

# FAITH COVENANT

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C H U R C H

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*Spreading A Love for God and His Glory*

*May 14, 2023*

How can I curse whom God has not cursed?  
How can I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced?

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Numbers 23:8

## Call to Worship

Worship begins  
with God who  
invites us and  
welcomes us  
into his pres-  
ence. Because  
of Christ, we  
can approach  
God with  
boldness even  
though we are  
sinful and  
weak.

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalms 67*

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us. May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.

All: May the nations be glad and sing for joy.

Leader: For you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

All: May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.

### \*OUR GREAT GOD

Eternal God, unchanging, mysterious and unknown  
Your boundless love unfailing, in grace and mercy shown  
Bright seraphim in endless flight around your glorious throne  
They raise their voices day and night in praise to you alone.

(Chorus)

*Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!*

*Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!*

Lord, we are weak and frail, helpless in the storm  
Surround us with your angels, hold us in your arms  
Our cold and ruthless enemy, his pleasure is our harm  
Rise up, oh Lord, and he will flee before our Sovereign God.

(Chorus)

Let every creature in the sea and every flying bird  
Let every mountain, every field and valley of the earth  
Let all the moons and all the stars in all the universe  
Sing praises to the living God, who rules them by his word

(Chorus 2x)

\*Indicates

when to stand.

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## \*PRAYER OF PRAISE

### \*HOW GREAT THOU ART - Hymn #44

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout, the universe displayed

*(Chorus)*

*Then sings my soul, my savior God to thee  
How great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my savior God to thee  
How great thou art, how great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze

*(Chorus)*

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin

*(Chorus)*

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim, my God how great thou art

*(Chorus 2x)*

## COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

### SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *1 John 3:16-18*

If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

**All:** Almighty Father, God of gods and Lord of lords, Father to the fatherless, Husband to the widow, Defender of the helpless, Judge of all the earth, have mercy on us. We have not sought freedom for the oppressed, even though you freed us. We have not bound up the broken even though you healed us. We have not forgiven others even though you freely forgave us. We withhold kindness from the needy even though you freely gave us your own son. We are without excuse, but not without hope. By your power and grace, account our sins to Jesus' bloody death and amend our ways by the power of his glorious resurrection.

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

### DECLARATION OF GRACE: *1 John 3:19-20*

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart and he knows everything.

**\*SCRIPTURAL CONFESSION OF FAITH: *Colossians 1:15-20***

**All:** Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

**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.

**\*I WILL TRUST MY SAVIOR JESUS**

I will trust my savior Jesus  
When my darkest doubts befall  
Trust Him when to simply trust Him  
Seems the hardest thing of all

I will trust my savior Jesus  
Trust Him when my strength is small  
For I know the shield of Jesus  
Is the safest place of all

*(Chorus)*  
*Jesus, only Jesus*  
*Help me trust You more and more*  
*Jesus, only Jesus*  
*May my heart be ever Yours*

I will trust my savior Jesus  
He has said His way is best  
And I know the path He's chosen  
Leads to everlasting rest  
*(Chorus)*

*(Bridge 2x)*  
*Oh on that cross, how it was seen*  
*I can go now ever trusting in the One who died for me*  
*What could I bring, for Your gift is complete*  
*So I trust You, simply trust You, Lord with every part of me*  
*(Chorus 2x)*

**OFFERTORY & RESPONSE**

*Reminder: please sign and pass the Attendance Register down the pew.*  
*Children ages 4-6 excused for Children's Church (downstairs 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.)

## O GOD OF MERCY, HEAR OUR PLEA

O God, we've seen Your faithfulness  
You brought us from the wilderness  
But now our faith is frail and weak  
O God of mercy, hear our plea

When will You comfort our distress?  
How long until the promised rest?  
We cry to You from deepest need  
O God of mercy, hear our plea

*(Chorus)*

*Abba Father, our Redeemer  
In this barren land be our hope and strength  
Until glory we will trust and sing  
Abba Father, hear our plea*

We join creation's longing groan  
To take Your ransomed children home  
For then the eyes of all will see  
The God of mercy hears our plea  
*(Chorus)*

For then the eyes of all will see  
The God of mercy hears our plea  
*(Chorus 2x)*

Abba Father, hear our plea

*Sermon Series—Numbers: A Pilgrim People*  
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.  
*I Will Bless You: Numbers 22-25*

Numbers 22:

<sup>4</sup>...So Balak the son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time, <sup>5</sup>sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor ...saying, “Behold, a people has come out of Egypt. They cover the face of the earth, and they are dwelling opposite me. <sup>6</sup>Come now, curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.” <sup>7</sup>So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the fees for divination in their hand. And they came to Balaam and gave him Balak's message. ... <sup>12</sup>God said to Balaam, “You shall not go with them. You shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.” <sup>13</sup>So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, “Go to your own land, for the Lord has refused to let me go with you.” <sup>14</sup>So the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak and said, “Balaam refuses to come with us.”

