



Monroe United Methodist Church

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Rev. Randy Booth, pastor

December 30, 2018 9:30Worship

ADORATION

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.

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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Robyn Essler

GRACE

Stuart Townend & FJ Heumann

Lord, I'm grateful, amazed at what you've done.

My finest efforts are filthy rags.

But I'm made righteous by trusting in the Son;

I have God's riches at Christ's expense!

Because it's grace; there's nothing I can do

to make you love me more,

to make you love me less than you do.

**And by faith, I'm standing on this stone
of Christ and Christ alone.**

Your righteousness is all that I need.

Because it's grace.

**Called and chosen when I was far away,
you brought me into your family.**

Free, forgiven, my guilt is washed away.

Your loving kindness is life to me.

Grace loves the sinner: all I am and all I'll ever be.

Makes me a winner whatever lies the devil throws at me.

**Freely given but bought with priceless blood,
my life was ransomed at Calvary.**

There my Jesus gave everything he could

that I might live for eternity. ©2002 Thankyou Music

TAKE MY LIFE

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MEET & GREET

I BELIEVE, I BELIEVE

Tommy Walker

**I believe, I believe, I believe, I believe in Jesus.
He's my Lord; he's my God.
I believe, I believe, I believe, I believe in Jesus.
All my hope is in him alone.**

**1. What endless joy I've found
when I shout I am his and tell the world he is mine!
What unexplainable peace
to have surrendered my life to a God who loves me**

**2. I was created for this:
to ever trust and believe in someone greater than me.
So on this Rock I will stand!
I'm gonna shout unashamed
my Savior's glorious name!**

(Bridge)

**I love to sing it! I love to shout it!
I will declare it: I believe in Jesus!
I love to sing it! I love to shout it!
I will declare it: I believe, I believe**

CCLI Song # 5110588

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TAKE MY LIFE

Scott Underwood

Holiness, holiness is what I long for ©1995
Holiness is what I need. Mercy/Vineyard
Holiness, holiness is what you want from me.

**Take my heart and form it.
Take my mind, transform it.
Take my will, conform it to yours, to yours, O Lord.**

**Faithfulness, faithfulness is what I long for
Faithfulness is what I need.
Faithfulness, faithfulness is what you want from me.**

**Righteousness, righteousness is what I long for
Righteousness is what I need.
Righteousness, righteousness is what you want from me.**

Confession

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...

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.

SILENT PRAYER

SANCTUARY

Randy Scruggs & John Thompson

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary:
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

**It is you, Lord, who came to save
the heart and soul of everyone.
It is you, Lord, who knows my weakness,
who gives me strength from thine own hand.**

**Lead me on, Lord, from temptation,
purify me from within.**

**Fill my heart with your Holy Spirit.
Take away all my sin.**

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Thanksgiving & Supplication

OLD TESTAMENT READING 2 Kings 23:1-3

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

The Invitation to Renew the Covenant

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.
The beginning of a new year is an ideal time 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:

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.

PERSONAL PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER

Here I Am, Lord #593

DEPART WITH BLESSING

✠ ✠ ✠

We do not "pass the plates" during the 9:30 service.
To make a donation to the church, the offering
plates are by the doors.

LEADER:

Now in silence, confirm the details of the covenant
in your life:

What parts of your life do you intend to surrender?

Will you rid yourself of false idols, obeying rules
that are not of God?

Will you rid yourself of weak excuses for
repetitive sin?

Will you rid yourself of embarrassment about Jesus
Christ in your life?

Will you rid yourself of fear for suffering for
Christ –

social suffering, financial suffering, physical
suffering?

What parts of your life will you develop?

Will you develop joyful obedience to God's
standards of holiness as

much as you obey safety while driving or
playing a favorite game?

Will you develop gratitude in each day?

Will you develop the pattern of letting Christ
satisfy your needs

Things to begin in the new year/renewed covenant

Joyful obedience as I would in driving or playing
a favorite sport

Striving to order our lives around Christ's law of
love

Gratitude in each day

Satisfying my need to love and be loved with
Christ first

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.