

Welcome!

January 1, 2017 10:30 A.M.

John Wesley's Covenant Service

On December 26, 1747, John Wesley strongly urged the Methodists to renew their covenant with God. His first Covenant Service was held on August 11, 1755. He issued this as a pamphlet in 1780 and the form was used without alterations for nearly a century. After that, various modifications were made from time to time. The Covenant Service is most commonly held on New Year's Eve or Day. Today's service has been adapted from several resources to make it more accessible for our community in the year 2017. As we gather for worship we remember that we gather as generations have gathered before us and celebrate a tradition that has been used by Methodists since 1755!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lay Leader

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Heather Cooper

Wilbur Held

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Rev. Karen Karpow

One: God of all times and yet beyond time, you call us into a new year still to be discovered.

Many: Help us travel light, in faith and expectation. Guide us in this new venture of wonder and imagination.

O: Make us bold witnesses to the in-breaking of your future.

M: Let us rest our time in yours, confident that we do not enter this new year alone.

*BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Acolyte

*HYMN OF INTENTION "Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine" No. 606

Charles Wesley wrote this hymn specifically for the Covenant service.

CHILDREN, LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

(DAVID TRIPP, ENGLAND, 20TH CENT.)

O God, Searcher of all our hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own. As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace, and to enter anew into covenant with you, reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us. Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" No. 400

OFFERING & OFFERTORY *Pastorale on "Gesù Bambino"* Pietro Yon

*DOXOLOGY No. 94 or See Below

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING OF STORIES OF GOD AT WORK IN OUR LIVES

SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on 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 and the power and glory forever. Amen.

HYMN OF CENTERING "Spirit of the Living God" No. 393

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 8, Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 492, 616 OT

HYMN "I Am Thine, O Lord" verses 1, 2, 3 No. 419

SCRIPTURE LESSON Kings 23:1-3, Jeremiah 31:31-34 356, 735 OT

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Peter 1:3-25 232 NT

HYMN "A Charge to Keep I Have" verses 1, 2 No. 413

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 25:31-46, John 15:1-8 29, 109 NT

HYMN "Open My Eyes That I May See" No. 454

REFLECTION *Wesleyan Wedges* Kathy Schmucker, Spiritual Formation Director

HYMN "Take My Life and Let It Be" No. 399

THE INVITATION

THE ACT OF THANKSGIVING

Response: We praise your holy name, O Lord.

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

Response: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Adapted from Ian Price and Carolyn Kitto, Psalm 139

One: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

Many: You know when I sit down and when I rise up.

O: You discern my thoughts from far away.

M: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

O: Even before a word is on my tongue, Oh Lord you know it completely.

M: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand on me.

All: In awe, wonder, and praise, we worship you and come to offer our lives anew.

COVENANT PRAYER

One: And now, beloved, let us bind ourselves with willing bonds to our covenant God, and take the yoke of Christ upon us. This means that we are heartily content that Christ appoint us our place and work, and that Christ alone will be our reward.

One: Christ has many services to be done. Some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honor, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and temporal interests, others are contrary to both. In some, we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others, we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is assuredly given us in Christ, who strengthens us.

Many: Therefore let us make the covenant of God our own. Let us engage our heart to the Lord, and resolve in God's strength never to go back. Being thus prepared, let us now, in sincere dependence on God's grace and trusting in God's promises, yield ourselves anew to Christ.

One: O Lord God, Holy Father, who has called us through Christ to participate in this gracious covenant: We take upon ourselves with joy the yoke of obedience, and engage ourselves, for love of You, to seek and do Your perfect will. We are no longer our own, but Yours.

Many: I am no longer my own, but Yours. Put me to what You will, rank me with whom You will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for You or laid aside for You, exalted for You or brought low for You; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You are mine, and I am Yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

*HYMN OF MISSION "Blessed Assurance" No. 369

During the hymn of mission we invite you to light your candle, bring it to the prayer rail and pick up a prayer wedge as a symbol of Covenant between you and our Lord.

*BENEDICTION

*CHRIST'S LIGHT TO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

In Thee is Gladness

Acolyte
J.S. Bach

**Please stand, as you are able*

CCLI License #1596957

We invite you to continue your reflection of renewal in the tradition of the Wesley Covenant Service by visiting the New Year Prayer Stations available in the Chapel, January 1-8 during church hours.

Look for resources about Spiritual Practices and Bible Reading plans in the church kiosks. January is also a great time to take the Discipleship Survey and consider taking a new step in your faith journey. Find the survey and resources at <http://www.faithumchurch.org/discipleship-matrix.html>

January Sermon Series ~ Release ~ Isaiah 61 and Luke 4:18



**FAITH
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**



Covenant Renewal

January 1, 2017

Co-Pastors:

Revs. Cara & Steve Stultz Costello

Organist: Heather Cooper

Liturgists:

Spiritual Formation Ministry Team

Greeters: Naomi Powell and Bev Temple

Worship Services: Sundays at 8:30AM, 9:45AM & 11:00AM

300 Ninth Street NW, North Canton, Ohio 44720

Telephone: (330) 499-6040 **Email:** ncfaith@faithumchurch.org

www.faithumchurch.org

