

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

January 21, 2018

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." Psalm 139:13-14

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 146

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

All: I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Leader: The LORD he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

All: Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God.

Leader: The Lord who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

All: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

\*O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING - Hymn \$164 vs 1-4, 6 O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy Name.

Jesus, the Name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease; 'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of reigning sin, he sets the prisoner free; His blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ; Ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy

### \*BEHOLD OUR GOD

Who has held the oceans in his hands? Who has numbered every grain of sand? Kings and nations tremble at his voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.

(Chorus)

Behold our God, seated on his throne. Come let us adore him. Behold our King, nothing can compare. Come let us adore him!

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of his words?
Who can teach the one who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?
(Chorus)

Who has felt the nails upon his hands, bearing all the guilt of sinful man? God eternal, humbled to the grave, Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign! (Chorus)

You will reign forever, you will reign forever! (2x) (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.

## \*SING TO JESUS

Come and see, look on this mystery The Lord of the universe, nailed to a tree Christ our God, spilling His holy blood Bowing in anguish, His sacred head

Sing to Jesus, Lord of our shame Lord of our sinful hearts, He is our great redeemer Sing to Jesus, honor His name Sing of His faithfulness, pouring his life out unto death

> Come, you weary, and He will give you rest Come you who mourn, lay on his breast Christ who died, risen in paradise Giver of mercy, giver of life

Sing to Jesus, His is the throne Now and forever, He is the King of Heaven Sing to Jesus, we are His own Now and forever, sing for the love, our God has shown

> Sing to Jesus, Lord of our shame Lord of our sinful hearts He is our great redeemer Sing to Jesus, honor His name

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#### **COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN**

## SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: Revelation 21:8

But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

All: Holy Father, you see us as we are and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care. We forget that all life comes from you and that to you all life returns. We have not sought to do your will with our whole hearts. We have not lived as grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us. Forgive us of the great evil of abortion within our country and within our community. Cleanse us from our defilement. Apart from you, we are nothing. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole. Set us free from our sin and restore us to the joy of your salvation, now and forever. Amen.

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

## DECLARATION OF GRACE: Ezekiel 11:19-21

And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, declares the Lord GOD.

## 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.

## \*IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL - Hymn #691

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

(Chorus)

It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control: that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.

(Chorus)

My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! my sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more; praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! (Chorus)

O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend; even so, it is well with my soul.

(Chorus)

## 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.)

#### OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

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)

## WE WILL FEAST IN THE HOUSE OF ZION



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# *Life Sunday*Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D. *My God Knows Me – Psalm 139:1-18 (ESV)*

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

<sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways ...

<sup>7</sup> Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? ...

<sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"

<sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

<sup>13</sup> For you formed my inward parts;

you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you,

when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

<sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed substance;

in your book were written, every one of them,

the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

<sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup> If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

I awake, and I am still with you.

## Sermon Outline

I. Known by God

## II. Valued by God

## Sermon Questions

- 1. What can be unnerving about being known by God to such an intimate degree that this psalm lays out?
- 2. Psalm 139 is not a scientific treatise on human development, but it is certainly a theological reflection on this. How does this help us avoid the pitfalls of arguing over definitions of life processes?
- 3. The radical God-centeredness of this psalm (and the Bible) cuts against our constant infatuation with ourselves as the focus of all of life. How does this starting point confront our cultures' outlook on issues of life both at the beginning and the end?
- 4. How does the incarnation of Christ Jesus "double down" on this psalm?
- 5. How would you help someone who suffers with great guilt in decisions they have made by this message of this psalm?

#### 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.

#### \*BY THY MERCY

Jesus, Lord of life and glory, bend from heaven your gracious ear; While our waiting souls adore thee, friend of helpless sinners, hear: From the depth of nature's blindness, from the hardening power of sin, From all malice and unkindness, from the pride that lurks within,

# 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.

(Chorus)
By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord

By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord, good Lord.

When temptation sorely presses, in the day of Satan's power, In our times of deep distresses, in each dark and trying hour. When the world around is smiling, in the time of wealth and ease, Earthly joys our hearts beguiling, in the day of health and peace. (Chorus)

In the weary hours of sickness, in the times of grief and pain, When we feel our mortal weakness, when all human help is vain. In the solemn hour of dying, in the awful judgment day, May our souls, on thee relying, find thee still our Rock and Stay. (Chorus 2x)

## 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)

## PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

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.

\*AND CAN IT BE THAT I SHOULD GAIN - Hymn #455 vs 1, 3-5 And can it be that I should gain, an interest in the Savior's blood! Died He for me, who caused His pain! For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, should die for me?

(Chorus)

Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace! Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race. 'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me! (Chorus)

Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature's night; Thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light; My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. (Chorus)

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine; Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own. (Chorus)

#### \*BENEDICTION

If you are in need of personal prayer, an elder is available up front after the service.

## <u>Leaders & Staff</u> Senior Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

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.

#### 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.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Hope Pregnancy Ministries & Clear Choice Clinic

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS on Wednesday, January 24, 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. The annual report and 2018 budget information is available in the foyer: please take one per family. If you have concerns or questions about the budget, please contact Tom Jentz, our treasurer, to expedite our meeting on the 24th.

SOUP SIGNUPS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING are available on the table in the foyer. Many 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 24.

NO YOUTH GROUPS: The junior and senior high youth groups will not meet this Wednesday, Jan. 24, for the annual meeting. When the senior youth group resumes on Jan. 31, they will start meeting at 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Neumann home (111 East Bluegrass Dr. Kalispell).

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 28 in the foyer!

CHURCH OF THE CROSS SERVICE: You're invited to visit our PCA church plant in Whitefish for their monthly worship service, TODAY, Jan. 21, at 5 p.m. at the Whitefish Foursquare church (233 Kalispell Ave). Childcare available.

LIFE SUNDAY MEMORIAL: The community is invited to a memorial service for victims of abortion at Trinity Lutheran Church tonight, Jan. 21, at 6 p.m. with Pastor Mark Cutler.

#### **SERVING:** January Deacon - Micah Hill

## Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/Tim & Kate Anderson

Children's Church: Carol Van Duyne Nursery 8:15 am: Petersen/Goodell

Nursery 11 am: Buckners

Fellowship Hosts: Audrey Goodell & Eileen Pierson Communion Prep/Cleanup: Carol Martin/Theresa Paolini

**Next Sunday - January 28** 

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/Tim & Kate Anderson

Children's Church: Carol Van Duyne Nursery 8:15 am: Bennett/Sullivan

Nursery 11 am: Wrights

Fellowship Hosts: Patti Albert & Kristin Bay

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Barb Makowski/Mark Rice

#### WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Worship Services
Sundays 8:15 & 11 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