

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8:30 a.m. Sunday 4 January 2026

Second Sunday after Christmas

ENTRANCE

(To help us connect, please sign the attendance pad in your pew)

Lighting of candles and prelude

Praise Choruses: 2236 “Gather Us In”

(Insert) “Another Year Is Dawning”

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Listening prayer: 230 *(Verse 4 only)* “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

First lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalter: Psalm 147:12-20 (Page 159ff)

Second Lesson Ephesians 1:3-14

Hymn of Preparation: 725: *(Tune 408)* “Arise, Shine Out, Your Light
Has Come”

Gospel: John 1:1-18

Sermon: “One-worldism”

Affirmation of Faith: 881 “The Apostles Creed, Traditional Version”

Joys, concerns, prayers

John Wesley’s Covenant Service*:

Collect: **God, you have appointed our Lord Jesus Christ
as Mediator of a new covenant;
give us grace to draw near with fullness of faith
and to join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Covenant:

(2)

**Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection
has made a new covenant with all who trust in him.**

On the one side, God promises in this covenant
to bring us new life in Christ.

**On the other side, we are pledged
to live not for ourselves but for God.**

From time to time we renew our covenant with God,
**especially when we reaffirm the Baptismal Covenant
and gather at the Lord’s table.**

Today, therefore, we meet, as the generations before us have met,
to renew the covenant that binds us to God.

*The invitation: Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants.

Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him.

Christ has many services to be done.

**Some are more easy and honorable,
others are more difficult and disgraceful.**

Some are suitable to our inclinations and interest,
others are contrary to both.

In some we may please Christ and please ourselves.

But then there are other works

where we cannot please Christ

except by denying ourselves.

Be satisfied that Christ shall give you
your place and work.

*607 “A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition”

(Unison)

Sung Response: 382 *(Verse 4 only)*

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 15ff)
All are Welcome)

SENDING FORTH

Song: 117 “O God, Our Help, in Ages Past”

Closing prayer: 255 “Epiphany”

(3)

Postlude and extinguishing of candles/ Going Forth

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