

To What Shall We Cling



January 10, 2021

Welcome to Worship

As we continue to build on this new year, we will continue with selections from the Traditional Wesleyan Covenant Service. Here are some thoughts Wesley had about setting aside a time for this worship: "Wesley found the service rich and meaningful, as expressed in his Journal: "Many mourned before God, and many were comforted" (April 1756); "It was, as usual, a time of remarkable blessing" (October 1765). "It was an occasion for a variety of spiritual experiences ... I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desired to return thanks, either for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a fresh manifestation of His graces, healing all their backslidings" (January 1, 1775). In London these services were usually held on New Year's Day. Around the country the Covenant Service was conducted whenever John Wesley visited the Methodist Societies." "Covenant Renewal Service" Copyright ©1992 UMPH. Wesley Covenant Service abridged by Ole E. Borgen. Discipleship Ministries The United Methodist Church. Nov. 14, 2014. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/covenant-renewal-service>.

Prepare your Heart

"Light yourself on fire with passion and people will come from miles to watch you burn."

— John Wesley

Order of Worship

Bold type denotes congregation speaking aloud.

Preparatory Music

Dave Ramsey

Welcome

Pastor Sam Fisher

Call to Worship

Joan Foster

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. (DAVID TRIPP, ENGLAND, 20TH CENT.)

Opening Music

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

UMH 206 vs. 1, 2

Litany for Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies.

O God, our Covenant Friend,
you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives.
We thank you for your loving care,
which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

R: We praise your holy name, O God.

You have given us life and reason,
and set us in a world filled with your glory.
You have comforted us with family and friends,
and ministered to us through the hands of our siblings. **R**

You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you,
and have given us your peace.
You have redeemed us, and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus.
You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit
and the witness of your Church. **R**

You have been our light in darkness
and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation.
You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys
and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors. **R**

You remembered us when we forgot you.
You followed us even when we tried to flee from you.
You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you.
For all your patience and overflowing grace. **R**

Staying Connected

Rev. Sharon Langfeldt

Put a Little Love in Your Heart by DeShannon, Holiday, Myers

May the peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Time of Prayer

Rev. Sharon Langfeldt and Pastor Sam Fisher

Prayer

Time of Reflection

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you, Praised for you or criticized for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service. And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

Children's Time!

Spiritual Reading

a selection from "Covenant Relationships" by Josh Monen

C Blanck

Scripture

Jeremiah 31:31-34 NRSV

Joan Foster

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

A Word of God for a people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Message

"To What Shall We Cling?"

Pastor Sam Fisher

Reflection Song *Wade in the Water* TFWS 2107 vs. 3, 4

Offering Pastor Sam Fisher

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Prayer of Thanks

Announcements

Blessing/Sending

Sending Song *We Are Marching* TFWS 2235b vs. 1, 2, 3