

Confession & Prayer of Repentance

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

Gracious and loving God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. During this season of Lent, we ask that You forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. (Personal quiet confession)

Father, You have heard our confessions. Forgive us, we pray. Empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. In the holy Name of our Savior, Jesus, we pray, and we all agree by saying, Amen.

Words of Comfort & Affirmation

⁶Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. ⁷Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon (Isaiah 55:6-7 NAS95).

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

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)

Nicene Creed: (liturgy on screen)

Benediction and Sending



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 fulfil our purpose, for the glory of God.

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 430
St. Charles, MO 63302
636-373-9001

Weekly Corporate Gatherings:

Sunday Worship Service- 10:00 AM
Discipleship Groups (times vary)

Staff:

Rev. Michael Hammond, Sr. - President & Senior Pastor
Rose Hammond- Receptionist

Order of Worship
Sunday, March 19, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer

Gracious God, so often we have missed Your presence because we are looking for You clothed in a particular way. Let this time of worship be an encounter with You that will enable us to behold Your beauty. Help us to be aware of Your holy presence. Enrich our act of worship with the power of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus name we pray.

Amen

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

[Great Are You Lord](#) [How Great is Our God](#) [Great is the Lord](#)

Prayer for Illumination

Dear Lord, as we read these passages of scripture, show us Your truth and what You want us to learn. Pinpoint the things in our thinking and our lives that aren't right. Help us to remember that Your word is life and always true, whereas our ideas are often fleeting. Use the truth of Your Word to transform our limited thinking and behavior. Let Your truth inform our faith and let our faith guide our actions. In Jesus name we pray and we all agree by saying, **Amen**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 42:14-21 (NASB95)

Reader: This is the Word of God.

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

Responsive Scripture Reading: Psalm 142

¹ I cry aloud with my voice to the Lord; I make supplication with my voice to the Lord.

² **I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare my trouble before Him.**

³ When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, You knew my path. In the way where I walk They have hidden a trap for me.

⁴ **Look to the right and see; For there is no one who regards me; There is no escape for me; No one cares for my soul.**

⁵ I cried out to You, O Lord; I said, "You are my refuge, My portion in the land of the living.

⁶ **"Give heed to my cry, For I am brought very low; Deliver me from my persecutors, For they are too strong for me.** ⁷ **"Bring my soul out of prison, So that I may give thanks to Your name; The righteous will surround me, For You will deal bountifully with me."**

Worship in Song: Hymn of the Month

[Sweet Hour of Prayer](#) | View the lyrics [here](#)

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14 (NASB95)

Reader: This is the Word of God.

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

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41 (NASB95)

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

Authorities we want to remember specifically in prayer

State Board of Education – Peter Herschend

Mary Schrag

Kerry Casey

St Charles County Assistant Dir of Admin – John Greifzu

Bob Schnur

Why Do We Need Revival
Judges 2:1-16 (NASB95)

19 March 2023
Pastor Matt Schell

The Discipline of Dismay
By Oswald Chambers

As they followed they were afraid. —Mark 10:32

At the beginning of our life with Jesus Christ, we were sure we knew all there was to know about following Him. It was a delight to forsake everything else and to throw ourselves before Him in a fearless statement of love. But now we are not quite so sure. Jesus is far ahead of us and is beginning to seem different and unfamiliar—“Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed” (Mark 10:32).

There is an aspect of Jesus that chills even a disciple’s heart to its depth and makes his entire spiritual life gasp for air. This unusual Person with His face set “like a flint” (Isaiah 50:7) is walking with great determination ahead of me, and He strikes terror right through me. He no longer seems to be my Counselor and Friend and has a point of view about which I know nothing. All I can do is stand and stare at Him in amazement. At first I was confident that I understood Him, but now I am not so sure. I begin to realize that there is a distance between Jesus and me and I can no longer be intimate with Him. I have no idea where He is going, and the goal has become strangely distant.

Jesus Christ had to understand fully every sin and sorrow that human beings could experience, and that is what makes Him seem unfamiliar. When we see this aspect of Him, we realize we really don’t know Him. We don’t recognize even one characteristic of His life, and we don’t know how to begin to follow Him. He is far ahead of us, a Leader who seems totally unfamiliar, and we have no friendship with Him.

The discipline of dismay is an essential lesson which a disciple must learn. The danger is that we tend to look back on our times of obedience and on our past sacrifices to God in an effort to keep our enthusiasm for Him strong (see Isaiah 50:10-11). But when the darkness of dismay comes, endure until it is over, because out of it will come the ability to follow Jesus truly, which brings inexpressibly wonderful joy.