

***Hymn of Preparation #227** "The Friendly Beasts"
Scripture Lesson 1 Corinthians 12:4-26 Pew Bible, Page 163
Sermon "What Gift Do You Bring?" **Rev. Heaton**
The Great Thanksgiving (Insert)
Invitation to Holy Communion (with Musical Setting)
The Lord's Supper
***Closing Hymn #384** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Covenant Service

January 1st, 2012

10:00 a.m.

Gathering Music

***Processional Hymn #240** "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

***Call to Worship**

Leader: As a new year dawns, we are humbled to look back on what God has done in our midst.

People: We look ahead to what God will do in the year to come.

Leader: In the tradition of Wesleyan Christians, we believe that God's grace is not finished with us, and that our lives can be sanctified to God's glory.

People: Give us faith and strength to live out our faith in love and service to God and our neighbor.

All: To God be the Glory, Amen.

***Hymn of Praise #57** "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Scripture Lesson Psalm 148 Pew Bible, Page 550

Response to the Word "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman"

Parish Concerns and Prayers

Congregational Prayer

Merciful God, by your grace you have led us into a New Year. You have provided us the leaders and resources to be in mission and ministry to our world and our community. Grant us the strength and faith to continue in your way by holding fast to you as we hold fast to one another. Bless those who are willing to serve as leaders of our congregation, and give us all the faith to follow. Allow this church to be a light to the lost and a sanctuary to those in need. All this we pray in Jesus' name, to him be honor and glory now and forever. Amen.

Offering

*Doxology

Wesley's Covenant for People Called Methodist

Rev. Heaton

Commitment

Pastor: We now yield ourselves to the Lord. As his servants, we must give up the dominion and control of ourselves to Christ. "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law but under grace."

All: We are yours, Lord. We reverence you. We dedicate ourselves to your service.

Pastor: In so giving ourselves to the Lord, we affirm that we will heartily embrace what he has appointed us to do, both corporately and personally. Let him appoint you to your work. Christ has many services to be done; some are more easy and honorable, others more difficult and menial. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interest; others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves, as when he requires us to feed and clothe ourselves. Indeed, there are some spiritual duties that are more pleasing than others; as to rejoice in the Lord, to be a blessing and praising God. These are the sweet works of a Christian. But then there are other works, wherein to please Christ is to deny ourselves. Find what it is that Christ expects of you and then give yourselves totally to his will, without bargaining and without reservation.

All: Make us what you will, Lord, and send us where we are to go. Let us be vessels of silver or gold, or vessels of wood or stone; as long as we are vessels of honor we are content. If we are not the head, or the eye, or the ear, one of the nobler and more honorable instruments, then let us be the hands, or the feet, as one of the lowest and least esteemed of all the servants of our Lord.

Pastor: Lord, place us in your Kingdom in the roles you have designed for us.

People: Lord, make all of us your servants.

Pastor: In the exalted places, or humble places.

People: Let us be full; let us be empty.

Pastor: Let us have all things; let us have nothing.

People: We freely and gladly embrace our places in your Kingdom.