good to me.

Haste thee on from grace to glory, armed by faith, and winged by prayer.
Heaven's eternal days before thee, God's own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

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 a.m. Service: Children ages 4-6 excused for Children's Church (downstairs in the Corner Classroom)

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.)

***THY WILL BE DONE**

My God and Father! while I stray,
Far from my home in life's rough way,
Oh! teach me from my heart to say,
"Thy will be done!" "Thy will be done!"

If Thou shouldst call me to resign,
What most I prize, it ne'er was mine.
I only yield Thee what was Thine;
"Thy will be done!" "Thy will be done!"

If but my fainting heart be blest,
With Thy sweet Spirit for its guest,
My God! To Thee I leave the rest,
"Thy will be done!" "Thy will be done!"

Renew my will from day to day,
Blend it with Thine, and take away,
All now that makes it hard to say,
"Thy will be done!" "Thy will be done!"

Then when on earth I breathe no more,
The prayer oft mixed with tears before,
I'll sing upon a happier shore,
"Thy will be done!" "Thy will be done!" (2x)

Summer Psalms & Proverbs
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.
The Abundance of Dryness - Psalms 6, 13, 42, 63, 142 (ESV)

Psalm 6:2-7

² Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing; heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled. ³ My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O LORD--how long?
⁴ Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.
⁵ For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise?
⁶ I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping. ⁷ My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes.

Psalm 13:1-3

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ² How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? ³ Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

Psalm 42:1-3

As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?
³ My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, "Where is your God?"

Psalm 63:1

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Psalm 143:6-7

⁶ I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
⁷ Answer me quickly, O LORD! My spirit fails! Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit.

Sermon Outline

I. Discerning Droughts

Sermon Outline

II. Delighting in Dryness

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.

Sermon Questions

1. Spiritual dryness is a part of every believer's life. Why do you think it is so little mentioned in the broader Christian culture?
2. The friends of Job seem to pop up like dandelions after a spring rain when we are struggling. Why do we so often go to "What sin is in your life that has caused your grief?" as a first line of questioning? How do we combat this tendency?
3. Consider: "When I sing of the happiness of heaven and of the eternal possession of God I feel no joy in this, for I sing simply what I WANT TO BELIEVE. It is true that at times a very small ray of the sun comes to illumine my darkness, and then the trial ceases for an instant, but afterward the memory of this ray, instead of causing me joy, make my darkness even more dense." —Thérèse of Lisieux. Have you had times like this in your walk with the Lord? What has been a comfort to you in these moments?
4. Cultivating an appetite for God takes effort. What are things we do that can help build up an appetite for the Lord? What can you do to promote a spiritual appetite?
5. Consider: "Tears are a poor criterion for faith, being carried away in a meeting by eloquence or singing or excitement is not the same as committing oneself to Christ." —Martin Lloyd-Jones. Creating a false sense of life and abundance is what our culture does well. How can we identify when this is happening, and how do we avoid it?
6. In what way does walking with Jesus give you hope and fulfillment in some of life's driest places?

***ABIDE WITH ME**

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

You on my head, in early youth did smile;
And, though rebellious, and perverse meanwhile,
You did not leave me, as often I left Thee.
On to the end Lord, abide with me.

I need Your presence, every passing hour.
What but Your grace, can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Yourself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with You at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness
Where is your sting death? Where grave your victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold up your cross Lord, before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's chains are freed;
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

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

*ON JORDAN'S STORMY BANKS I STAND

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye
to Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains shines one eternal day.
There God, the Son forever reigns and scatters night away.

(Chorus)

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the Promised Land.*

(Repeat)

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath can reach that healthful shore;
sickness, sorrow, pain, and death are felt and feared no more.

(Chorus)

When shall I reach that happy place and be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face, and in his bosom rest?

(Chorus 2x)

*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: Tim Anderson Grady Bennett, Tom Jentz, Trent Neumann, Don Olmsted, Matt Riley, Micah Tinkham, Steve Thompson *Deacons:* Terry Falk, Kyle Hanson, Micah Hill, Ryan Petersen, Mike Stahlberg, Bruce Tulloch, Phil Van Duyne

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: Chaplain Darren Schwartz, Kalispell Regional Healthcare

MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Tim Bentson, PCA Mission to the World in Osaka, Japan, with Genesis International College

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.

MEN'S FRATERNITY 3 starts Thursday, September 21, at 6 a.m.! Sign up in the foyer ASAP for year 3 of Men's Fraternity, a weekly study that helps men (18 and older) understand their masculine identity in scripture. On October 11, the new 33 Series will begin - an updated men's study from the creators of Men's Fraternity for those who have never taken a class or have already done the original three courses. Sign up for either program or contact Grady Bennett (314-4207) or Rik Goodell (890 1973).

FALL SERVICE TIMES will change to 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. on September 10 and **Sunday School** for all ages will resume Sept. 10 at 10 a.m. between services. Sunday School classes for adults will include *Pearls for Parenting* with Pastor Pierson and *Being Presbyterian* with Pastor Clark. Sign up for adult classes in the foyer.

ELIZABETH WOMEN'S GROUP: Ladies are invited to the Elizabeth Women's Group Sept. 14 at noon for fellowship, prayer, and study. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at Jo Anne Ross' home, (40 Claremont St. Apt. 136D, 250-3831).

YOUTH GROUPS BEGIN: Senior and junior high youth groups will start up Wednesday, Sept. 13, at 7 p.m. The junior high group (6th-8th grades) will meet at the church with Sean & Lisa Iddings, and the senior high group (9-12th grades) will meet at Trent & Becky Neumanns' home (111 E. Bluegrass Dr.)

BABY SHOWER: Ladies are invited to a baby shower for Jill Mckenzie Thursday, Sept. 21, at 7 p.m. at Cathy Hanson's home (231 Northland Dr.). If you would like to contribute to a group gift card, contact Kristin Bay (249-2411).

SERVING: September Deacons are Micah Hill & Phil Van Duyne

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Lloyd & Eileen Pierson/Brian & Kristin Bay
Children's Church: Sharon Salyer
Nursery 8:15 a.m.: Hobus
Nursery 11 a.m.: Tinkhams
Fellowship Hosts: Glenda Quick & Yvonne Hernandez
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Gloria Hanson/Jeanie Brenneman

Next Sunday - September 10th

Ushers: Lloyd & Eileen Pierson/Nick & Hanni Hanson
Children's Church: Tamie Jentz & Annie Hill
Nursery 8:15 a.m.: Paolinis
Nursery 11 a.m.: Lancasters
Fellowship Hosts: Gloria Hanson & Sharon Salyer
Communion Prep/Cleanup: Eileen Pierson/Hanni Hanson

Worship Services

Sundays 8:15 & 10 am

Sunday School

Sept.-May 10 am

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

Sept.-May Wednesdays 7 pm