

# *Celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord*



with Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service

January 2, 2022



**WASHINGTON  
STREET**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The congregation of Washington Street UMC praises and serves God from the heart of the city in ways that reach our neighbors near and far.

We welcome and affirm all who seek the love and mercy of Christ regardless of race, creed, age, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic status. We honor traditions as rooted in our history, our expression of worship, and our respect for theological curiosity. We nonetheless see vital change and ongoing renewal as essential for spiritual growth.

# WASHINGTON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *Epiphany of the Lord Sunday*

Liturgical Color: White, symbolizing Purity

*(As our worship begins, please silence any electronic devices.*

*Portable hearing devices are available in the Narthex. Please ask an usher for assistance.)*

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE RINGING OF THE BELL

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, our Covenant Friend, you have been loving, merciful, and gracious to us. We thank you for your loving care and your being with us in all times and places.

**We praise your holy name, O God.**

You have blessed us with life and remind us of your glory through creation. You have enriched our lives with the love and comfort of family and friends.

**We praise your holy name, O God.**

You have been our light in darkness and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation.

**We praise your holy name, O God.**

### \*HYMN 254

*We Three Kings*

KINGS OF ORIENT

Words: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857 (Mt. 2:1-12)

Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

### OPENING PRAYER

God of hope, light, and healing, we celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ once again as the angels, shepherds, Mary and Joseph did so long ago. You came to live among us and embody your love for us. Guide us so that we may embody your love to all those we meet. Guide our steps and let our lives be beacons of light that point others to you. In Jesus's name we pray.  
Amen.

### SOLO

*Simple Joy*

arr. Sally K. Albrecht

Soloist: Cody Lidge

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Kings 23:1-3

\*THE GLORIA PATRI 70

MEINEKE

Words: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.

Music: Charles Meineke, 1844

## CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Dane Waund

*(Afterwards, children are dismissed for Children's Church)*

SOLO

*What Child Is This?*

arr. Ernst Victor Wolff

Soloist: Bob Evans

HOMILY

Rev. Alston Lippert

## WESLEY'S COVENANT SERVICE<sup>1</sup>

### CONFESSION

Leader: We are those who seek to live as true disciples of Jesus Christ, but sometimes we fall short. Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins and submitting our hearts so that we do not deceive ourselves and cut ourselves away from God. Let us pray:

**People: Loving God, You have set forth the way of life through Your Son Jesus Christ, whom You love dearly. We shamefully confess that we have been slow to learn of Him and have been reluctant to follow Him. You have spoken and called to us but we have not listened. You have revealed Your beauty to us, but we have been blind. You have stretched out Your hands to us through our friends, but we have passed by them. We have accepted Your gifts and offered little thanks. We are unworthy of Your unchanging love.**

Leader: We now confess to you our sins.  
Please forgive us for the poverty of our worship...  
for the selfishness of our prayers...  
for our inconsistency and unbelief...  
for the ways we neglect fellowship and Your grace...  
for our hesitation to tell others about Christ....  
for the ways we deceive others...

**People: Forgive us for when we waste time and when we misuse the gifts you have given us. Forgive us for when we have made excuses for the wrong things we have done and when we have purposefully avoided responsibility.**

Leader: Forgive us that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good and that we have not been ready to carry our cross. Forgive us that we have not allowed Your love to work through us to help others and that we have not made their suffering our own. Forgive us for those times

when instead of working for unity we made it hard for others to live with us because of our lack of forgiveness, inconsiderate judgment, and quick criticism.

**People: Forgive us for when we have not tried to reconcile with others and when we have been slow to seek redemption.**

Leader: Forgive us also for these sins that we silently confess to you now.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

Leader: God, the Father of all mercies, is faithful to cleanse us from our sins and restore us to Christ's image. Praise and glory be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.

## INVITATION

Leader: Let us gathered here before the Lord now in covenant commit ourselves to Christ as his servants. Let us give ourselves to Him so that we may fully belong to Him. Jesus Christ has left us with many services to be done. Some of these services are easy and honorable, but some are difficult and disgraceful. Some line up with our desires and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we please both Christ and ourselves, but then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Jesus Christ, we offer You this prayer:

**People: Let me be Your servant. Let me follow your commands. I will no longer follow my own desires. I give myself completely to your will.**

Leader: The power and strength to live as true servants is given to us in Christ. We accept the place and work that He gives us, acknowledging that He alone will be our reward.

**People: I am not my own. I am Yours alone. Make me into what You will. Rank me with those You will. Put me to use for You. Put me to suffering for You. Let me be employed for You. Let me be laid aside for You. Let me be lifted high for You. Let me be brought low for You. Let me be full or let me be empty. Let me have all things or let me have nothing. With a willing heart, I freely give everything to Your pleasure and disposal.**

Leader: Christ is Savior to those who are His true servants. He is the source of salvation to those who obey. To be His servant is to consent fully to His will. Christ accepts nothing less. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Now confirm this truth in holy covenant. Make it a reality in your life in these three ways:

First, set apart time in your day, more than once, to be spent alone with the Lord. Seek to perceive God's special care for you and gracious acceptance of you. Carefully think through the words of this covenant and its conditions. Examine your heart, even if you have freely given your life to Christ. Name the sins in your life. Reflect on whether you are willing to choose Christ's

holy laws and strict commands. Be sure you are clear in all of these so you do not lie to God!

