

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church

January 3, 2010 ~ Epiphany Sunday

Today we observe the Liturgical celebration of Epiphany – that day when the Magi from the East found the baby Jesus and offered him gifts. In our celebration we use the words of the Covenant Renewal service created in 1663 by the Puritan, Richard Alleine, and adopted and transformed by John Wesley. Wesley first used the Covenant Service on August 11, 1755. The heart of the service, focused on the Covenant Prayer, requires persons to commit themselves to God:

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,
exalted for thee or brought low by 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.

It is fitting that, in this New Year, we hear the story of the arrival of the Magi and commit to give the gift of our whole selves to the work of God's Kingdom.

adapted from the United Methodist Book of Worship

welcome!

The Worship of God

Chapel

8:30 am

THE OPENING VOLUNTARY

March of the Magi.....F. Flaxington Harker

† OPENING PRAYER

O God, Searcher of 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 NO. 254

We Three Kings (vs. 1 and 5 only)..... KINGS OF ORIENT

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

HOMILY “Open”

Rev. Ashley Crowder Stanley

† COMMUNION HYMN NO. 640

Take Our Bread.....TAKE OUR BREAD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our service continues on Page 4 with the Invitation to the Table and Prayer of Covenant Renewal. The Responses will be sung at the 11 am service only.

OFFERTORY

Gesu Bambino..... Pietro A. Yon
David Blalock, Baritone

† CLOSING HYMN NO. 246

Joy to the World.....ANTIOCH

† CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Noel Suisse..... Louis Claude Daquin

† BENEDICTION

† Those who are able, please stand.

Our service of worship has ended. Our worship through service begins.

WORSHIP LEADERS: Ashley Crowder Stanley, Senior Minister; Dave Howard, Associate Minister; Frank Pifferetti, Organist.

The Gathering

Fellowship Hall

8:45 am

Ashley Crowder Stanley's message today is titled, "Open" and the scripture text is Matthew 2:1-12.

Worship participants: Ashley Crowder Stanley, Senior Minister; Keith Byrd, Director of Contemporary Music and the Horizon Praise Team.



*"Where the earth
meets the sky...
where the human soul
meets God's spirit."*

The Beginning

Fellowship Hall

9:45 am

*Morning Message: "Open"
God's Word: Matthew 2:1-12*

Worship Participants: Ashley Crowder Stanley, Senior Minister; Keith Byrd, Director of Contemporary Music; the Horizon Praise Team.

Notes:

Horizon

Horizon Worship Services include The Gathering at 8:45 am and The Beginning at 9:45 am on Sunday mornings. Both services meet in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome!

The Worship of God

Sanctuary

11 am

✧ ENTRANCE ✧

OPENING VOLUNTARY

March of the MagiF. Flaxington Harker

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† INTROIT

As With Gladness Men of OldWilliam Dix

Chancel Choir

*As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold; As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward beaming bright; So, most gracious Lord, may we Ever more be led to thee.
As they offered gifts most rare At that manger rude and bare, So may we with holy joy, Pure
and free from sin's alloy, All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly
King.*

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 246

Joy to the World..... ANTIOCH

OPENING PRAYER

O God, Searcher of 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.

✧ PROCLAMATION ✧

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

† HYMN NO. 254

We Three Kings (vs. 1)KINGS OF ORIENT

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

HOMILY "Open"

Rev. Ashley Crowder Stanley

✧ RESPONSE ✧

† COMMUNION HYMN NO. 640

Take Our Bread..... TAKE OUR BREAD

INVITATION TO THE TABLE AND PRAYER OF COVENANT RENEWAL

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. As we prepare ourselves to receive the sacrament, let us enter into a time of covenant renewal with our Lord, remembering the covenant made with us through his birth, death and resurrection.

First, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Almighty God, Light of the World, you caused light to shine out of darkness in the advent of Jesus our Christ. We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways. We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others, and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace. We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew in us, that our heart may be stirred with acts of compassion and service. Amen.

Now, let us renew our devotion to God and ask for God's guidance in the days ahead.

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, exalted for thee or brought low by 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.

THE SERVICE OF GIVING

(So that strangers might become friends, please sign and pass the Welcome Folders.)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (11 am only)

Catch the Vision! Share the Glory!..... Carl Schalk and Jaraslov Vajda
The Chancel Choir

Blessed children, saints, elect of God, globe-encircling cloud of witnesses: We have heard the Christmas angels, We have seen the Easter sunrise, Cried with joy when Christ began his reign. Catch the Vision! Share the glory! Show the captives, tell them: Christ is here! Universal Body of the Lord, Chosen, called, made just, and glorified: Ours the faith, and ours the triumph, Ours the peace the world is seeking; Who on earth as privileged as we? Heirs together of the grace of life, All baptized into the death of Christ: Born again, in love maturing, From the altar free and cheerful, Caring, winsome family of God. For this time and place have we been born, Gifted by the Spirit, trained, and sent: With the eyes of Jesus seeing, With the hands of Jesus helping, With the words of Jesus bringing life.

