



First
United Methodist
Church
of Greensburg, PA

December 31, 2017

10:00 AM Worship

1st Sunday After Christmas Day

Covenant Renewal Service

"Representing Christ as a Light within the City"



Wesley's Covenant Service

* Indicates where you may stand if you are able.

** Four-digit hymns are from *The Faith We Sing Hymnal*.

ENTRANCE

PRELUDE

Joy to the World

arr. John A. Behnke

*HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory

No. 220

*OPENING PRAYER

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.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies.

O God, our Covenant Friend,
you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives.
We thank you for your loving care,
which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have given us life and reason,
and set us in a world filled with your glory.
You have comforted us with family and friends,
and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you,
and have given us your peace.
You have redeemed us, and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus.
You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit
and the witness of your Church.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have been our light in darkness
and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation.
You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys
and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You remembered us when we forgot you.
You followed us even when we tried to flee from you.
You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you.
For all your patience and overflowing grace.

We praise your holy name, O God.

SHARING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

The Offertory

The Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth
Karen Pershing and Helen Turkalj, duet

Simeone/Onorati/Davis

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Come, divine Interpreter,
bring me eyes thy book to read,
ears the mystic words to hear,
words which did from thee proceed,
words that endless bliss impart,**

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;
Christ will not accept anything except full 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

**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 Redeemer.**

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.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN **Hark! the Herald Angels Sing** No. 240

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice** No. 224, st 2
Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, and ye are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

POSTLUDE **Divinum Mysterium** arr. Noel Rawsthorne

WE THANK THOSE WHO ARE SERVING TODAY:

- ACOLYTE:** - Aidan Hartman
- ALTAR GUILD:** - Mary Lou Fitzgerald
- GREETERS:** - Laurel Sedlacko
- LITURGIST:** - Dennis Kennedy
- SOUND SYSTEM:** - Tim Willcox
- TECH TEAM:** - Kelly Fullman
- USHERS:** - One usher from each team

Prayer & Health Concerns:

Kirk; Nancy; Miki; Melonie; Micah; Mike, Jr; Bob; Holly; Sandy Zimmerman; Robin Booker; Julie; Robin; Lucy; Ellen Grubb; Steve Long; Jeff; Eileen Trout; Rilla Nash; Ken Keiser; Tammy & Charles; Megan Hay; Kathy; Matthew & Steven.

Please continue to pray for our homebound, nursing home and care center members:

- Brookdale Latrobe: Allan Pierce, Dorothy Rutter
- Greensburg Care Center: Alice Murphy
- Weatherwood Manor: Helen Wolfgang
- Home: Art Faust, Charleen Ringler

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Office Closed New Year's Day

Normal Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8 AM-12:00 PM and 12:30-4:00 PM

- Sun. 12/31 Read - Luke 2:22-40
10:00 AM - Worship - Sanctuary
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR YOUTH GROUP
NO MUSIC REHEARSALS
- Mon. 1/1 Read - Ephesians 1:1-23
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!
CHURCH AND CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- Tues. 1/2 Read - Ephesians 2:1-22
7:00 PM - Trustees Meeting - Library
NO BIBLE STUDY
- Wed. 1/3 Read - Ephesians 3:1-21
NO BIBLE STUDY
- Thurs. 1/4 Read - Ephesians 4:1-16
11:00 AM - 12 Step Meeting - Fellowship Hall
6:00 AM - Chancel Chanters
6:30 AM - Bonnie Ross Ringers
- Fri. 1/5 Read - Ephesians 4:17-32
- Sat. 1/6 Read - Psalm 72
7:00 PM - Ekklesia Worship - Jill & Joy Procida

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HE IS KING OF KINGS! LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET devotionals are due by Sunday, Jan. 14th. Please contact Pastor Jill, Judy Molter or Ruth Hughes if you are willing to write a devotional.

CIRCUIT RIDER ARTICLES are due in the church office Tuesday, Jan. 16th.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Sanctuary Hall. If you need envelopes, please sign the provided yellow sheets.

2018 CALENDARS from Kepple-Graft are available in the Narthex.