

So, forgive us loving God and Father, and restore unto us the joy of our salvation, and of our common life in You, for we ask these things in Jesus's name, and by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

Beloved of God, hear this good news: God's love never fails, and it is always at work to bring us back to God and one another. If we have confessed and repented of our sins, then in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

May God restore us to the joy of our common life now and always. Amen.

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: Nicene Creed

THE BLESSING & SENDING

Authorities we want to remember specifically in prayer this week:

MO US House of Rep District 6 – Sam Graves
MO US House of Rep District 7 – Eric Burlison
MO State House of Rep District 106 – Travis Wilson
St Peters Alderman Ward 4 – Nick Trupiano

Our Advent Prayer

I lift my heart up to You, Lord, to thank You for the blessings You shower on me each day. You are the 'joy of my soul.' I know that in Your great love, I am held and protected by You.

I pray and listen to the good news You send; I ask and feel the healing. I am freed by You from the things in this world that let me hide from You. I rejoice, I rejoice, down to my soul. Help me to prepare my heart to be open and able to receive Your immense love.



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, December 17, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

OPENING DECLARATION & PRAYER

Come, let all who love the Lord enter God's house for worship! There are many who are poor and wounded and do not know of Christ's love. So, we must proclaim for all to hear the news of Jesus Christ, who died so ALL might have life and have life more abundantly. Blessed be the name of the Lord!

(Prayer) God, in Your wonderful and gracious way You sent Christ to call us to a oneness with You which we could not earn on our own. Reach into our hearts and help us celebrate Your love which knows no boundaries. In Christ we pray, Amen.

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

[Lord of All](#) [Every Praise](#) [Here I Am to Worship](#)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Heavenly Father, as the scriptures are read, please guide our hearts and minds to be open to the movement of Your Spirit, to listen for the ways You are calling us, and to explore how we might live more deeply into Your way, Your truth, and Your life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (NASB95)

Leader: This is the Word of God.

Congregation: Thank you Lord for your Holy Word

(Quiet Reflection)

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 126 (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: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (NASB95)

Leader: This is the Word of God

Congregation: Thank you Lord for your Holy Word

(Quiet Reflection)

GOSPEL READING: John 1:6-8, 19-28 (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 confess our sins to God, first quietly and personally, then aloud and corporately. (Quiet personal confession)

Merciful God, the stories of Your faithfulness abound in Scripture, in history, and in our own lives, yet we confess that we do not continually trust You, and in Your provision and care for us.

We struggle and witness the struggles to live and thrive all around us. We have found that our joy is not fierce. We are overwhelmed by what is required of us to live for You and to love our neighbors. We go our own way, longing for joy and peace, and fail to recognize our need for communion with You and our neighbors.

(cont'd on back page)

