**Faith United Methodist** **Church**

**January 10, 2021**



Centering

7Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God… since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. If we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. 1 John 4:7, 9, 11-12

Welcome

Opening Prayer

God, Searcher of our hearts, you formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. By the baptism of Christ’s suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your church and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit claiming us as your own. We come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace in our lives; and to enter anew into covenant with you. Open our hearts to your truth so that we may live fully as your children in your world. Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Music

Prayer of Illumination

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. **Amen**.

Music

Scripture Reading  Mark 1:4-11

1The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
   who will prepare your way;
3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
   “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight” ’
4John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’ 9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

The Word of God, for the People of God. Thanks Be to God. **Amen.**

Children’s Time

Special Music

Witness *Heaven’s Voice*

Covenant Renewal

***The Covenant***

God made a covenant with the people of Israel,

 calling them to be a holy nation,

 chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love

 by finding delight in the law.

The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord,

 in his life, work, death, and resurrection.

In him all people may be set free from sin and its power,

 and united in love and obedience.

In this covenant God promises us new life in Christ.

For our part we promise

 to live no longer for ourselves but for God.

We meet, therefore, as generations have met before us,

 to renew the covenant which bound them

 and binds us to God.

Let us then seek forgiveness for the sin by which we have denied God’s claim upon us. Let us pray.

God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sins.

For the sin that has made us slow to learn from Christ,

 reluctant to follow him, and afraid to bear the cross:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, forgive.**

For the sin that has caused the poverty of our worship,

 the formality and selfishness of our prayers,

 our neglect of fellowship and the means of grace,

 and our hesitating witness for Christ:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, forgive.**

For the sin that has led us to misuse your gifts,

 evade our responsibilities,

 and fail to be good stewards of your creation:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, forgive.**

For the sin that has made us unwilling

 to overcome evil with good,

 tolerant of injustice, quick to condemn,

 and selfish in sharing your love with others:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, forgive.**

**Have mercy on me,**

 **O God, in your constant love;**

 **in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences. Wash away all my guilt**

 **and cleanse me from my sin.**

 **Create in me a clean heart,**

 **O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

 **Give me the joy of your help again**

 **and strengthen me with a willing spirit.**

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just,

 and will forgive our sins,

 and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

 Therefore to all who truly repent this is his gracious word: ‘

 Your sins are forgiven.’ **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

 let us again accept our place within this covenant

 which God has made with us

 and with all who are called to be Christ’s disciples.

This means that, by the help of the Holy Spirit,

 we accept God’s purpose for us,

 and the call to love and serve God in all our life and work.

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 material 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 given to us in Christ, who strengthens us.

Therefore let us make this covenant of God our own. Let us give ourselves to him trusting in his promises and relying on his grace.

Eternal God, in your faithful and enduring love

 you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ.

In obedience we hear and accept your commands;

 in love we seek to do your perfect will;

 with joy we offer ourselves anew to you.

We are no longer our own but yours.

**I am no longer my own but yours.**

 **Your will, not mine, be done in all things,**

 **wherever you may place me,**

 **in all that I do and in all that I may endure;**

 **when there is work for me and when there is none; when I am troubled and when I am at peace.**

 **Your will be done when I am valued**

 **and when I am disregarded;**

 **when I find fulfillment**

 **and when it is lacking;**

 **when I have all things,**

 **and when I have nothing.**

 **I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you,**

 **as and where you choose.**

**Glorious and blessed God,**

 **Father, Son and Holy Spirit,**

 **you are mine and I am yours.**

**May it be so forever.**

**Let this covenant now made on earth**

 **be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.**

As we have entered this covenant not for ourselves alone, but as God’s servants and witnesses, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Loving God, hear us as we pray for your holy catholic Church:

**make us all one, that the world may believe.**

Inspire and lead all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world: **establish justice and peace among all people.**

Have compassion on all who suffer from any sickness, grief or trouble: **deliver them from their distress.**

We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory: **bring us all to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray in silence for our own needs and for those of others …

Silence

Lord our God, you have helped us by your grace

 to make these prayers, and you have promised through

 Christ our Lord that when two or three agree

 in his name you will grant what they ask.

