

January 1, 2012 SERVICE OF WORSHIP

10:30 am

Liturgical Color: White

WELCOME

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

Schuyler McGinnis

PRELUDE

Come, All Christians, Be Committed

arr. Mark Hayes

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Larry Moore

Leader: Come, let us join ourselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant which will never be forgotten.

People: We come together in this new year to join in a covenant service. Our purpose is to be reminded of our deep need of God's grace.

Leader: Every person must recognize their sinful condition and remember that they cannot experience forgiveness outside the grace of God.

People: Then we must acknowledge that our need of his grace is deeper than forgiveness for wrong acts, but goes to the cleansing work of his spirit at the very core of our beings. So we embrace an opportunity for a fresh experience of his grace. Let us rededicate ourselves to the covenant relationship provided for us through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*HYMN NO. 606

Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine

Kingsfold

*INVOCATION

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

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.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, in gratitude for your gracious deeds, we look to the coming new year for renewal. You have made us your children; now we ask for your help in turning our lives toward you. Make us thankful people, praising you in all we do. Free us to sing with joy the psalms and hymns of praise. Teach us to forgive others as Christ forgives us. Show us the way of compassion, kindness, and patience. Give us grace to let the peace of Christ live in our hearts. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

SILENT PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

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 the glory forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 31:31-34 Page 899 (OT) in pew Bibles

EPISTLE READING Romans 12:1-2 Page 196 (NT) in pew Bibles
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN NO. 382** *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* Adelaide

†***GOSPEL LESSON** John 15: 1-10 Page 133(NT) in pew Bibles
Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON The Reverend Terry C. Martin

COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE See Insert

OFFERTORY *In the Name of the Lord* arr. Mark Hayes

***DOXOLOGY No. 95** *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* Old 100th

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***HYMN NO. 117** *O God Our Help in Ages Past* St. Anne

***BENEDICTION**

Holy Trinity, outgoing, sending – send us in your name and in your image. Grow in us your delight in otherness, difference, and variety. Inspire in us your unity of loving purpose. Instill in us your joy in receiving and giving. Build between us relationships that practice peace. And because we and our world are bent and broken, wounded and willful, sinned against and sinning, build between us the longing to hear truth spoken in love. Inspire in us determination to stay in covenant with you, and with each other. And grow in us courage to risk reaching out in love to the enemy and the stranger. Through Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

†Sermon Text

**Please stand if you are able*

Nursery Provided

John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service

PROCLAMATION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Christian life is redeemed from sin and consecrated to God. Through baptism, we have entered this life and have been admitted into the new covenant of which Jesus Christ is the Mediator. He sealed it with his own blood, that it might last for ever. On the one side, God promises to give us new life in Christ, the Source and Perfecter of our faith. On the other side, we are pledged to live no more for ourselves but only for Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us.

From time to time we renew our covenant with God, especially when we reaffirm the Baptism Covenant and gather at the Lord's table. Today, however, we meet, as the generations before us have met, to renew the covenant that binds us to God. Let us make this covenant of God our own.

INVITATION

Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him. Christ has many services to be done. Some are more easy and honorable, others are more difficult and disgraceful. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves. But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ.

Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

Let me be your servant, under your command.

I will no longer be my own.

I will give up myself to your will in all things.

Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

Lord, make me what you will.

I put myself fully into your hands:

put me to doing, put me to suffering,

let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,

let me be full, let me be empty,

let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.

Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. Christ will have no servants except by consent to all that he requires. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Confirm this by a holy covenant.

To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to these admonitions:

First, set apart some time, more than once, to be spent alone before the Lord;

in seeking earnestly God's special assistance and gracious acceptance of you;

in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant;

in searching your hearts whether you have already freely given your life to Christ.

Consider what your sins are.

Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, strict, and spiritual they are, and whether you, after having carefully considered them, are willing to choose them all.

Be sure you are clear in these matters, see that you do not lie to God.

Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant, rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength, so you can keep your promise.

Trust not your own strength and power.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful.

You have given to the Lord your hearts, you have opened your mouths to the Lord, and you have dedicated yourself to God.

With God's power, never go back.

And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord.

Fall down on your knees, lift your hands toward heaven, open your hearts to the Lord as we pray:

COVENANT PRAYER

The people may kneel or bow their heads.

O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see me as I fall down before you. Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will, for you have promised mercy to me if I turn to you with my whole heart.

God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all, covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in my life. Against your will, I have turned my love toward the world. In your power I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you. For my own righteousness is riddled with sin, unable to stand before you.

Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again if you would let him.

Before all heaven and earth, I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God. I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion, and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant, to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.

God has given the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way and means of coming to God.

Jesus, I do here on bended knees accept Christ as the only new and living Way, and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him. O blessed Jesus, I come to you, hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants. I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own worthiness, and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide. I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law.

Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

I do here covenant with you, O Christ, to take my lot with you as it may fall. Through your grace I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from you.

God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke, to carry your burden. All your laws are holy, just, and good. I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising that I will strive to order my whole life according to your direction, and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.

The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today without guile or reservation. If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright. And now, glory be to you, O God the Father, whom I from this day forward shall look upon as my God and Father. Glory be to you, O God the Son, who have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood, and now is my Savior and Re-deemer. Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit, who by your almighty power have turned my heart from sin to God. O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend.

**And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant.
So be it.
And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven.
Amen.**

You are advised to make this covenant not only in your heart, but in word; not only in word, but in writing. Therefore, with all reverence, lay the service before the Lord as your act and deed. And when you have done this, sign it. Then keep it as a reminder of the holy agreement between God and you that you may re-member it during doubts and temptations.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

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