*The Lord cares for his people and he chooses to bless them even when they fail to see or grasp the height and the depth of his love.*

I. A Curse Averted

II. A Sin Engaged

### Questions for Further Reflection:

1. Consider: “Read the story of Balaam and skip over the donkey episode and you might well come away with the impression that Balaam is a good, upstanding man, perhaps even a righteous one.” How does the donkey episode expose Balaam as the Seer who does not see? How does Balaam and his donkey mirror Balak and Balaam?
2. The Lord seems to change his mind by allowing Balaam to go to Moab. What literary clues are given to show us this is not the case? How do we muddle up what God has made clear?
3. We see Balaam again in Numbers 31:8 & 16. How does the sin of Israel in Numbers 25 connect to Balaam? (cf. 2 Peter 2:15, Revelations 2:14). In the end, the Lord thwarts the attempt to curse his people, but Israel is done in by run-of-the-mill sin. What are some takeaways for us in this?
4. What do we learn of God’s unconditional love for his people here? How does Jesus bring God’s blessing to his people? What is the difference between “means of grace” and “means to grace”?

### Children’s Question

*How does Jesus laying down his life help answer the problems we have with God judging sin?*

### 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.

**\*YOUR WILL BE DONE**

Your will be done, my God and father, as in Heaven, so on earth  
My heart is drawn to self-exalting, help me seek Your kingdom first

As Jesus walked, so I shall walk  
Held by Your same unchanging love  
Be still my soul, Oh, lift your voice and pray  
Father not my will but Yours be done

How in that garden he persisted, I may never fully know  
The fearful weight of true obedience, it was held by him alone

What wondrous faith, to bear that cross  
To bear my sin, what wondrous love  
My hope was sure when there my Savior prayed  
Father not my will but Yours be done

When I am lost, when I am broken, in the night of fear and doubt  
Still I will trust in my good Father, Yes, to one great King I bow!

As Jesus rose, so I shall rise, in ransomed glory at the throne  
My heart restored with all your saints I sing  
Father, not my will but Yours be done

As we go forth, our God and Father, lead us daily in the fight  
That all the world might see Your glory, and Your Name be lifted high

*And in this Name we overcome, for You shall see us safely home  
Now as your church, we lift our voice and pray  
Father, not my will but Yours be done. (3x)*

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*Wine is located in the two outer rings; juice is located in the center ring.*

**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.

## 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 John Sackett

Assistant Pastor (Youth): Ben Melli Music Director/Assistant: Lisa Iddings/Laura Sackett

Refuge Director: Sissy Hashley Staff: Hanni Hanson, Carlynn Stahlberg, Kelly Brown, Jenny Mattern

Elders: Tim Anderson, Jason Davis, Sean Iddings, Tom Jentz, Trent Neumann, Don Olmsted,  
Matt Riley, Micah Tinkham

Deacons: Wade Carroll, Terry Falk, Kyle Hanson, Micah Hill, Ryan Petersen,  
Mike Stahlberg, Bruce Tulloch

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LOCAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:** Young Life, Tim & Emily Herset

**MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:** 100 Fold Studios, John & Sam Hudson

**COMMUNICANTS' CLASS:** If your child is signed up for Communicants' Class, the first meeting is tomorrow from 3:45-4:30pm at the church.

**GRADUATION SUNDAY:** We will honor our graduates during the coffee hour next Sunday, May 21.

**BIGFORK SHEPHERDING GROUP POTLUCK:** Will be next Sunday, May 21, in the fellowship hall after the 2nd service for those in Matt Riley's group.

**VESPERS SERVICE:** will be next Sunday, May 21, at 6:30pm.

**SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE:** In two weeks we will switch into summer mode at Faith Covenant, with no Sunday School and service times at 8:15 & 10:15 starting May 28.

**LADIES' SUMMER BIBLE STUDY:** Books are here! Please take one from the stack in the foyer and drop \$10 in the box on the table if you haven't paid yet.

**SUMMER SEAQUEST VBS:** Kids ages 3 through those entering 5th grade are invited to four fun-filled evenings of VBS June 19-22 from 6-8:30pm. Registration opens May 26.

**HOPE BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER:** Please pick up a baby bottle in the foyer to help Hope Pregnancy Ministries with their Baby Bottle Fundraiser. Between Mother's Day and Father's Day, fill your bottle with loose change, bills or a check and bring it back to church by Father's Day. You can also give online with the link provided in the Friday eNewsletter.

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**SERVING:** May Deacon - Wade Carroll

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

Ushers: M&G Tronstad / Steve Haymond & Bud Salyer

Children's Church: Hanni Hanson / Micah Tinkham

Nursery: Hunters

Fellowship Hosts: Judy Fosbery & Paula Saldamando

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Susie Sullivan / Chris Scrima

**Next Sunday May 21**

Ushers: G&C Bennett / Lancasters

Children's Church: Judy Peters / Zach Falk

Nursery: Kelly Brown & Yvonne Hernandez

Fellowship Hosts: Debbie Corder & Vicky Creamer

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fenners / Rachel McManus

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**WEEKLY/MONTHLY**

**Sunday Worship Services**

8:15 & 11 am

**Sunday School**

10am

**Vespers**

2nd Sunday @ 6:30 pm

**Elder/Deacon Meeting**

3rd Tuesdays 7 pm

**Wednesdays**

Men's Breakfast 6:30 am

Jr High Youth @ 5 pm

Sr. High Youth @ 6:30 pm

Career Group 7 pm