

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8:30 a.m. Sunday 3 January 2021

Second Sunday after Christmas/Epiphany of the Lord

ENTRANCE

Prelude and lighting of candles

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

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

First lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalter: (*Insert: Alternate leader and people*) Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Second lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12

Song: 2094 (*Spoken*) “Carol of the Epiphany”

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: “*Seriously.*”

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 join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Covenant:

**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.**

(2)

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.

Response: 607 (*Unison*) A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION) (p. 15)

All welcome

SENDING FORTH

Song: 117 (*Spoken*) “O God, Our Help, in Ages Past”

Blessing

Extinguishing of candles, postlude, and going forth

*Reprinted, with alterations, from THE NEW HANDBOOK
OF THE CHRISTIAN YEAR, Copyright (C) 1986, 1992 by
Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