Answer now your servants’ prayers

 according to their needs;

 in this world grant that we may truly know you,

 and in the world to come

 gracious give us eternal life;

 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offering & Prayer for the Gifts of the Community

O God, our hope, transform our gifts and the acts of giving into ministries of love and compassion to all the persons this church serves in your name. **Amen.**

Music

Benediction

 Go forth from this time and place, hearing the Voice from Heaven that you are God’s beloved and share that love in all that you say and do. May the blessing of God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen**.

**History of the Wesley Covenant Service**

From the United Methodist *Book of Worship*

In 1663 Richard Alleine, a Puritan, published *Vindiciae Pietatis*: or, *A Vindication of Godliness in the Greater Strictness and Spirituality of It.* In 1753, it was again published in John Wesley’s *A Christian Library*. Wesley used one chapter, *“The Application of the Whole”*, on Monday, August 11, 1755, in what probably was the first real celebration of the Covenant Service in the Methodist Movement.

Wesley found the service rich and meaningful, as expressed in his Jounral: *“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.

After the time of Wesley several versions of the Covenant were developed, gradually giving Wesley’s material less place in the total service. The present service follows our Basic Patter for worship, enables the congregation to participate more fully.

The heart of the service, focused in the Covenant Prayer, requires persons to commit themselves to God. We celebrate the Covenant Service on Baptism of the Lord as the reminder that our baptism is not the end of our spiritual journey but the continuation of God’s lifelong sanctification of our lives. As we continue to live in response to God’s grace may be live this prayer.

**Prayer List**

Margaret Arceneaux

Paul Arceneaux, Jr.

Sidney Arceneaux

Kim Craigen Ard

Lucian Adams

Dolores Anderson

Johnny & Ovelia Battaglio

Lloyd Betar

Mary Bevil

Bonnie Blankenship

Donna Suppa Bolton

Jo Bordeaux

Pat Borel

Glenda Brooks

Jean Brooks

*Family of Eugene Burrel*

Ann Campbell

Norma Campbell

Robert & Roxie Castilaw

Jared Castolenia

Matthew Cerda

Tana Champeau

Rebecca Chance

Billie Cherry

*Family of Herbert Clubb*

Kim Wilber Conn

Derick Cooper

Kyle & Beth Craigen

Dakota Crutchfield

Jimmy & Emily Davis

Bobbye Dean

Mary Delafosse

Tammy Dufour

Julie Duplichan

Keven Dupre

Joe Floyd

Lorene Green

Rachel Grimmett

Robert Hargraves

*Family of Dana Hargraves*

Connie Hebert

MaryJo Hebert

Danny & Kelsey Hurych

David Hurych

Edna & Raymond Jones

Alice Kethley

*Family of Leon Kethley*

Kristi Key

Clyde Landry

*Family of Gail Lauve*

Christi Leblanc

Fred Ledesma

Alice & Louis Loftin

Orianna Marchand

Matt Markos

Barbara Martin

Lloyd Martin

Linda Meyers

Ron & Michelle Mueller

Joyce Murphy

Arnold Northcut

Kelly Simmons Owens

Jim Padgett

John & Candance Perkins

Melva Phillips

Harlan Phipps

Alfred Pierson

Mercedes Pierson

Justin Plake

John Pool

Kenny Puckett

Beverly Reese

Randy Reese

Buddy Renkema

Nikki Castilaw Rice

Edward Rivet

Randy & Darlene Rivett

Ezekiel Romero

Joann Savelle

Kathleen Sharp

Jim & Loretta Shearer

Brooke Simon

Harriet Simpson

James Sowell

Kim Streed

Bob Taylor

Sadina Hammock Ward

Mary Alice Weitzel

Mary Rose Williams

Gail Wright

Greta Zeralsky



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 We are called to be:

 **Transformed** by God’s love, Christ’s sacrifice and the Spirit’s work in our lives.

 **Engaged** with all of God’s children from the small to the tall, the near and the far.

 **Celebrate**, worship & praise God as we care for each other.

 **Share** the Good News of God’s love in our thoughts, words and deeds.

Attributes

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