

**Sunday, January 12, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.**  
**WESLEYAN COVENANT RENEWAL AND COMMUNION**

**Today's Focus:** A closer look — through Scripture and the words of John Wesley — at what it means to truly live into the covenant we make with God, to love God and love our neighbor.

**PRELUDE** — Scott Anderson

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** — Lin

**\* PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** — Lin

**\* OPENING HYMN**                   UMH #57        “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (vs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 7)  
Words by Charles Wesley, 1739/Music by Carl G. Gläser 1839

- 1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise  
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!**
- 2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.**
- 3. Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.**
- 4. He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.**
- 5. He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.**
- 7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven;  
anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** — Suzanne Gallagher

One:            Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
**Many:         ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**  
One:            Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God's name,

**Many:**            **worship the Lord in holy array.**  
One:                The voice of the Lord is upon the water.  
**Many:**            **The God of glory thunders, the Lord upon many waters.**  
One:                The voice of the Lord is powerful.  
**Many:**            **The voice of God is full of majesty.**  
**All:**               **Let us praise the name of the Lord!**

#### **OPENING PRAYER — Lin**

#### **HYMN**

TFWS #2233

“Where Children Belong”

#### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE — Lin**

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 John 4:7-19 — Suzanne Gallagher

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In *this* is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us.

#### **MESSAGE: A WESLEYAN COVENANT SERVICE — Lin**

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#### **DISTINGUISHING MARKS OF A METHODIST — Suzanne**

**HYMN**

UMH #384 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (vs 1 & 2)  
Words by Charles Wesley, 1747/Music by John Zundel, 1870

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, thou art all compassion pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

**WHO THEN IS A METHODIST?** — Lin

**SPECIAL MUSIC** Scott Anderson, Shelly Anderson and Anneke Toomey  
“None Other Lamb” by Craig Courtney

**THE PRAYER OF A METHODIST** — Lin

**THE LOVE OF A METHODIST** — Suzanne Gallagher

**THE HOPE OF A METHODIST** — Lin

**THE CHARGE TO ALL METHODISTS** — Suzanne Gallagher

**All:** “Do good to all people; to neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies. Do good to them in every possible way, not only to their bodies, by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick or the prisoner, but much more we labor to do good to their souls, according to the ability that God gives us.”

**THE KINSHIP OF ALL METHODISTS** — Lin

**HYMN**

UMH #545 “The Church’s One Foundation” (vs 1, 2, & 5)  
Words—Samuel J. Stone, 1866  
Music—Samuel Sebastian Wesley (Charles Wesley’s grandson), 1864

1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is his new creation by water and the Word.  
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

2. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
On holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

5. Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

#### **RENEWING OUR COVENANT** — Lin and Suzanne

One: From time to time ... that you may belong to him.

**Many: Christ has many services to be done. Some are easy; others are difficult. Some bring honor; others bring reproach. Some are suitable to our natural interests; others are contrary to our interests. The power to do all these things is given to us in Christ who strengthens us.**

One: Therefore, let us make the covenant ... but given up completely to God's will in all things.

**Many: Let us now, in sincere dependence on God's grace and trusting in God's promises, yield ourselves anew to our Lord.**

One: Let us pray ... and engage ourselves to seek and do your perfect will.

**Many: We are no longer our own, but yours. Put us to what you will: rank us with whom you will. Put us to doing, put us to suffering. Let us be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you. Let us be full, let us be empty; let us have all things, let us have nothing. We freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are ours and we are yours. So be it.  
And the covenant which we have made this day on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Let the new year be filled with your presence within us and among us. Work through us and beyond us. Amen.**

#### **OFFERTORY** — Anneke Toomey

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION — Suzanne Gallagher**

**All: Loving God, today we renew our promise to love you and serve you as we ought. As we begin a new year walking with you, we humbly lay before your altar all that we have and all that we are. We ask your blessing on us and on our tithes and offerings, that this year we may choose the path that leads to a closer walk with your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen!**

**CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION THANKSGIVING AND BLESSING — Lin**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Many: 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.**

One: As we prepare to receive holy communion ... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

One: God of this sacred, covenant table ... In Christ's holy name we pray as he taught us to pray, saying:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION — Lin**

**RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION — Suzanne Gallagher**

**All: Almighty God, you have first loved us. Now we love you by loving others. As we begin this new year, grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit to bring the light and love of your Son to the world. It is in His name we pray. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN — UMH #88**

**"Maker, in Whom We Live" (vs 1 & 4)**

Words by Charles Wesley, 1747; Music by George J. Elvey, 1868

1. Maker, in whom we live, in whom we are and move,  
The glory, power, and praise receive for thy creating love.  
Let all the angel throng give thanks to God on high,  
while earth repeats the joyful song and echoes to the sky.

4. Eternal, Triune God, let all the hosts above,  
Let all on earth below record and dwell upon thy love,  
When heaven and earth are fled before thy glorious face,  
Sing all the saints thy love hath made thine everlasting praise.

**\*BENEDICTION** — Lin

**\*POSTLUDE** — Scott Anderson

Prelude/Postlude—Scott Anderson	Accomp.—Anneke Toomey	Offertory— Anneke Toomey
Song Leader— Bonnie Clark	Special Music — Scott & Shelly	Organ — Betsy Foushee
Liturgist — Suzanne Gallagher	Children’s Message— Lin	
Violin — Rae Ann Norell		