

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION: (liturgy on screen)

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

HOLY EUCHARIST (liturgy on screen)

THE BLESSING & SENDING

Authorities we want to remember specifically in prayer this week:

MO US House of Rep District 5- Emanuel Cleaver II
St. Peters Alderman Ward 4- Patrick Barclay
MO State House of Rep District 70- Gretchen Bangert



*⁶ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

*⁷ There will be no end to the increase of His government or of
peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom,
To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
From then on and forevermore.*

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. Isa 9:6-7



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 31, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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

OPENING DECLARATION & PRAYER

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

(Psalm 95:1-3, 6) (prayer)

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

[Praise the Lord With Me](#) [Joy To The World \(Unspeakable Joy\)](#)

[Emmanuel](#) [Glory To Jesus](#)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, as we hear Your Word read and proclaimed, may it not return to You empty. May it accomplish that which You purpose. May it succeed in the thing for which You sent it. Open our ears and hearts to Your Word that we may live as Your children and heirs. In Jesus name we pray, and we all agree by saying, **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (NASB95)

Leader: This is the Word of God.

Congregation: Thank you Lord for your Holy Word

(Quiet Reflection)

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 111 (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: Galatians 4:4-7 (NASB95)

Leader: This is the Word of God

Congregation: Thank you Lord for your Holy Word

(Quiet Reflection)

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:22-40 (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

Scripture tells us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Scripture also promises us that redemption is in Christ Jesus. Acknowledging this truth about ourselves and with gratitude for the truth about God, let us confess our sins in God's presence and before one another. (Quiet personal confession)

Gracious and loving God, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we look back and recognize the many ways we have fallen short of your glory: missed opportunities to share Your love; times when we were silent when we could have spoken up for what was right; indifference to Your claim on our whole lives through Jesus Christ; and a lack of gratitude for Your amazing grace by which You save us and call us to be Your people. Lord, forgive us.

As we look ahead to a new year, free us from thinking we can save ourselves. Help us to follow where You lead. Show us how to be Your children and Your heirs, forgiven and freed to live for our God and for one another in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (cont'd on back page)

The Meal of Remembrance
Luke 22:14-20

31 December 2023
Min. Jonathan Walls

Yesterday

By Oswald Chambers

You shall not go out with haste, ...for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard. —Isaiah 52:12

Security from Yesterday. "...God requires an account of what is past" (Ecclesiastes 3:15). At the end of the year we turn with eagerness to all that God has for the future, and yet anxiety is apt to arise when we remember our yesterdays. Our present enjoyment of God's grace tends to be lessened by the memory of yesterday's sins and blunders. But God is the God of our yesterdays, and He allows the memory of them to turn the past into a ministry of spiritual growth for our future. God reminds us of the past to protect us from a very shallow security in the present.

Security for Tomorrow. "...the Lord will go before you..." This is a gracious revelation—that God will send His forces out where we have failed to do so. He will keep watch so that we will not be tripped up again by the same failures, as would undoubtedly happen if He were not our "rear guard." And God's hand reaches back to the past, settling all the claims against our conscience.

Security for Today. "You shall not go out with haste...." As we go forth into the coming year, let it not be in the haste of impetuous, forgetful delight, nor with the quickness of impulsive thoughtlessness. But let us go out with the patient power of knowing that the God of Israel will go before us. Our yesterdays hold broken and irreversible things for us. It is true that we have lost opportunities that will never return, but God can transform this destructive anxiety into a constructive thoughtfulness for the future. Let the past rest, but let it rest in the sweet embrace of Christ.

Leave the broken, irreversible past in His hands, and step out into the invincible future with Him.

'THE MEAL OF REMEMBRANCE'

Luke 22: 14-20.

J.L.Walls

God Remembers.

*God remembers, it is not implying forgetfulness. The statement highlights the faithfulness, love and care of God.

*In the scripture when God remembers is often followed by some type of action: *Genesis 8:1- God remembered Noah, on the ark, he caused wind to blow to dry up the water. *Exodus 2:24-The children of Israel in slavery, God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Issac and Jacob and the children were freed. *Genesis 30: 22,23- God remembered Rachel; he enabled her to conceive. She gave birth to a son Joseph.

*The forgetting curve is a memory model, that shows how learned information slips out of our memories over time, unless we take action to keep it there.

*Re=again. *Remember=To look back. *Recall to the mind.

*"Remembering is not merely a recollection of information about the past, it is remembering the past in such a way that the facts remembered have some impact on the present". (Peter Toon)

*The call to remember so important these days: the narrative has changed and is changing, very little preaching about sin, there is really not a hell, everything is redefined, lies are not really lies, what was right is wrong and what is wrong is now right.

* Christian determines the frequency of sharing the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:26). This is not a message of frequency (how often), but of remembrance. And since remembering is an action word, some type of action is important.

*The account of the Lord's Supper (Meal of Remembrance) is captured in: Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14: 22-25, Luke 22:14-20 and 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26.

A. The Meal.

A1. Only family was at the meal. (Family, those who believe and confessed Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord). *Luke 22:14 "When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table".

A2. The world/society in Acts 11:26, called the followers Christian.

*In 2021, 69% adults self-identify as Christian. While the number seems high, further study showed that many don't even acknowledge Jesus Christ as savior among their theological beliefs. George Barna, "explains that the name Christian has become a more generic term, rather than a name that reflects a deep commitment.

*The one who names, also helps defines.

*Jesus called his family disciples. (Disciple= a follower of Jesus, changed by Jesus, and committed to the mission of Jesus). Jesus's definition has not changed.

A3. The meal reminds believers to proclaim Jesus's sacrifice (1 Cor 11:26).

A4. Jesus looked forward to this meal. (Luke 22:15)

"This meal is a reminder of what Jesus did in the past, a symbol of our present relationship and a promise of what Jesus will do in the future". (Joseph Tkach)

B. The bread remembered (Represents Jesus Body)

B1. Jesus the bread of life (John 6:35) fills all those who are hungry. Those who are starving can be fulfilled spiritually, physically and emotionally by Jesus, the bread of life.

*John 6:27, “do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the son of man will give to you”.

*John 3:16.

B2. Jesus breaks the bread, and gave to the disciples. Luke 22:19 *The breaking represents what his body would endure.

*Mark 14:65. Mark 15:15. Mark 15:17. Luke 24:39. Luke 23: 33.

B3. Jesus body endured all this and he still in Luke 23:34, asked the father to forgive. And he still rose from the grave with all power.

C. The wine remembered (Represents the blood of Jesus)

Luke 22:20, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

C1. The Atoning Blood. *No longer would there have to be a sacrifice of an animal’s life for my sin. Jesus, the lamb that takes away the sins of the world. Paid the sacrifice once and for all time. (1 Peter 1:18-19)

C2. Where sin stained, Jesus’s blood cleansed. (1 John 1:7).

C3. His blood shed for the remission of sin. (Forgiveness. Pardon. Cancel Punishment. (Matthew 26:28)

C4. The shedding of blood was not wasted.

A few essential biological functions of blood that keep us alive:

1.Red blood cells transport oxygen to every cell-Leviticus 17:11 “For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life”.

2.White blood cells defend the body against invading bacteria and viruses. Revelation 12:11, “And they overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

3.Blood removes metabolic wastes from the cells- 1 John 1:7, “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.,

D. What Do You Remember?

*Do you remember the day you accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord? * Do you remember your thoughts (mental)? *Do you Remember any emotions? Shouts, laughs, tears. *Do you Remember who was around you? *Do you Remember any sounds, and smells? *Do you remember his love for you?

* 1 John 4: 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER THE MEAL OF REMEMBRANCE