

FAITH 
COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

March 18, 2018

*“Restore us to yourself, O LORD,
that we may be restored! Renew our days as of old.”
Lamentations 5:21*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY: *The Gideons*

*CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 103:1-4, 8*

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

All: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

Leader: Who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

All: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

*COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING - *Hymn #302*

Come, Christians, join to sing, Alleluia! Amen!
loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;
praise is His gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!
let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend; to us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!
life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore, Alleluia! Amen!

*Our worship is
a response to
God's initiative.*

*The pattern of
our worship
reflects the
gospel.*

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.

***OUR GREAT GOD**

Eternal God, unchanging, mysterious and unknown
Your boundless love unending, 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 x2)

***PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever.
Amen.

***YOUR LOVE OH LORD**

Your love, oh Lord, reaches to the heavens.
Your faithfulness stretches to the sky.
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains.
Your justice flows like the ocean's tide.

I will lift my voice to worship you, my King.
I will find my strength in the shadow of your wings.
(Repeat all)

Your love, oh Lord, reaches to the heavens.
Your faithfulness stretches to the sky.

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *1 Corinthians 10:13*

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

All:

To Thee I come a sinner poor, and wait for mercy at Thy door
Indeed I've nowhere else to flee, O God be merciful to me
To Thee I come a sinner weak,
and scarce know how to pray or speak
From fear and weakness set me free, O God be merciful to me

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Psalms 25:6-7*

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

– *The Heidelberg Catechism (1563), Question 32*

Minister: Why are you called a Christian?

All: Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for all eternity.

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.

***JESUS! WHAT A FRIEND FOR SINNERS!** - Hymn #498

Jesus what a friend for sinners, Jesus lover of my soul
Friends may fail me foes assail me, he my Savior makes me whole

(Chorus)

*Hallelujah what a Savior! Hallelujah what a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end*

Jesus what a strength in weakness, let me hide myself in Him
Tempted tried and sometimes failing, he my strength my victory wins

(Chorus)

Jesus what a help in sorrow, while the billows o'er me roll
Even when my heart is breaking, he my comfort helps my soul

(Chorus)

Jesus I do now receive Him, more than all in Him I find
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am His and He is mine

(Chorus)

PUBLIC RECEPTION OF COMMUNICANT MEMBERS:

Hannah Elizabeth Cantrell

Eleanor Katherine Cantrell

Max McKinley Russell

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)

**Indicates when to stand.*

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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.)

JESUS DRAW ME EVER NEARER



1. Je - sus, — draw me ev - er near - er as I la - bour through the
 (2. Je - sus,) — guide me through the tem - pest, keep my spir - it staid and
 (3. Let the) — treas - ures of the tri - al form with - in me as I

4 D G/D D G/D D G/D



storm. — You have called me to this pas - sage, and I'll fol - low though I'm
 sure. — When the mid - night meets the morn - ing, let me love You e - ven
 go. — And at the end of this long pas - sage, let me leave them at Your

CHORUS

8 D D/F# A D/A A D/F# G



worn. May this jour - ney bring a bless - ing, may I rise — on wings of
 more.
 throne.

12 C D G/D D



faith; — And at the — end of my heart's test - ing, with Your

15 G/D



like - ness let me wake. 2. Je - sus, — wake.
 3. Let the —

Lamentations: A Liturgy of Grief
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.
Restore Us O Lord – Lamentations 5 (ESV)

- ¹ Remember, O LORD, what has befallen us; look, and see our disgrace!
² Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our homes to foreigners.
³ We have become orphans, fatherless; our mothers are like widows.
⁵ Our pursuers are at our necks; we are weary; we are given no rest.
⁷ Our fathers sinned, and are no more; and we bear their iniquities.
⁹ We get our bread at the peril of our lives, because of the sword in the wilderness.
¹⁰ Our skin is hot as an oven with the burning heat of famine.
¹² Princes are hung up by their hands; no respect is shown to the elders.
¹³ Young men are compelled to grind at the mill,
and boys stagger under loads of wood.
¹⁵ The joy of our hearts has ceased; our dancing has been turned to mourning.
¹⁶ The crown has fallen from our head; woe to us, for we have sinned!
¹⁷ For this our heart has become sick, for these things our eyes have grown dim,
¹⁸ for Mount Zion which lies desolate; jackals prowl over it.
¹⁹ But you, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations.
²⁰ Why do you forget us forever, why do you forsake us for so many days?
²¹ Restore us to yourself, O LORD, that we may be restored!
Renew our days as of old--
²² unless you have utterly rejected us, and you remain exceedingly angry with us.

Sermon Outline

I. A Communal Prayer

II. Unresolved Tension

III. The Kiss at the Cross

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.

