

FAITH COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

February 25, 2024

"Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as
righteousness."

Romans 4:3

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: *1 Chronicles 16:34-36

Leader: Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

All: Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather and deliver us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name, and glory in your praise.

Leader: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

All: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

**Indicates
when to stand.
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***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!

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

***THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS**

The King of Love my Shepherd is
Whose goodness faileth never
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth

(Chorus)

*Never failing, Ruler of my heart; Everlasting, Lover of my soul
On the mountain high or in the valley low
The King of Love my Shepherd is
The King of Love my Shepherd is*

Lost and foolish off I strayed
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me

In death's dark veil I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me
Thy rod and staff my comfort still
Thy cross before to guide me

(Chorus)

Oh, Hallelujah, Hallelujah (4x)

(Chorus 2x)

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never
Good Shepherd, may I sing Your praise
Within Your house forever

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *Mark 12:30-31*

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

All: God of love, it is your will that we should love you with heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, but we are not sufficient for these things. We confess that our affections continually turn away from you: from purity to lust; from freedom in holiness to slavery in sin; from compassion to indifference; from fullness to emptiness. Have mercy on us. Order our lives by your holy Word, and make your commandments the joy of our hearts. Conform us to the image of your loving Son, Jesus, that we may shine before the world to your glory. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Hebrews 10:19-22*

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

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.

***CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE**

Mine are days that God has numbered, I was made to walk with Him
Yet I look for worldly treasure and forsake the King of kings
But mine is hope in my Redeemer though I fall, his love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing, I am His forevermore

Mine are tears in times of sorrow, darkness not yet understood
Through the valley I must travel where I see no earthly good
But mine is peace that flows from heaven and the strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted, Christ completes his work in me

Mine are days here as a stranger, pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter harm and hatred for his name
But mine is armor for this battle, strong enough to last the war
And he has said he will deliver safely to the golden shore

And mine are keys to Zion city, where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore

*Come rejoice now, O my soul, for his love is my reward
Fear is gone and hope is sure, Christ is mine forevermore! (3x)*

And mine are keys to Zion city, where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore (3x)

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.)

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM OF:

Brandt Michael Walker

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)*

ALL MY BOAST IS IN JESUS

What wonder of wonders, what love is this
That Christ would die for me
His goodness, His merit, His righteousness
This sinner's only plea
O foolish pride, be crucified
The work is finished

(Chorus)

*All my boast is in Jesus; all my hope is His love
And I will glory forever in what the cross has done*

Now fully forgiven, my life is filled
With graces undeserved
For mercy that flowed down that sacred hill
Let praises now return
Rise up, my soul, and bless the Lord
Who else is worthy?

(Chorus)

(Bridge 2x)

O praise the One forever blessed
Him alone my heart adores
And I will boast in nothing less
Than the love of Christ, my Lord

I boast not in riches, in strength, or might
But in the grace of God
I glory in weakness, to live is Christ
In plenty or in want
That I may know, that all may see
His pow'r within me

(Chorus)

Now I stand in this freedom
Ransomed, clean in His sight
And I cannot be ashamed for
My boast is Jesus Christ (3x)

Sermon Series—Romans: Coming Under Grace

Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

Abraham—Our Spiritual Father: Romans 4: 1-12

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ⁷"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin." ⁹Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. ¹⁰How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. ¹¹He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, ¹²and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

I. The Same Gift Given

II. The Same Starting Point

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.

Questions for Further Reflection:

1. OT saints were not saved in a different way than we are. They needed God's gift of righteousness given to them also. How is it that only Jesus can make sense of the OT promises?
2. How does the teaching of justification by faith provide unity for the Church? In what way does Paul's example of Abraham support this unity? How can it be said that Abraham was counted righteousness while he was still a gentile?
3. Paul speaks of "counting" in verses 3,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,22,23, and 24. What is he driving home with this repetition? In what way does this remove all human boasting?
4. Sanctification is about the change of our character. Justification is about the change of our status. Why is it important to keep these separate? What happens if we collapse them together?
5. How does justification by faith provide us with a joyous humility and a means to love all peoples regardless of how they treat us or based on what they believe?

Children's Question

Do you have to earn your birthday presents from your parents or are they given as a gift? The good news of Jesus tells us that we have been made right with God by his grace. We have received his blessings as a gift that we do not earn.

***AMAZING GRACE - Hymn #460**

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

**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.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Wine is located in the two outer rings; juice is located in the center ring.
(see FCC observance below)*

We observe the Lord's Supper 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. Visiting children who have not been examined by their church's leadership, we ask to refrain. By sharing in the Supper, you are acknowledging to our church that you are in covenant with our Triune God through the person and work of Jesus Christ. If you are in doubt about your participation, please refrain. 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

*TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE - Hymn #585

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days;

let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be

swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.

Take my lips and let them be

filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use

every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart it is thine own;

it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself, and I will be ever,

only, all for thee.

*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

Music Director/Assistant: Lisa Iddings/Laura Sackett

Director of Women's Ministries: Sarah Morrison Refuge Director: Sissy Hashley

Staff: Kelly Brown, Hanni Hanson, Jenny Mattern, Niam Moody

Elders: Tim Anderson, Jason Davis, Sean Iddings, Tom Jentz,

Trent Neumann, Don Olmsted, Matt Riley, Micah Tinkham

Deacons: Wade Carroll, Terry Falk, Kyle Hanson, Jeff McGarvey,

Ryan Petersen, Mike Stahlberg, Mike Thompson, Bruce Tulloch

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Christ Lutheran Church, Pastor Dylan Curtis

MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Nathan & Betsy Russell, serving with YWAM

BABY BASKETS: We are still collecting gifts to fill the baskets being put together for the Rieke's new baby girl, the Petersen's newly adopted toddler boy, and the Walker's new baby boy. Thank you for blessing these families!

FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP: We are resurrecting our mix-and-match fellowship program where you are randomly grouped with 7-9 other adults from the church 3 times over the course of 3 months for an opportunity to share a meal and build relationships within the Faith Covenant family. More info and signups in the foyer.

MARCH YOUTH GROUP: will be meeting on the 6th, 13th, and 20th from 6-7:30pm.

TURKEY TRIP MEETING: There will be a brief meeting (20-ish minutes) on Sunday, Mar. 10, at 9:30 in the FCC library. The purpose is to meet with those of you interested in more information about an FCC mission trip to Turkey either in November or in the spring of 2025 to spend time with and encourage our missionaries. No missions experience necessary – just a love for God and our missionaries! Questions can be relayed to Steve Haymond.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME: Please make a note that daylight savings time is rapidly approaching. We will spring forward on Mar. 10th.

SHEPHERDING GROUP POTLUCK: for those in the Riley/Thompson group will be Mar. 17 after the 2nd service.

SERVING: February Deacon - Mike Thompson

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Russ Hadley & Carolyn Duncan / Lancasters

Children's Church: Hanni Hanson / Zach Falk & Brogan Lancaster

Nursery: Dawn Tinkham

Fellowship Hosts: Traci Carroll & Patti Albert

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Jenn Eck / Chris Scrima

Next Sunday March 3

Ushers: Ecks / Bays

Children's Church: Carolyn Duncan & Clara Carroll / Anderson

Nursery: Lancasters

Fellowship Hosts: Paula Saldamando & Chris Scrima

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Eileen Pierson / Rachel McManus

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Sunday Worship Services

8:15 & 11am

Sunday School

Sept.-May 10 am

Vespers

2nd Sunday @ 6:30 pm

Elder/Deacon Meeting

3rd Mondays 7 pm

Wednesdays

Men's Breakfast 6:30 am

Career Group 7 pm