

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.

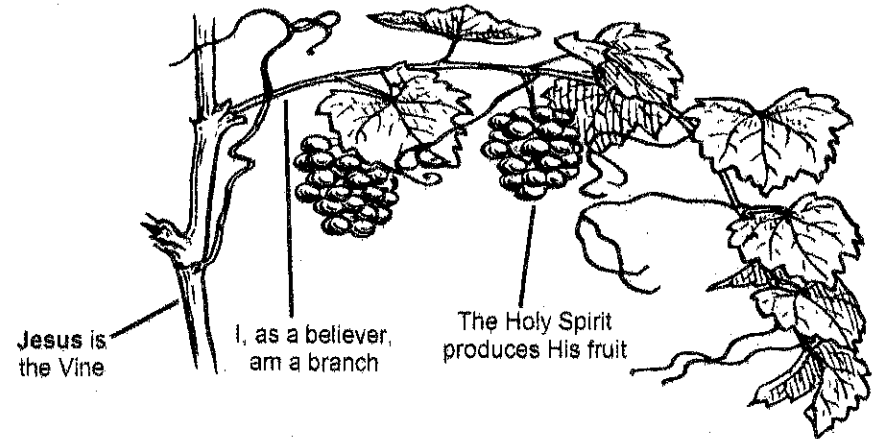
Let me be employed for you. Let me be laid aside for you.

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.



The Church Responds to God

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS AND JOYS

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PERSONAL PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER

Dear Father always near us, may your name be treasured and loved,
may your rule be completed in us –
may your will be done here on earth in just the way it is done in heaven.
Give us today the things we need today.
And forgive us our sins and impositions on you
as we are forgiving all who in any way offend us.
Please don't put us through trials, but deliver us from everything bad.
Because you are the one in charge,
and you have all the power, and the glory, too, is all yours – forever –
which is just the way we want it. Amen.

HYMN Here I Am, Lord #593

DEPART WITH BLESSING



Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." (John 14:6)
Our church exists so that all people might
find the Way, know the Truth, and experience the Life!"

Monroe United Methodist Church

Monroe United Methodist Church Rev. Randy Booth, pastor
2227 Fourth St Monroe, WI 53566 608-325-6700 monroeumc.com

December 30, 2018 8:00 & 10:45 Worship

The Church Gathers in God's Name

In 1775, John Wesley introduced a covenant service as an important part of spiritual life in the Methodist Societies. This renewal service was a time for the Methodists to gather annually in a time of self-examination, reflection, and dedication, wholly giving up themselves and renewing covenant with God. Repentance through confession and commitment was a key focus of the service, demanding humility from those willing to submit themselves to the dynamic words stated within the liturgy.

According to Wesley's journal, though the covenant renewal service was held on various occasions throughout the year, by the end of his life, the service was observed typically on or the Sunday nearest January 1st. The covenant renewal service is a practice that continues in churches and Christian communities today, often near the beginning of a new year. It has undergone many revisions and adaptations, but its purpose as an evocative ceremony of commitment to ongoing discipleship and Christ-like character has always remained intact.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

It's a new year, Lord. Thank you for the grace of last year. More than just a new year, I want a renewed relationship with you, a relationship status update, a fresh re-commitment to you. Help me take today's prayers seriously. Help me take them for each day of 2019. Amen.

PRELUDE

Julie Shipe McClain

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING CHORUS

Frances Havergal, 1873

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my will, and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine #606

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: Father 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...

The Invitation

Leader: Dearly loved brothers and sisters, the Christian life is a life found in Christ, redeemed from sin, and consecrated to God. We are those who have entered into this life and have been admitted into the new covenant of Jesus Christ. He is the Mediator of this covenant. He sealed it with his own blood so it would last forever.

On one side of this covenant stands God, who promises to give us new life in Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith. Every day God proves his goodness and grace to us, showing us that his promise still stands firm.

On the other side, we stand as those who promise to no longer live life for ourselves but instead to only live for Jesus Christ because he has loved us and given his life for us.

There are times in our lives when it is important for us to remember and reaffirm our promises and vows. In this same way, we come today to renew our covenant with God. Many generations have done this before us. Today we make the covenant our own, renewing with both joy and sincerity the covenant that binds us all to God.

Now in silence, confirm the details of the covenant in your life:
What parts of your life do you intend to surrender?
What parts of your life will you develop?
What steps toward joyful obedience will you take right away?

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:

All: 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.

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

The Church Hears God's Word

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Kings 23:1-3, ESV

Then the king sent, and all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem were gathered to him. And the king went up to the house of the LORD, and with him all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the prophets, all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD. And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant.

GOSPEL READING

John 15:1-8, ESV

[Jesus taught his disciples in the upper room,] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

SERMON