Second, uphold a serious spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant. Do not trust in your own strength and power but rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength. In this way, He will empower you to keep your promise.

Fourth, be determined to be faithful. You have given your heart and life to God. You have opened your mouth to dedicate yourself to the Lord. With God's power, never go back to your former way of living.

And last, be prepared to renew your covenant with God. Fall on your knees. Lift your hands. Open your hearts.

## COVENANT PRAYER

**People: My righteous God, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, see me now as I fall down before You. Forgive my unfaithfulness when I have not done your will. You promise mercy if I turn to You with my whole heart.**

Leader: God requires that you rid yourself of every idol in your life.

**People: From the bottom of my heart, I here and now renounce every idol in my life, covenanting with You that I will not commit any known sin. By turning against Your will I have turned my love toward the world. In Your power I will watch for any temptation that will lead me away from You.**

Leader: Through Jesus Christ, God offers to be your God again, if you allow Him to be.

**People: Before all heaven and earth, I here and now acknowledge You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as my Lord and God. I vow to give all of myself, body and soul, to be Your servant and to serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.**

Leader: Jesus Christ is the way and means to God. God has given us Jesus as the way and means to salvation.

**People: Jesus, I here and now accept You and the new and living Way. I join myself in covenant with You. I come to You hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of Your servants. With all my power, I accept You as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own unworthiness, 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.**

Leader: Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

**People: Jesus, I here and now make this covenant with You and accept whatever comes in life.**

**Through Your grace I promise that neither life nor death will separate me from You.**

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

**People: I here and now willingly take on Your yoke and burden. All Your laws are holy, just, and good. I accept them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising I will strive to order my whole life around your direction. I will not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.**

Leader: The Almighty God searches and knows you, even the thoughts of your heart.

**People: O God, You know that we have made this covenant today in sincerity, without deceit or reluctance. If You find anything false in us, guide us and help us to set it right. And now, glory be to You, God the Father. From this day forward, I shall look upon You as my God and Father. Glory be to You, God the Son. You have loved me and washed me from my sins in Your own blood. From this day forward, I shall look upon You as my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to You, O God the Holy Spirit. By Your almighty power, You have turned my heart from sin to God. From this day forward I shall look upon You as my Comforter and Guide. O mighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through Your infinite grace, have become Your covenant servant. You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. May this covenant that I have made here on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

DOXOLOGY 94

OLD 100th

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674

Music: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

HYMN 399

*Take My Life, and Let It Be*

MESSIAH

Words: Frances R. Havergal, 1873 (Rom. 12:1)

Music: Louis J. F. Herold, 1839; arr. by George Kingsley, 1839

**\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

*\*Congregation standing. If standing is uncomfortable, please remain seated and continue your participation.*

***When our worship ends, our service begins!***

<sup>1</sup> *This version of the Wesley Covenant Renewal Service was created by Jonathan Powers to update the language. It can be found at [seedbed.com/john-wesleys-covenant-renewal-service-today/](http://seedbed.com/john-wesleys-covenant-renewal-service-today/).*



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## PRAYER THOUGHT

Whenever we experience tough times, God is always with us. He never leaves or gives up.

## PRAYER LIST

Lyn Bailey  
Thom Berry  
Martha Boynton  
Martha Brooker  
Heidi Conte  
Mickey Epting  
Bud Harrelson

Laura Holladay  
Karen Horne  
Geneva Hutchinson  
Lisa Johnson  
Debby Joyner  
Rev. Judy King  
Mike LeFever

Paul McClanahan  
David Middleton  
Lauren, Greg, and Nora  
Blair Middleton and  
family  
Rick Rowe  
Boyd Saunders

Stephanie Saunders  
Sarah Threatt  
Marjorie Tuell  
Our homebound

**Mom said we  
need to bring  
undies to  
Church!**

We will have a laundry  
basket outside the  
office door to receive  
these donations,  
January 2- 30.



Active Faith is collecting used vases, baskets, and  
any other floral container during the month of  
January for local floral shops that are experiencing  
supply shortages.

*Place your clean, used floral containers in the box  
located in the Mission Garden*

## SERVING TODAY

Usher  
Sound/Video  
Visitor Cards  
Pew Maintenance  
Nursery

Tommy Betenbaugh  
Lynn Shirley  
Suzanne Joye  
Finance Committee  
Shelley Stafford

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

**Giving to-date** (as of 12-17-21)\*\*

Church: **Budget: \$808,281**

Actual: \$691,978

Soup Cellar: \$77,202

Foundation Gifts: \$131,250

Attendance on 12/26: 56

*\*\*No report this week due to holiday*