

temptation that will lead me away from You.

Leader: Through Jesus Christ, God offers to be your God again, if you allow Him to be.

People: Before all heaven and earth, I here and now acknowledge You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as my Lord and God. I vow to give all of myself, body and soul, to be Your servant and to serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.

Leader: Jesus Christ is the only way and means to God. God has given us Jesus as the way and means to salvation.

People: Jesus, I here and now accept You and the only new and living Way. I join myself in covenant with You. I come to You hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of Your servants. With all my power, I accept You as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own unworthiness, and vow that You are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom and take You for my only guide. I renounce my own will and take Your will as my law.

Leader: Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

People: Jesus, I here and now make this covenant with You and accept whatever comes in life. Through Your grace I promise that neither life nor death will separate me from You.

Leader: God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

People: I here and now willingly take on Your yoke and burden. All Your laws are holy, just, and good. I accept them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising I will strive to order my whole life around your direction. I will not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.

Leader: The Almighty God searches and knows you, even the thoughts of your heart.

People: O God, You know that we have made this covenant today in sincerity, without deceit or reluctance. If You find anything false in us, guide us and help us to set it right. And now, glory be to You, God the Father. From this day forward, I shall look upon You as my God and Father. Glory be to You, God the Son. You have loved me and washed me from my sins in Your own blood. From this day forward, I shall look upon You as my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to You, O God the Holy Spirit. By Your almighty power, You have turned my heart from sin to God. From this day forward I shall look upon You as my Comforter and Guide. O mighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through Your infinite grace, have become Your covenant servant. You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. May this covenant that I have made here on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

*Offertory

Oceans

*Benediction

Closing Song

Blessed Assurance

*Service Inspiration and Words adapted from Jonathan Powers at SeedBed
<http://www.seedbed.com/john-wesleys-covenant-renewal-service-today/>*

We will grow in love of God and neighbor and self as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the Wesleyan tradition.

January 1, 2017

New Year's Day



Wesley Covenant Renewal

Pastor Sarah Merchant

Scripture Focus: 2 Kings 23: 1-3, John 15: 1-8

Mountain View

United Methodist Church

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Mountain View United Methodist Church

Sunday, January 1, 2016 | 10:30 am

New Year's Day | Wesley Covenant Renewal

Prelude

Breathe

WE DWELL IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Welcome

Sharing the Life and Ministry of Mountain View UMC

***Greetings and Passing of the Peace:** Please greet each other with a handshake or an embrace, and with the words, "May the peace of God be with you."

The Greeting

Leader: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations

People: **You are the one true God who reigns forever.**

Opening Prayer

***Music**

*Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord
Sanctuary*

Scripture Reading with the Children John 15: 1-8

Bible p. 878

THE PROCLAMATION

THE CONFESSION

Leader: We are those who seek to live as true disciples of Jesus Christ, but sometimes we fall short. Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins and submitting our hearts so that we do not deceive ourselves and cut ourselves away from God. Let us pray:

People: **Father God, You have set forth the way of life through Your Son Jesus Christ, whom You love dearly. We shamefully confess that we have been slow to learn of Him and have been reluctant to follow Him. You have spoken and called to us but we have not listened. You have revealed Your beauty to us, but we have been blind. You have stretched out Your hands to us through our friends, but we have passed by them. We have accepted Your gifts and offered little thanks. We are unworthy of Your unchanging love.**

Leader: We now confess to you our sins

People (Responsive): **In your mercy Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Please stand, as you are able*

People: **Forgive us for when we waste time and when we misuse the gifts you have given us. Forgive us for when we have made excuses for the wrong things we have done and when we have purposefully avoided responsibility.**

Leader: Forgive us that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good and that we have not been ready to carry our cross. Forgive us that we have not allowed Your love to work through us to help others and that we have not made their suffering our own. Forgive us for those times when instead of working for unity we made it hard for others to live with us because of our lack of forgiveness, inconsiderate judgment, and quick criticism.

People: **Forgive us for when we have not tried to reconcile with others and when we have been slow to seek redemption.**

Leader: Forgive us also for these sins that we silently confess to You now.

Silent Confession

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

***Music**

We are the Branches

Scripture Lesson

2 Kings 23: 1-3

Bible p. 311

THE INVITATION

Leader: Jesus Christ, we offer You this prayer:

People: **Let me be Your servant. Let me follow your commands. I will no longer follow my own desires. I give myself completely to your will.**

Leader: The power and strength to live as true servants is given to us in Christ. We accept the place and work that He gives us, acknowledging that He alone will be our reward.

People: **I am not my own. I am Yours alone. Make me into what You will. Rank me with those You will. Put me to use for You. Put me to suffering for You. Let me be employed for You. Let me be laid aside for You. Let me be lifted high for You. Let me be brought low for You. Let me be full or let me be empty. Let me have all things or let me have nothing. With a willing heart, I freely give everything to Your pleasure and disposal.**

Leader: Christ is Savior to those who are His true servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. To be His servant is to consent fully to His will. Christ accepts nothing less. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Meditation: Renewed to Life Again

THE COVENANT PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray together:

People: **My righteous God, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, see me now as I fall down before You. Forgive my unfaithfulness when I have not done your will. You promise mercy if I turn to You with my whole heart.**

Leader: God requires that you rid yourself of every idol in your life.

People: **From the bottom of my heart, I here and now renounce every idol in my life, covenanting with You that I will not commit any known sin. By turning against Your will I have turned my love toward the world. In Your power I will watch for any**

Continued on reverse