PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (liturgy on screen)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be always with you.

And also, with You

CORPORATE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE BLESSING & 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

^{*}catholic: All of God's people in every place, at all times, throughout all of time.

Order of Worship Sunday, December 10, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

OPENING DECLARATION & PRAYER

As we gather, may we prepare our voices to proclaim the coming of our Savior and Comforter. Let us worship and grow in the just peace of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. (Prayer)

WORSHIP IN SONG (click the song title for a YouTube track)

Lord You Are Welcome Glory and Honor Have Your Way

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guiding God, without the presence of your Holy Spirit, we are hopelessly lost on this Advent journey. Come to us in this place as we gather to hear your Word. Open our hearts to receive your Word and our minds to understand it. And we all agree by saying, **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 40:1-11 (NASB95)

<u>Leader</u>: This is the Word of God.

Congregation: Thank you Lord for your Holy Word

(Quiet Reflection)

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 85 (NASB95)

Leader: This is the Word of God

Congregation: Thank you Lord for your Holy Word

(Quiet Reflection)

WORSHIP IN SONG: HYMN OF THE MONTH

O Come All Ye Faithful | View the lyrics here

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a (NASB95)

Leader: This is the Word of God

Congregation: Thank you Lord for your Holy Word

(Quiet Reflection)

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:1-8 (NASB95)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to You Lord Christ

SERMON (10:45 a.m.) https://www.facebook.com/fcmstl

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

The act of confessing our sin is not simply a recitation of our faults and wrongs, but also an opportunity to receive God's mercy and share in that abundant grace. Confident of God's love for us, let us offer our prayers, first quietly and personally, then aloud and corporately. (quiet personal prayer)

Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, and your Spirit, so that we can amend our lives and grow more each day into the image of Christ. We confess that we have allowed rifts to grow, instead of admitting our part in the separation, for fear of being rejected when we reach out. You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships, to a wholeness with each other and with You. Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations through the power and love of Christ. Forgive us for how our actions have impacted others by not loving You with all our hearts as we should.

Now Blessed Trinity may the same grace that has led us to repentance this day, work in us that we may delight in Your will and walk fully in Your ways, all of our days, to the glory of Your name. **Amen.**

Advent Series: Our Spirit Waits Pt. 2 Title: Our Just Peace Pastor Michael Hammond Sr. 10 December 2023					
astor Mich	aei Hammono	1 Sr. 10 De	ecember 20	23	

The Initiative Against Despair

By Oswald Chambers

The disciples went to sleep when they should have kept awake, and when they realized what they had done it produced despair. The sense of the irreparable is apt to make us despair, and we say – "It is all up now, it is no use trying anymore." If we imagine that this kind of despair is exceptional, we are mistaken, it is a very ordinary human experience. Whenever we realize that we have not done that which we had a magnificent opportunity of doing, then we are apt to sink into despair, and Jesus Christ comes and says – "Sleep on now, that opportunity is lost forever, you cannot alter it, but arise and go to the next thing." Let the past sleep, but let it sleep on the bosom of Christ, and go out into the irresistible future with Him.

There are experiences like this in each of our lives. We are in despair, the despair that comes from actualities, and we cannot lift ourselves out of it. The disciples in this instance had done a downright unforgivable thing; they had gone to sleep instead of watching with Jesus, but He came with a spiritual initiative against their despair and said – "Arise and do the next thing." If we are inspired of God, what is the next thing? To trust Him absolutely and to pray on the ground of His Redemption.

Never let the sense of failure corrupt your new action.

Authorities we want to remember specifically in prayer:

MO State House of Rep District 103 – Dave Hinman MO State House of Rep District 105 – Adam Schwadron St Peters Board of Alderman Ward 3 – Melissa Reimer