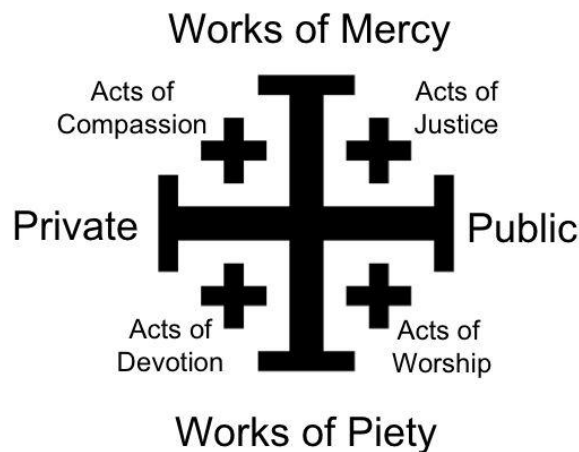


A Service of Covenant Renewal



Edgerton United Methodist Church

January 10, 2016

9:00 AM Worship Service

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

We are a covenant-making people. We make covenants at the waters of baptism. We renew those covenants each time we partake of the sacrament. We take upon ourselves the name of Christ; we promise to always remember Him and to keep His commandments. And in return He promises us that His Spirit will always be with us.— Sheldon F. Child

WELCOME

PRELUDE “Here Am I To Worship” - Tim Hughes
Nancy Dickinson, Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are marked as God's beloved ones.

God is with us always and calls us each by name.

P: What have we done to deserve God's love.

L: God's love is God's free gift to us, always and forever.

P: Even when we are difficult and turn away from God,

L: God is with us and calls us by name.

God's love never vanishes from us.

P: Even when we pass through difficulties and stress,

L: God is with us and calls us by name.

God's love never vanishes from us.

P: When we are discouraged and feel lost and alone,

L: God is with us and calls us by name.

God's love never vanishes from us.

P: Blessed be God who knows us and calls us by name.

Thanks be to God who is ever faithful to us, AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Almighty God, You search our hearts and you see every part of us. All our desires are known to you, and from you no secrets are hidden. By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, cleanse our hearts so we may perfectly love you and glorify your holy name. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Now as God's dearly loved children, let us pray together:

HYMN “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” UMH #381

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 15:1-8

THE PROCLAMATION

THE CONFESSION

L: 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:

P: 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.

L: 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...

P: 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.

L: 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.

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

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

L: 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.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Special Music "Thy Holy Wings, O Savior", Swedish Folk Tune
Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #95

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Kings 23:1-3

THE INVITATION

L: 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:

P: 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.

L: 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.

P: 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.

L: Christ is Savior to those who are His true servants. He is the source of all 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 four 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.

THE COVENANT PRAYER

L: Let us pray together:

P: Jesus, I here and now accept you and the only 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.

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

P: 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.

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

P: 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.

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

P: 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.

HYMN

“Have Thine Own Way Lord”

UMH #382

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM WITH HOLY COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

L: Today we made a covenant with God. What does it mean for us to commit ourselves to his plan for our lives in 2016? First, it means the forgiveness of our sins and the constant realization of our continual need of the grace of God in our lives. Second, it means a resolve in our own lives to live as disciples of our Lord, forgoing our own selfish motivations and living in our world as servant to others in the name of God. Finally, it means not trusting in our own strength and abilities, but anchoring them in the true and only source of our strength and abilities . . . God himself.

May our God, who establishes covenant relationship with those who seek to enter the Kingdom, be with you always. May Jesus Christ, who seals the new covenant with his blood on the cross, bring you peace. May the Holy Spirit guide your life both now and forever. Go in peace to serve the Lord!

POSTLUDE

“How Firm a Foundation”, American Folk tune,
arr. Charity Book Putnam

HOW TO REACH US

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To make an appointment with Pastor Barb, call her at 608.931.6804