

Wesley Covenant Renewal
Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant/Love Feast
January 1, 2023, 9:30 a.m. Service of Worship

Welcome Rev. Dr. Latricia Scriven

Prelude “Prelude on ‘St. Agnes’” C. Callahan

Introduction to the Covenant Renewal Rev. Scriven

Today, we meet, as the generations before us have met,
to renew the covenant that binds us to God.
Let us make this covenant of God our own.

God is boundless in mercy and in grace and offers us again to be our God through Christ. I, thus, invite us to commit ourselves to God, as we stand in awe of God’s great majesty.

Let us, therefore, pray this Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan tradition together.

**I am no longer my own but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

Hymn “Jesus, United by Thy Grace” UMH 561

Offertory Prayer Rev. Becky Rokitowski

Offertory

Doxology UMH 95

Scripture John 5:1-9
Sermon “Do You Want to Be Made Whole?” Rev. Dr. Latricia Scriven

Solo Sam Scriven

Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Rev. Rokitowski

Sisters and Brothers in Christ:
Through the Sacrament of Baptism
we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.
We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation
and given new birth through water and the Spirit.
All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.
Through the reaffirmation of our faith
we renew the covenant declared at our baptism,
acknowledge what God is doing for us,
and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:
Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
reject the evil powers of this world,
and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,
put your whole trust in his grace,
and promise to serve him as your Lord,
in union with the Church which Christ has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

According to the grace given to you,
will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

I will.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Rev. Scriven

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal God:

Pour out your Holy Spirit,

and by this gift of water call to our remembrance
the grace declared to us in our baptism.

For you have washed away our sins,
and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives,
that dying and rising with Christ
we may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal God, through your Son Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.**

Love Feast

Rev. Scriven

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

(from John 15)

Here before us, you will find water, grapes, and crackers. In addition to remembering your baptism by touching the water and making the sign of the cross on your forehead, we invite you to a Love Feast – a beautiful celebration of love and the community that we share.

The Fellowship of Eating and Passing the Cup

Hymn

“Freely, Freely”

UMH 389

Closing Prayer

Rev. Scriven and Congregation

**O Lord, may nothing dwell in my soul
But your pure love alone.
Till my every thought, word, and act be love.
Yes Lord, may your love possess me whole;
You’re my joy, my treasure, my crown. (John Wesley)**

Sending Forth

Rev. Scriven

Postlude

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

arr. J. Raney