

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Presbyterian Church in America or “The PCA” is a distinctly evangelical denomination in the Reformed tradition. The Bible as the Word of God is the primary standard for our faith. The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, although subordinate to the Bible in their authority, set forth our understanding of biblical truth in a consistent, concise, and reliable form. In the Reformed tradition, there are five key tenets, among others, that we hold to: By Scripture Alone; By Christ Alone; By Grace Alone; By Faith Alone; and To God Alone be the Glory.

- We believe the Bible is the written word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and without error in the original manuscripts. The Bible is the revelation of God’s truth and is infallible and authoritative in all matters of faith and practice.
- We believe in the Holy Trinity. There is one God, who exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- We believe that all are sinners and totally unable to save themselves from God’s displeasure, except by His mercy.
- We believe that salvation is by God alone as He sovereignly chooses those He will save. We believe His choice is based on His grace, not on any human individual merit, or foreseen faith.
- We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who through His perfect life and sacrificial death atoned for the sins of all who will trust in Him, alone, for salvation.
- We believe that God is gracious and faithful to His people not simply as individuals but as families in successive generations according to His Covenant promises.
- We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells God’s people and gives them the strength and wisdom to trust Christ and follow Him.
- We believe that Jesus will return, bodily and visibly, to judge all mankind and to receive His people to Himself.
- We believe that all aspects of our lives are to be lived to the glory of God under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.



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Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

March 23, 2014

*“Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling,
but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called,
that you may obtain a blessing.”
1 Peter 3:9*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

His Calling and Our Praise

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Psalm 29:1-2,4,11*

Leader: The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

All: May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Leader: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

All: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

***ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD & KING** - *Hymn #115 vs. 1,2,4,5*

***A WONDERFUL SAVIOUR IS JESUS MY LORD** - *Hymn #175*

*(*Indicates when to stand)*

We ask that you please turn off cell phones during the worship service. Thank you.

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

***REVELATION SONG**

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain; holy, holy is he.
Sing a new song to him who sits on heaven's mercy seat.

(Repeat)

(Chorus)

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.*

*With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;
you are my ev'rything and I will adore you.*

Clothed in rainbows of living color, flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;
blessing and honor, strength and glory and power be to you, the only wise King.

(Chorus)

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder at the mention of your name.
Jesus, your name is power, breath and living water, such a marv'ulous mystery!

(Chorus 2x)

His Renewal and Our Hope

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: Ephesians 5:3-6

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

All: O King and Father, your Son died and was raised in power. Now enable us to die to our sin in repentance so we may rise to new life in Him. Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes, our reluctance to relieve the suffering of others, our envy of those who have more than we have. Forgive us of our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Help us to change our way of life, so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

CALENDAR

TODAY

- 8:30 a.m. – WORSHIP SERVICE
- 9:45 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship
- 10:00 a.m. – Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. – WORSHIP SERVICE

THIS WEEK

- Wednesday – Men's Prayer Breakfast, 6:45 a.m. at the church
- Jr. High Youth Group, 7:00 p.m. at the church
- Sr. High Youth Group, 7:00 p.m. at the Neumanns'
- Thursday – Women's Ministry Meeting, 4:00 p.m. at the church
- Saturday – Ladies' Spiritual Disciplines Study, 10:30 a.m. at the church

LOOKING AHEAD

- Tuesdays – Music practice, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays – Men's Prayer Breakfast, 6:45 a.m.
- Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups (Sept.-May)
- Sundays – Adult Small Groups (Sept.-May)
- 1st Sundays – Diaconal Offering
- 1st Tuesdays – Elder home visits
- 3rd Tuesdays – Elders/Deacons' meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays – Elizabeth Women, noon, at Jo Anne Ross' home, (Sept.-May)

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- Monday, March 31 – Ladies' Spiritual Disciplines Study, 6:30 p.m. at the church
 - Tuesday, April 1 – Trustees Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the church
 - Tuesday, April 8 – Leadership Training Class Starts, 7:00 p.m. at the church
 - Thursday, April 10 – Feed the Flathead, 5:30 p.m. at Central Christian Church
 - Friday, April 11 – 40 Days for Life Vigil, see announcements for details
 - Sunday, April 13 – Mission Presentation, 10 a.m. at the church
 - Tuesday, April 15 – Elder/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the church
 - Friday, April 18 – Good Friday Service, 7:30 p.m. at the church
 - Sunday, April 20 – No Sunday school
 - EASTER SUNDAY:
 - 8:30 a.m. Worship Service
 - 10:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast
 - 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

LORD'S SUPPER OBSERVANCE

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. The wine is located in the two outer rings and the juice is located in the center ring.

