

## 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*

**November 30, 2014**



*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*  
*John 8:12*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***His Calling and Our Praise***

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Isaiah 9:6; 1 Timothy 3:16*

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**All: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, and was taken up in glory.**

Leader: Proclaim it among the nations. Sing of his greatness you people of God.

**\*O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL** – *Hymn #194 vs. 1, 2 4, 5*

**\*COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS**– *Hymn #196*

*(\*Indicates when to stand)*

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

**\*PRAYER OF PRAISE**

**\*O COME DIVINE MESSIAH, COME**

O come, divine Messiah, come! The world in silence waits the day  
When hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away.  
O Come, O Come

Dear Savior haste; come to the earth, dispel the night and show your face,  
Come take on flesh; and behold the birth, full of truth and grace  
O Come, O Come

You come in peace and meekness, and lowly will your cradle be;  
All clothed in human weakness, shall we your Godhead see.  
O Come, O Come

O Christ, for whom all nations cry, whom priest and prophet long foretold,  
Crush the evil serpent's lie, redeem the long-lost fold.  
O Come, O Come

Destroy sin's power; raise the dead, put death to death, and reign as head  
Return in glory at the hour, and gather the saints with your great power  
*O Come, O Come (3x)*

**His Renewal and Our Hope**

**COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN**

**SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION:** *1 Samuel 15:22-23*

Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.

**All: Have mercy on us Lord. We often choose sacrifice over obedience.**

**We presume upon your grace, and delight in our show of faith; yet our hearts can be far from you. Forgive us of our disobedience, when we have chosen to love our sin more than to love you. Forgive us of our rebellion, when we have willingly walked away from your commands, in order to pursue the sins of our flesh. Keep us from self-worship, disguised as true religion. Purify and cleanse us by the blood of our Savior-Jesus. Amen.**

**SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN**

**CALENDAR**

**TODAY**

- 8:30 a.m. – WORSHIP SERVICE
- 9:45 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship
- 10:15 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:15 a.m. – WORSHIP SERVICE

**THIS WEEK**

- Tuesday – Leadership Training Class, 7:00 p.m. at the church
- Wednesday – Men's Fraternity Study, 6:00-7:30 a.m., at the church
- Senior High Youth Group, 7:00-9:00 at the church
- Junior High Youth Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the church

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- Tuesdays – Music practice, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays – Men's Fraternity Study, 6:00-7:30 a.m., at the church
- Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups 7:00 p.m. (Sept.-May)
- Weekly – Adult Small Groups (Sept.-May)
- 1st Sundays – Diaconal Offering
- 1st Tuesdays – Trustee Meeting
- 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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- Tuesday, December 2 – Trustees' Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the church
  - Tuesday, December 2 – Leadership Training Class, 7:00 p.m. at the church
  - Sunday, December 7 – Ladies' Christmas Cookie Exchange, 2 p.m. at Piersons' home
  - Tuesday, December 9 – Elizabeth Women's Group, noon, Jo Anne Ross' home
  - Tuesday, December 9 – Leadership Training Class, 7:00 p.m. at the church
  - Thursday, Dec. 11 – Feed the Flathead, 5:30 p.m., Central Christian Church
  - Tuesday, December 16 – Elders/Deacon's meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the church
  - Tuesday, December 23 – Elizabeth Women's Group, noon, Jo Anne Ross' home
  - Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.

## 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](mailto:office@faithcov.com).*

### NOVEMBER

DEACON OF THE MONTH .....Buford Bennett  
 NURSERY M.O.M. (Mom of the Month) .....Jeri Brown  
 NURSERY COORDINATOR.....Darcy Hearn  
*Direct Nursery questions, concerns, praises, etc., to Darcy at 270-8933.*

### TODAY

USHERS/GREETERS (8:30 AM).....Fosberys  
 USHERS/GREETERS (11:15 AM).....Ken & Terri Millers  
 CHILDREN'S CHURCH (11:15 AM service only).....Sharon Salyer  
 WORSHIP NURSERY (8:30 AM) .....Darcy Hearn  
 WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM infants).....Chelcie Miller  
 WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM toddlers thru 3 yrs.) .....Uzzis  
 FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS.....Kelly Brown & Kristin Bay  
 COMMUNION PREP.....Carol Martin  
 COMMUNION CLEAN-UP .....Jeanie Brenneman

### NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 7

USHERS/GREETERS (8:30 AM).....Nick Hanson & Hanni Hanson  
 USHERS/GREETERS (11:15 AM).....Lloyd & Eileen Pierson  
 CHILDREN'S CHURCH (11:15 AM service only).....Dar Wassink & Nilla Swenson  
 WORSHIP NURSERY (8:30 AM) .....Darcy Hearn  
 WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM infants).....Tami Jentz  
 WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM toddlers thru 3yrs) .....Andersons  
 FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS.....Carolyn Duncan & Alyssa Hobus  
 COMMUNION PREP.....Dar Wassink  
 COMMUNION CLEAN-UP .....Hanni Hanson

## DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Hebrews 9:13-14*

For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

## \*SCRIPTURAL CONFESSION: *Ephesians 2:8-10*

**All: For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

## \*OH, THE BLESSED CONDESCENSION

Oh, the blessed condescension, Christ to us the sinful came  
 Truth and power, all authority vested in a helpless babe  
 Strange and lowly, infant holy bears salvation to the world  
 To the banished hope is given through the faith of a virgin girl

On the cross see Christ our savior, many wounds which mar his skin  
 See the cost of our redemption; he is given for our sin  
 Oh the cruel price of salvation, God's own son placed in the grave  
 See the scandal turned to glory; he is risen we are saved

