

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
10:30 a.m. Sunday 5 January 2025
Second Sunday after Christmas/Epiphany of the Lord

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements: *To help us connect, please sign the attendance pad in your pew.*

Greeting: So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed.

You will do well to be attentive to this,
**as to a lamp shining in a dark place,
until the day dawns and the morning star
rises in your hearts.**

(2 Peter 1:19)

*Praise Choruses: 2098: "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"
2094: "Carol of the Epiphany"

*Opening Prayer: 255 "Epiphany"

*Opening Hymn: 254 "We Three Kings"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: 230 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" *(Verse 4)*

First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

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

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12

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

*Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

(2)

Sermon

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: **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.
Let us make this covenant our own.

*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.

(3)

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.

Page 607: “A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition:”
(Unison)

Sung Response: 382 (Verse 4 only)
“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 12ff)
All are welcome

Prayer after Communion: 2095 “Star-Child”

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 117 “O God, Our Help, in Ages Past”

*Dismissal with Blessing^:

May the God who established a covenant
with those who seek to enter the kingdom
be always present with you.

Amen.

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

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit of God guide your life,
now and forever.

Amen.

(4)

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

Amen. Thanks be to God!

*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude/Going Forth

*Indicates the people standing, if willing and able

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