THANKSGIVING

† THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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. *R*

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 sister and brothers. *R*

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. *R*

You have been our light in the 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. *R*

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. *R*

† **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt Carl Schalk
The Chancel Choir

Sweet Little Jesus Boy Robert MacGimsey
Carolyn Hall, Soloist

† **UNISON PRAYER**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this 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.

∞ **SENDING FORTH** ∞

† **COMMISSIONING FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

Almighty God, whose love for the whole family of humankind has been made known to us through your Son, send your blessing upon your servant soon to go forth on this mission assignment. We ask you to grant to Bill guidance and strength for the task, openness to new truths and insights, good health and travelling mercies; to the end that your name be glorified in all the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

† **BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore PESCADORE DE HOMBRES
The Chancel Choir

Lord, you have come to the lakeshore looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones; you only asked me to follow humbly. O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name; now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.

† **CHIMES OF THE TRINITY**

† **CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

Noel Suisse Louis Claude Daquin

† Those who are able, please stand.

Our service of worship has ended. Our worship through service begins.

Announcements

Worship Participants: Ashley Crowder Stanley, Senior Minister; Dave Howard, Associate Minister; Michael Dougherty, Director of Music and the Arts; Frank Pifferetti, Organist; Dave McCoy, Sound Engineer; Catherine Levina and Becca Smothers, Acolytes.

Ushers for the month of January: Michael Amos (captain), Martha Bass, Chris Fievet, Bart Lassiter, Robert Lineback, George Morris, Ardith Pugh, Carol Young.

Greeters for the month of January: Norman Andrews, Bill Levina, Joe Needham, Bonnie Odom.

Wedding: Casie Lauren Thomas and Charles Lucas Pegg were married in the Chapel on December 18, 2009.

All are invited to a reception in the Asbury Room in honor of Bill Coble immediately following the 11 am service.

The next Inviting Team Fellowship will be Today, January 3. We'll meet in the Asbury Room with coffee and donuts from 9-10:45 am. Children are welcome! If you are a new visitor or a frequent visitor, please join us; we want to meet you and extend a personal welcome.



Upcoming Concert ~ The Millsaps College Chamber Singers will be presenting a concert at 7:30 pm on Friday, January 8 in our Sanctuary. The concert is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken. If you are interested in housing some of the college student members of this group overnight on Friday, please call Michael Dougherty at the Church Office, 884-2204.

Live Alive! January 19 "Kenya" with Diane Hamrick. Menu: Chicken pie, green beans, carrots, bread, cookie. You must call the Church Office, 884-2204, by Thursday, January 14 to make your reservation.

The Congregation is Invited to Experience the Celebration of Epiphany at our Family Epiphany Walk ~ Saturday, Jan. 9, beginning at 10 am. Come anytime between 10 am-12 noon. All families, friends & neighbors of all ages are welcome! Sponsored by: Family Life & Children's Council. This will be a guided tour walk within the Adult & Sanctuary indoor areas. Groups of several families together, led by an older elementary student "guide," will leave from the front Reception area every 15 minutes. Walk will take approximately 30 minutes. After the "reveal" of Baby Jesus, families will be invited to enjoy hot cider and King's Cake in the Asbury Room. What are our hopes for the new year? How can we be sure that we recognize Jesus when he is revealed to us?

Carrabba's Mission Dinner ~ Once again we are happy to partner with Carrabba's Restaurant – High Point Road location – to sponsor a wonderful Italian dinner which will support Kenya mission work at Wesley Memorial. The dinner will be on Wednesday, January 27 from 6 pm until 7:30. Take out will be available but there will not be a children's menu. Tickets will be on sale outside of each worship venue today. You may also reserve a ticket by calling the church at 884-2204, ext 242 to leave your name and phone number. The menu will be chicken marsala, cavatini pasta, salad, drink and a dessert – a delicious meal for \$12. Tickets always go fast for this great event. You will be helping to purchase medical supplies and other necessary items for the teams in Kenya. Thank you so much for your support and encouragement!

Report from the Church Office: December 27, 2009

Attendance:

Total in Church Christmas Eve: 1,608

Total in Church last Sunday (2 services): 432

Finances: (Dec. 27)

Pledge & Offering Revenues \$ 89,729.82

Budgeted Weekly Goal 36,004.29

Difference \$ 53,725.53

Thank You for Your Generosity!

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www.wesleymemorial.org