For Prayer Chain requests or to be added to the prayer chain, please contact the church office at 752-2400 or email to office@faithcov.com.

MARCH

DEACON OF THE MONTH Ike Eisentraut
 NURSERY M.O.M. (Mom of the Month) Carol Martin
 NURSERY COORDINATOR..... Darcy Hearn
Direct Nursery questions, concerns, praises, etc., to Darcy at 270-8933.

TODAY

USHERS/GREETERS (8:30 AM)..... Paul & Alyssa Hobus
 USHERS/GREETERS (11 AM) Bruce & Benni Tulloch
 CHILDREN'S CHURCH (11 AM service only)..... Tamie & Kathryn Jentz
 WORSHIP NURSERY (8:30 AM) Darcy Hearn
 WORSHIP NURSERY (11 AM infants)..... Julie Thompson
 WORSHIP NURSERY (11 AM toddlers thru 3yrs) Karen Hunnicutt
 FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS..... Kate Anderson & Marlo Lancaster
 COMMUNION PREP..... Christy Heath
 COMMUNION CLEAN-UP Jeanie Brenneman

NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 30

USHERS/GREETERS (8:30 AM)..... Paul & Alyssa Hobus
 USHERS/GREETERS (11 AM) Bruce & Benni Tulloch
 CHILDREN'S CHURCH (11 AM service only)..... Shari Montague
 WORSHIP NURSERY (11 AM infants)..... Sara Motley
 WORSHIP NURSERY (11 AM toddlers thru 3yrs) Becky Neumann
 FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS..... Laura Pierson & Patti Albert
 COMMUNION PREP..... Carol Martin
 COMMUNION CLEAN-UP Hanni Hanson

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Psalm 25:8-10*

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

*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.

*BEAUTIFUL LORD

When the storm is raging all around me,
 you are the peace that calms my troubled sea.
 When the cares of this world darken my day,
 you are the light that shines, and shows me the way.
 Oh the beauty of your majesty,
 on the cross you showed your love to me.

(Chorus)

*Beautiful Lord, awesome and mighty,
 I'm captured by this love I see.
 Beautiful Lord, tender and holy,
 your mercy brings me to my knees.
 It's your mercy that has made me free, beautiful Lord.*

When my sin is all that I can see,
 your grace remains the shelter that I seek.
 And when my weakness is all I can give,
 your gentle Spirit gives me strength again.
 Oh the beauty of your majesty,
 on the cross you showed your love to me.

(Chorus 2x)

PRAYER, OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

*Reminder: please sign and pass the Attendance Register down the pew.
11:00 a.m. Service: Children ages 4-6 are excused for Children's Church
(held downstairs in the Fellowship Hall)*

*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

His Word and Our Response

Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson
Sermon Series: 1 Peter - Living as Exiles
Sermon Title: Called to Bless
Sermon Text: 1 Peter 3:8-12
(See pages 6-8 for sermon outline and text)

*AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

At the foot of the cross where grace and suff'ring meet,
you have shown me your love
through the judgment you received;
and you've won my heart,
and you've won my heart.

(Chorus)

*Now I can trade these ashes in for beauty,
and wear forgiveness like a crown;
Coming to kiss the feet of mercy,
I lay ev'ry burden down at the foot of the cross.*

At the foot of the cross where I am made complete,
you have given me life
through the death you bore for me;
and you've won my heart,
and you've won my heart.

(Chorus)

*Trade these ashes in for beauty
and wear forgiveness like a crown.
Coming to kiss the feet of mercy,
I lay ev'ry burden down; I lay ev'ry burden down
at the foot of the cross.*

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 page 10)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Cornerstone Church,
Kalispell, Pastor Luke Knoll

MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Pray for Seth & Rachel
Parks and their transition back to the states from Turkey and for the safe and healthy
delivery of their second baby due this month.