Into heaven he ascended, where our Lord is justly praised  
 All the hosts of heaven singing, to the King of all our days  
 On the earth, all life is calling, all are yearning for the groom  
 as God's kingdom comes with power and our hearts prepare him room

We now witness to the coming of his Kingdom on the earth  
 Here in part, not yet in fullness, we endure the pains of birth  
 May we never cease in singing of the love our God has shown  
*For his love is everflowing; by our love he is made known  
 For his love is everflowing; by our love he is made known*

## PRAYER, OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

*Reminder: please sign and pass the Attendance Register down the pew.  
 11:15 a.m. Service: Children ages 4-6 are excused for Children's Church  
 (held downstairs in the Fellowship Hall)*

## ***OH, LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO***

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that follow'st all my way, I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;  
my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.

## **\*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

## **His Word and Our Response**

**Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.**

**Sermon Series: Advent 2014**

**Sermon Title: *Revealing Light and Hard Questions***

**Sermon Text: Genesis 1; Exodus 10; John 8**

*(See pages 6-8 for sermon outline and text)*

## **\*JESUS MESSIAH**

He became sin who knew no sin,  
that we might become his righteousness.  
He humbled himself and carried the cross.  
Love so amazing, love so amazing!

*(Chorus)*

*Jesus Messiah, name above all names;  
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.  
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven,  
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.*

His body the bread, his blood the wine,  
broken and poured out all for love.

*(song continued on next page)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:** Salvation Army, Major Steven Svenson

**MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:** Pray for Harold Mills in Oaxaca, Mexico. His family recently moved so pray for good housing, more supporters and a fruitful ministry in a new area.

**LADIES CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE:** Ladies, mark your calendars for a Christmas Cookie Exchange Sunday, December 7, at 2 p.m. at Laura Pierson's home (30 Chip Court). Bring two dozen cookies to exchange and a silver elephant gift (a gift item for \$5 or less that you would want to receive). We will also be collecting donations of any amount to help out the women of the Refuge with emergency needs such as auto fuel. *However, cookies and donations are optional - you are welcome to just bring yourself for Christmas fellowship!* (adults only - no childcare provided)

**NEW DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE:** Pick up your new church directory in the fellowship hall today! Please take two per family. Contact the office at office@faithcov.com with corrections for future printings.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** Many hands make light work ... and a few more hands would help contribute to services here at Faith Covenant. Please consider helping with the coffee hour, nursery, fellowship activities, or communion preparation, and sign up in the foyer. If you are already on a volunteer schedule, you don't need to sign up again.

**MADAGASCAR SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING REMINDER:** Sunday School students from preschool to high school are reminded to contribute to Clarisse and Andry's schooling in Madagascar. We have committed to contributing \$100/month. Put offerings in cans in Sunday School rooms or a designated offering envelope during the service.

**GENERAL OFFERING SUMMARY THRU NOVEMBER 16:**  
Targeted Budget = \$265,296.15; Offerings received = \$266,008.46

**JOHN FLORIDIS BENEFIT CONCERT:** Guitarist John Floridis will hold his annual benefit concert Sunday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Whitefish. The concert benefits Neighbors in Need that serves as a fund of last resort for those in need in the Flathead valley.

**COMMUNITY KITCHEN—FEEDING THE FLATHEAD:** Those of you who are volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve next Thursday, Dec. 11, at Central Christian Church. If you have questions, contact Joyce Schmautz or Jenae Schmautz.

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH:** Glacier Symphony and Chorale will be performing Handel's Messiah Friday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in at Bethany Lutheran Church, Bigfork; Saturday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the Whitefish Performing Arts Center; and Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m. at Flathead High School. A church discount of \$5 off senior and adult tickets is available by calling the box office at 407-7000 and mentioning "CHURCH DISCOUNT." Student tickets are just \$5.

*Questions and thoughts for discussion:*

1. **How does light work as a metaphor in Scripture?**
2. **In what general ways do God's people walk in the blessings of his light in their lives that is different from unbelievers? Is this always the case?**
3. **Can you think of a time when the Lord brought a soul-searching question to you through his Word or through someone else that confronted your actions and allowed you to change course?**
4. **In trying to confront others in sin issues, what are some ways that can help keep us from trying to be the Holy Spirit?**
5. **Why is special revelation (God's self-revelation in Scripture) so necessary for us to see clearly? How is this different from general revelation?**
6. **This Advent season, how can you improve as a worshipper and lover of the light of Christ?**

**\*JESUS MESSIAH, continued**

The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn.  
Love so amazing, love so amazing!  
(Chorus)

(Bridge)  
*All our hope is in you, all our hope is in you.  
All the glory to you, God, the Light of the world.*  
(Chorus)

Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.

**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)*

**PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION**

**\*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 by the grave, Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!  
(Chorus)

*You will reign forever, you will reign forever! (2x)*  
(Chorus)

**\*BENEDICTION**

**SERMON OUTLINE**

**November 30, 2014**

**Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson**

**Sermon Series: Advent 2014**

**Sermon Title: *Revealing Light and Hard Questions***

**I. A Light into the World**

**II. The Lord confronts our Darkness**

**SERMON TEXT**

**Genesis 1; Exodus 10; John 8 (ESV)**

**Genesis 1:1-5**

**<sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**

**<sup>3</sup> And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.**

**Exodus 10:21-23**

**<sup>21</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to be felt.” <sup>22</sup> So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. <sup>23</sup> They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the people of Israel had light where they lived.**

**John 8:12**

**Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”**