Prayers of the People: (liturgy on screen)

The Peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you always. **People: And, with you** (Passing of the Peace)

Communion: (liturgy on screen)

**Benediction and Sending** 

### Authorities we want to remember specifically in prayer

MO US House of Rep District 2- Ann Wagner MO State House of Rep District 102- Ron Hicks St. Peters Board of Alderman Ward 1- Rocky Reitmeyer St. Peters Board of Alderman Ward 2-Judy Bateman Ward 2- Dr.Greg Sartorius

"Fling Wide the Door" (ELW 259)

When my now-adult daughters come home for a visit, I often wait for them by the front window, watching for their arrival. As the car pulls up, I will go to the door, open it wide, greet them with a hug and

a kiss, help them carry things into the house, escort them in, and do my best to welcome them home.

I can prepare for and celebrate my daughters' arrivals because I know what they love, what they expect to see and do, and what they need to be comfortable. As we enter into this time of Advent, looking forward to and preparing for the Christmas "visit" of the Christ child, I invite us to wonder together what might make Jesus feel welcomed, even as he welcomes us with a radical grace and love vastly beyond our simple hospitality.

Dear Jesus, we long to welcome you with open arms and hearts every day, but especially now as we prepare to celebrate your birth. Help us to listen to your story deeply, so that we can learn and move confidently into our preparations for your arrival. Amen



# FAITH COVENANT MINISTRIES

#### LOVE | LIFE | LORDSHIP | LEADERSHIP

faithcovenantstl.com

### Purpose Statement:

We exist to glorify God by serving as a conduit for the grace of God whereby faith the Love, Life, Lordship and Leadership of the Kingdom of Heaven is revealed and expanded to all nations.

### Mission Statement:

We desire to be a multi-cultural, multi-generational conduit of the grace of God to be used to fulfill our purpose, for the glory of God.

> <u>Mailing address</u>: P.O. Box 430 St. Charles, MO 63302 636-373-9001

<u>Weekly Corporate Gatherings</u>: Sunday Worship Service- 10:00 AM Discipleship Groups (times vary)

<u>Staff</u>: Rev. Michael Hammond, Sr. - President & Senior Pastor Rose Hammond- Receptionist

#### Order of Worship Sunday, November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

Congregation responses spoken together appear in **bold** print.

## Call to Worship & Opening Prayer

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us: to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to release the prisoners, to comfort all who morn, to repair the ruined cities. Prepare the way of the Lord. Build for God a highway in the wilderness. (extemporaneous prayer)

Worship in Song (click on the song title for a YouTube track)

Better Than Good Oh Give Thanks

## I Will Bless The Lord At All Times Hymn of Praise

### Prayer for Illumination

O merciful God, you sent your eternal Word to take on human nature in the womb of the virgin Mary. Grant that your chosen people may put off fleshly desires, to prepare their hearts for the visitation of your dear son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. In Jesus name we pray, and we all agree by saying, **Amen** 

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5 (NASB95)

Reader: This is the Word of God.

# People: Thank you Lord for your Holy Word (reflection)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 122 (NASB95)

Reader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thank You Lord for your Holy Word (reflection)

Worship in Song: Hymn of the Month

I'd Rather Have Jesus | View the lyrics here

Scripture Reading: Romans 13:8-14 (NASB95)

Reader: This is the Word of God.

# People: Thank you Lord for your Holy Word (reflection)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44 (NASB95)

Sermon (10:30 a.m.) https://www.facebook.com/fcmstl

### Confession & Prayer of Repentance

Trusting in God's tender mercy, let us confess our sin to God with one another.

Holy Lord, in this time of Advent, we confess we are often distracted by the season's busyness, by the stress of commitment, and even by putting our own traditions ahead of the true meaning of Christmas. We confess we also often prefer being sentimental to being sacrificial. Forgive us for all the times we have missed seeing You in our midst, for all the times we have doubted Your presence, and for all the times we have failed to hold the holidays as holy days. Pour peace into our lives and let us be bearers of Your peace to others. Remind us that this is a season of waiting and preparation for the greatest Gift of all. We open our hearts to You, O God and we confess

(Personal quiet confession)

Father, you have heard our confessions. Forgive us, we pray. Empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. And we all agree by saying, **Amen** 

### Words of Comfort & Affirmation

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 KJV)

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. All: Glory be to God! Amen

#### **Direction of Focus**

#### By Oswald Chambers

### Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters..., so our eyes look to the Lord our God... —Psalm 123:2

This verse is a description of total reliance on God. Just as the eyes of a servant are riveted on his master, our eyes should be directed to and focused on God. This is how knowledge of His countenance is gained and how God reveals Himself to us (see <u>Isaiah 53:1</u>). Our spiritual strength begins to be drained when we stop lifting our eyes to Him. Our stamina is sapped, not so much through external troubles surrounding us but through problems in our thinking. We wrongfully think, "I suppose I've been stretching myself a little too much, standing too tall and trying to look like God instead of being an ordinary humble person." We have to realize that no effort can be too high.

For example, you came to a crisis in your life, took a stand for God, and even had the witness of the Spirit as a confirmation that what you did was right. But now, maybe weeks or years have gone by, and you are slowly coming to the conclusion—"Well, maybe what I did showed too much pride or was superficial. Was I taking a stand a bit too high for me?" Your "rational" friends come and say, "Don't be silly. We knew when you first talked about this spiritual awakening that it was a passing impulse, that you couldn't hold up under the strain. And anyway, God doesn't expect you to endure." You respond by saying, "Well, I suppose I was expecting too much." That sounds humble to say, but it means that your reliance on God is gone, and you are now relying on worldly opinion. The danger comes when, no longer relying on God, you neglect to focus your eyes on Him. Only when God brings you to a sudden stop will you realize that you have been the loser. Whenever there is a spiritual drain in your life, correct it immediately. Realize that something has been coming between you and God, and change or remove it at once.

The Superiority of the Coming Peacemaker27 Nov 2022Isaiah 2:1-5Pastor Michael Hammond

\_\_\_\_\_