GENERAL OFFERING SUMMARY THRU MARCH 9:
Targeted Budget = \$57,673; Offerings received = \$59,940

SPRING SUNDAY SCHOOL ADULT CLASSES: The spring adult Sunday School
classes start TODAY. *What Did You Expect: Redeeming the Realities of Marriage*, a
video-based course by Paul Tripp and facilitated by Steve Thompson and Duane Martin
will be offered in the fellowship hall. *The Theology of Beauty* with Pastor Lloyd will be
in the sanctuary.

LADIES SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES STUDY: The monthly Ladies Bible Study on
Spiritual Disciplines will meet again March 29 or March 31. Choose the time that works
for you! This month's discipline is prayer. Meet at the church on Saturday, March 29,
from 10:30 a.m. to noon **OR** Monday, March 31, from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. Questions? Call
Chany at 260-3221.

SPRING 40 DAYS FOR LIFE VIGIL: In light of the recent vandalism at the local
abortion provider's clinic, vigil participants will be praying at their local churches.
Faith Covenant's vigil day is Friday, April 11. Sign up in the foyer to participate in this
peaceful pro-life movement to end abortion in our community and country.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING: Advanced theological and practical training will be offered
for those interested in providing leadership in the church, their family or their sphere of
influence. Sign up in the foyer if you are interested. **Classes will be Tuesdays, starting
April 8, at the church at 7 p.m.**

EASTER LILIES CAN BE PURCHASED in honor or memory of your loved ones.
Your dedication will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Forms are available on the
table in the foyer for you to fill out and leave in the box provided or you may return them
to the church office along with \$10.00 (per lily), no later than Sunday, April 13.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN—FEEDING THE FLATHEAD: Those of you who are
volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve next on **Thursday, April 10, at Central
Christian Church**. If you have questions, contact Sharon Thompson or Joyce Schmutz.

MISSION PRESENTATION APRIL 13: John Carter, MTW Native American Mission
Director, will be presenting during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, April 13. John
leads the Mission to the World team serving in Colville, Wash., this June 21-28th. For
more information, contact Joe Swenson (871-5273) or go to mtwtrips.com.

Please join us on Friday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m. for our **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**. On
EASTER SUNDAY, April 20, Faith Covenant Elders and Deacons will cook and serve
breakfast between the two services at 10 a.m. There will be no Sunday School classes that
day.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion, continued

1. How do verses 3-13 compare with Romans 12:10-17? What does this tell us about the message of the apostolic community?
2. Verse 8 gives us five virtues that both build and sustain genuine Christian community. The ancient Romans and Greeks never included “humility” in any list of virtues. They thought of it as weakness. How are these virtues counter-cultural?
3. Verse 9 can be understood in two different ways. Bless so that you will receive a blessing, or bless in the sense that freely you have received so freely give. Both are true biblically, but the latter seems to be more in mind with what Peter is saying here. Have you considered that part of your calling to the Lord includes blessing others? What would that look like for you where you are at?
4. Consider: *“Modern Western concepts of individualism tend to trump commitment to community. Where commitment is found, it is often evaluated in terms of individual needs. An individual whose needs are no longer met by a community terminates the ‘commitment’ and seeks a new and more obliging group. Such thinking runs counter to the qualities of 3:8.”* — Karen Jobbes
5. How does 1 Peter 2:23 help inform us of what Peter is saying in 3:9? For modern ears, love is little more than an intense feeling or emotional attachment. Biblical love is acting rightly toward someone, even toward you enemies.
6. To bless someone means to publicly speak well of them, to seek God’s favor for them. Why do we recognize this as a supernatural act of God’s grace in our lives? How does the gospel make extravagant claims upon you in these verses?

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**

*Faith Covenant Church
exists to spread a love for God and His glory,
through the WORD:*

**Worship
Outreach
Relationship
Discipleship**

SERMON OUTLINE

March 23, 2014

Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.
Sermon Series: 1 Peter - Living as Exiles
Sermon Title: *Called to Bless*

I. Blessing in community

II. Blessing on steroids

III. Blessing not optional

SERMON TEXT

1 Peter 3:8-12 (ESV)

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

¹⁰ For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days,
let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking deceit;

¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good;
let him seek peace and pursue it.

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”