

# Order of Worship – Sunday, January 3, 2021

PRELUDE

Catalina Daggett

CHIMES

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.

◆HYMN           “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” v.v. 1-4, 6           Landes and Cassel Dung

CHILDREN’S TIME

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Allison

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. 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.

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. 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.

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 give you thanks and praise. Amen

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE OF THE CHARACTER OF A METHODIST

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:25-28

Landes Dung

FIRST READING

Tino Galicia

The distinguishing marks of a Methodist are not our opinions, of any sort. Assenting to a particular theology, embracing any particular ideology, espousing the judgment of one teacher or another, are all quite beside the point.

We do not place any of our faith in being attached to any extraordinary way of speaking or unusual set of expressions. We prefer the most obvious, easy, common words to communicate our meaning, both on ordinary occasions, and when we speak of the things of God.

HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” v. 1

Landes and Cassel Dung

SECOND READING

Megan Beltran

We are not distinguished by local or particular traditions. Our religion does not lie in doing what God has not commanded, or abstaining from what God has not forbidden.

Nor are we distinguished by laying the whole stress of religion on any single doctrine. If you say, "Yes, you are," for you think "we are saved by faith alone," I answer, you do not understand the terms. By salvation we mean holiness of heart and life. And this we affirm to spring from true faith alone. Can even a nominal Christian deny this?

*Who, then, is a Methodist?*

A Methodist is one who has the love of God shed abroad in his or her heart by the Holy Spirit. A Methodist is one who "loves the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Luke 10:27). God is the joy of the heart, and the desire of the soul that is constantly crying out, "Whom have I in heaven but you? There is none upon earth that I desire beside you! My God and my all! You are the strength of my heart, and my portion forever!"

We are therefore happy in God, indeed, always happy, as having in us a well of water springing up to everlasting life, and overflowing our souls with peace and joy. Perfect love having cast out fear, we rejoice evermore (1 John 4:18).

HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” v. 2

Landes and Cassel Dung

THIRD READING

Bob Duncan

Whether in ease or pain, whether in sickness or health, whether in life or death, we give thanks from the ground of our hearts to God who orders it for good. Knowing that as every good gift comes from above, so none but good can come from the Father of Lights, into whose hand we have wholly committed our bodies and souls, as into the hands of a faithful Creator.

For indeed we pray without ceasing. It is given us always to pray, and not to faint. ... Our hearts are lifted up to God at all times and in all places. In this we are never hindered, much less interrupted, by any person or thing.

Consequently, we always exercise our love to God by praying without ceasing, rejoicing always, and in everything giving thanks. This commandment is written in our hearts, "That those who love God, love their brother and sister also." We also, accordingly, love our neighbors as ourselves. We love every person as our own soul. ... For we love our enemies. Indeed, we love the evil, the unthankful, and the enemies of God. And if it is not in our power to do good

to those that hate us, we pray for them, even though they continue to spurn our love and abuse and persecute us.

HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” v. 3

Landes and Cassel Dung

FOURTH READING

Claire Grant

For Methodists are pure in heart. The love of God has purified our hearts from all vengeful passions, envy, malice, and wrath, from every unkind attitude or evil affection. It has cleansed us from pride and arrogance of spirit that lead to contention. ... For all our desires are for God and to the remembrance of God's name.

Our one desire is the one design of our life, namely, not to do our own will, but the will of God who sent us. Our one intention at all times and in all things is not to please ourselves but God whom our souls love.

For as we love God, so we keep God's commandments. Not only some, or most of them, but all, from the least to the greatest. ... To do the will of God on earth as it is done in heaven is our daily crown of rejoicing.

Accordingly, we strive with all our might to keep all the commandments of God. For our obedience is in proportion to our love, the source from which it flows. Therefore, loving God with all our heart, we serve God with all our strength.

#### FIFTH READING

Steve Gong

By consequence, whatever we do, it is all to the glory of God. In all our endeavors, we not only aim at this (which is implied in having a single eye), but actually attain it.

The customs of the world do not hinder our "running the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1). We know that vice does not lose its nature, no matter how fashionable it becomes. We remember that everyone is to give an account to God. ... But "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise" (Phil. 4:8), we think, and speak, and act; glorifying the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in all things.

#### HYMN

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" v. 4

Landes and Cassel Dung

#### SIXTH READING

Linda Galicia

Lastly, as we have time, we do good to all people; to neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies. We seek to 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 (Matt. 25:34-40), but much more we labor to do good to their souls, according to the ability that God gives.

#### SEVENTH READING

Tino Galicia

These are the principles and practices of our denomination. These are the values of a true Methodist. By these values, by these fruits of a living faith, we labor to distinguish ourselves from the unbelieving world. ... But we earnestly desire to not be distinguished at all from real Christians, of whatever denomination. Not from any who sincerely follow after what they know they have not yet attained. No, "Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Matt. 12:50). And I implore you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, that we be in no way divided among ourselves. Is your heart right, as my heart is with yours? I ask no further question. If it is so, give me your hand. For opinions, or words, let us not destroy the work of God. Do you love and serve God? It is enough. I give you the right hand of fellowship. If there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, let us strive together for the faith of the Gospel (Phil. 2:1). Let us lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all (Eph. 4:1b-6).

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE COVENANT RENEWAL

Pastor Allison

#### COVENANT RENEWAL

**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 for Thee or laid aside for Thee, exalted for Thee or brought low 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.**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Allison

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Allison

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Allison

BREAKING THE BREAD

COMMUNION HYMN “

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Landes Dung

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for his holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

Landes and Cassel Dung

BENEDICTION

Pastor Allison

*Pastor: Where will we go and who will we be?*

People: We go out into the world to be God's people.

POSTLUDE

Catalina Daggett