Sermon Questions

1. The last poem (chapter 5) breaks the pattern. It is not an alphabet poem like the other four. Why do you think the book ends this way? What does the difference highlight?
2. We do not like stories that end on an ambiguous note, but that is how Lamentations ends. How is the ending more like our actual experience of pain and suffering? Why is this important to remember in walking besides others who are hurting?
3. This poem is a communal prayer. What has been the value of chapters 1-4 in getting to this point?
4. Consider: “The five poems are as much about the experience of suffering as about its causes, and the element of protest running through them shows a struggle between heart and head, between theological acceptance and mortal outrage. At one level the divine anger is acknowledges to be right. But at another it remains simply unendurable.” —OT scholar Berry Webb. We have a hard time keeping the tension between these two ideas. Which side do you tend to lean toward and why?
5. How is Jesus the resolution for Lamentations? Or, in what way does the cross bring together God’s unfailing love and his righteous wrath?

**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.

***TO THEE I COME**

To Thee I come a sinner poor, and wait for mercy at Thy door
Indeed I've nowhere else to flee, O God be merciful to me
To Thee I come a sinner weak, and scarce know how to pray or speak
From fear and weakness set me free, O God be merciful to me

To Thee I come a sinner vile, upon me Lord vouchsafe to smile
Mercy through blood I make my plea, O God be merciful to me
To Thee I come a sinner great, and well Thou knowest all my state
Yet full forgiveness is with Thee, O God be merciful to me

To Thee I come a sinner lost, nor have I aught wherein to trust
But where Thou art Lord I would be, O God be merciful to me
To glory bring me Lord at last, and there when all my sins are past
With all the saints I'll then agree, *God was merciful to me*

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.

***WE ARE NOT OVERCOME**

Flesh will fail and bones will break
Thieves will steal, the earth will shake
Night will fall, the light will fade
The Lord will give and take away

(Chorus)

*Because of His great love we are not overcome
Because of His great love we are not overcome*

Put no trust in the earth
In the sod you stand upon
Flowers fade into dust
The Lord will make a place for us

(Chorus)

Have no fear for your life
Turn your cheek, turn your cheek
Bear the yoke of love and death
The Lord will give all life and breath

(Chorus)

***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.

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 *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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Grace Church, Mt Vernon, Washington, Pastor Dave Klein

MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Jamie & Alissa Shattenberg who work with Red Island Restoration and World Venture in Madagascar

PALM SUNDAY CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Children ages 4 to sixth grade are invited to sing for the church on Palm Sunday, March 25. Practice will be the first 15 minutes of Sunday School IN THE SANCTUARY TODAY. Contact Bekah Marsh for details (434-882-2319).

EASTER LILIES CAN BE PURCHASED in honor or memory of your loved ones. Dedications 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, March 25.

EASTER SERVICES: Please join us on Friday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m. for our **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**. On **EASTER SUNDAY**, April 1, Faith Covenant Deacons will cook and serve breakfast between the two services at 10 a.m. There will be no Sunday School classes that day.

VBS JUNE 25-28 SAVE THE DATE: Even though it's snowy we're starting to plan for summertime so save the date for this year's VBS program **SPACE PROBE: A Faith-Fueling Odyssey** Monday, June 25, through Thursday, June 28! Our VBS director Kate Anderson will be recruiting volunteers in April so mark your calendars and contact her to volunteer (270-7836)!

GENERAL OFFERING SUMMARY:

Targeted Budget = \$63,675.08 ; Offerings received = \$66,129.24

CHURCH OF THE CROSS SERVICE: You're invited to visit our PCA church plant in Whitefish for their monthly worship service, Sunday, March 18, at 5 p.m. at the Whitefish Foursquare church (233 Kalispell Ave). Childcare available.

SERVING: March Deacon - Phil Van Duyne

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: Mike & Julie Thompson/Scott & Jenny Mattern

Children's Church: Sharon Salyer

Nursery 8:15 am: Hernandez/Rowe

Nursery 11 am: Brown/Davis

Fellowship Hosts: Patti Albert & Kristin Bay

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Fosberys/Benni Tulloch

Next Sunday - March 25th

Ushers: Nick & Hanni Hanson/Scott & Jenny Mattern

Children's Church: Carol Van Duyne & Hannah Buckner

Nursery 8:15 am: Paolini

Nursery 11 am: Falk/Longenecker

Fellowship Hosts: Eileen Pierson & Cathy Hanson

Communion Prep/Cleanup: Barb Makowski/Lorrie Gomez

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Worship Services

Sundays 8:15 & 11 am

Sunday School

Sept.-May 10 am

Music Practice

Tuesdays 5:30 pm

Elder/Deacon Meeting

3rd Tuesdays 7 pm

Elizabeth Women

2nd & 4th Tuesdays noon

Youth Groups

Wednesdays Sr 6:30 & Jr 7 pm

Young Adult Group

1st & 3rd Sundays 6 pm