

Now Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus, your wonderful gift born to us on Christmas Day, we pray the words he taught His disciples to say:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION: (liturgy on screen)

When Mary found that she would bear God's love in the world by giving birth to a baby, she asked the question: "How can this be?" And the angel answered: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. For nothing will be impossible with God." Friends, nothing is ever impossible with God. Therefore, be assured that by the power of the Holy Spirit we, too, shall carry God's love into the world; for in the name of Jesus Christ, we have been forgiven.

Glory be to God! 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

HOLY EUCHARIST (liturgy on screen)

THE BLESSING & SENDING

Authorities we want to remember specifically in prayer this week:

MO State House of Rep District 107-Mark Matthiesen

MO US House of Rep District 8- Jason Smith

MO State House of Rep District 108- Justin Hicks



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 24, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

OPENING DECLARATION & PRAYER

We will sing of Your steadfast love, O God. Forever with our mouths we proclaim Your faithfulness. Our never-ceasing songs shall show the mercies of God for the ages to know. Our song forever shall record the tender mercies of the Lord. Our souls magnify the Lord, our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

(Prayer) Heavenly Father, we seek to hear the precious news once again that we might be continually renewed, transformed, and awed by Your abundant love, everlasting peace, miraculous hope, and quenchless joy. May our praise and prayers be pleasing to You. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen

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

[I Came to Magnify the Lord](#) [Shine Jesus Shine](#)
[King of Glory](#)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, Holy Word, may Your love leap within us and Your stories seal themselves to our hearts. Speak to us, Lord, as Your Word is being read and lead and guide us until the day of Your coming. In Jesus name we pray, and we all agree by saying, **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16 (NASB95)

Leader: This is the Word of God.

Congregation: Thank you Lord for your Holy Word

(Quiet Reflection)

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 89:1-5,19-29 (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: Romans 16:25-27 (NASB95)

Leader: This is the Word of God

Congregation: Thank you Lord for your Holy Word

(Quiet Reflection)

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:26-38 (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

God of Wonder, we come before you in anticipation of what is to come.

We are excited.

We are fearful.

We are relieved.

We are uncertain.

But we trust that you are already aware of all these things, and in all these emotions, you are still here with us.

So, God of Love, we confess that we have allowed our flesh to operate in ways that do not allow Your love to transform us, and to bless others. You have given Your Word and Your Spirit, to dwell within us, but we have held the truth in unrighteousness. Now, God of Mercy, we call to mind the ways in which we have individually sinned.

(Quiet personal confession)

(cont'd on back page)

His Birth and Our New Birth

By Oswald Chambers

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." —Matthew 1:23

His Birth in History. "...that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God (Luke 1:35). Jesus Christ was born *into* this world, not *from* it. He did not emerge out of history; He came into history from the outside. Jesus Christ is not the best human being the human race can boast of— He is a Being for whom the human race can take no credit at all. He is not man becoming God, but God Incarnate— God coming into human flesh from outside it. His life is the highest and the holiest entering through the most humble of doors. Our Lord's birth was an advent— the appearance of God in human form.

His Birth in Me. "My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you..." (Galatians 4:19). Just as our Lord came into human history from outside it, He must also come into me from outside. Have I allowed my personal human life to become a "Bethlehem" for the Son of God? I cannot enter the realm of the kingdom of God unless I am born again from above by a birth totally unlike physical birth. "You must be born again" (John 3:7). This is not a command, but a fact based on the authority of God. The evidence of the new birth is that I yield myself so completely to God that "Christ is formed" in me. And once "Christ is formed" in me, His nature immediately begins to work through me.

God Evident in the Flesh. This is what is made so profoundly possible for you and for me through the redemption of man by Jesus Christ.