

**Wesley Covenant Service – 10:30 a.m.
January 4, 2026**

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Mandy

Greeting

Dearly beloved, the Christian life, to which we are called, is a life in Christ, redeemed from sin, and through him consecrated to God. Upon this life we have entered, having been admitted into that New Covenant of which our Lord Jesus Christ is mediator, and which He sealed with His own blood, that it might stand for ever.

On one side the Covenant is God's promise that He will fulfill in and through us all that He declared in Christ Jesus, who is the Author and Perfector of our faith. That His promise still stands we are sure, for we have known His goodness and proved His grace in our lives day by day.

On the other side, we stand pledged to live no more unto ourselves, but to Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, and has called us to serve Him that the purpose of His coming might be fulfilled.

From time to time, we renew our vows of consecration, especially when we gather at the Lord's Table; but on this day we meet expressly, as generations of our ancestors have met, that we may joyfully and solemnly renew the Covenant which bound them and binds us to God.

Let us then, remembering the mercies of God, and the hope of God's calling, examine ourselves by the light of God's Spirit, that we may see wherein we have failed or fallen short in faith and practice, and, considering all that this Covenant means, may give ourselves anew to God.

Song of Praise

Waymaker

Praise Team

Prayer of Adoration

Let us worship our Creator, the God of Love; the God who continually preserves and sustains us. We have been loved with an everlasting love; through Jesus Christ, we have been given complete knowledge of God's glory.

You are God; we praise you; we acknowledge you to be the Lord.

Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, for our sakes he became poor; he was tempted in all points as we are, but he was without sin; he went about doing good and preaching the gospel of the kingdom; he accepted death, death on the cross; he was dead and is alive forever; he has opened the kingdom of heaven to all who trust in him; he sits in glory at the right hand of God; he will come again to be our Judge.

You, Christ, are the King of Glory.

Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life. Through the Spirit, we are born in the family of God, and made members of the body of Christ; the witness of the Spirit confirms us; the wisdom teaches us; the power enables us; the Spirit will do far more for us than we ask or think.

All praise to you, Holy Spirit.

Kids for Christ

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

Pastor Mandy

Sermon

In Awe and Wonder

Confession of Sin

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 and cut ourselves away from God.

Let us pray:

O God, You have set forth the way of life through your Son Jesus Christ, whom you love dearly. We 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.

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...

Forgive us for wasting time and misusing the gifts you have given us. Forgive us for making excuses for the wrong things we have done and for purposefully avoiding responsibility.

Forgive us for being unwilling to overcome evil with good and for not having been ready to carry our cross. Forgive us for not allowing Your love to work through us to help others and for not making their suffering our own. Forgive us for instead of working for unity, making it hard for others to live with us because of our lack of forgiveness, inconsiderate judgment, and quick criticism.

Forgive us for not trying to reconcile with others and for being slow to seek redemption.

Forgive us for what we silently confess to you now.

silence

Words of Assurance and Pardon

God, the giver of all mercies, is faithful to heal us from our sins and restore us to Christ's image. Praise and glory be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.

The Covenant

In the old covenant, God chose Israel to be a special people and to obey the law. Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection, has made a new covenant with all who trust in him. We stand within this covenant and we bear his name. On the one side, God promises in this covenant to give us new life in Christ. On the other side, we are pledged to live not for ourselves but for God.

Today, therefore, we meet to renew the covenant which binds us to God. Friends, let us claim the covenant God has made with all people, and accept the yoke of Christ. To accept the yoke of Christ means that we allow Christ to guide all that we do and are, and that Christ himself is our only reward.

Christ has many services to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some make others applaud us, others bring only reproach; some we desire to do because of our own interests; others seem unnatural.

Sometimes we please Christ and meet our own needs; at other times we cannot please Christ unless we deny ourselves. Yet Christ strengthens us and gives us power to do all these things.

Therefore let us make this covenant of God our own. Let us give ourselves completely to God, trusting in his promises and relying on his grace.

**I give myself completely to you, God.
Assign me to my place in your creation.
Let me suffer for you, give me the work you would have me do.
Give me many tasks, or have me step aside while you call others.
Put me forward or humble me.
Give me riches or let me live in poverty.
I freely give all that I am and all that I have to you.
And now, Holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
You are mine and I am yours. So be it.
May this covenant made on earth continue for all eternity. Amen.**

And now friends, make this covenant a reality in your life in these three ways:

First, set apart time in your day, more than once, to be 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 the Way of Christ.

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. Be prepared to renew your covenant with God by falling on your knees, lifting your hands, and opening your hearts.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth or you had formed the earth; from everlasting to everlasting you alone are God.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign god, and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with you people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide the Magi to where the Christ was born; and your signs and witnesses in every age and through all the world have led your people from far places to his light. In his baptism and in his table fellowship, he took his place with sinners.

Your spirit anointed him to preach the good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who were oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people..

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Congregational singing during Communion: *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Say the Name

Welcome Into This Place

Prayer After Communion

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

Lord, we give thanks for the gift of this holy meal.

**We praise you that you sent your Son,
that through him we might be reconciled completely to you.**

**Grant that all we are and all we do be a faithful response to Christ,
in whose strong name we pray. Amen.**

Song of Praise

Good, Good Father

Praise Team

Dismissal with Blessing

May our God, who establishes covenant relationship with those who seek to enter the Kingdom, be with you always.

Amen.

May Jesus Christ, who seals the new covenant with his sacrifice on the cross, bring you peace.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit guide your life both now and forever.

Amen.

Go in peace to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

Amen.

Postlude