

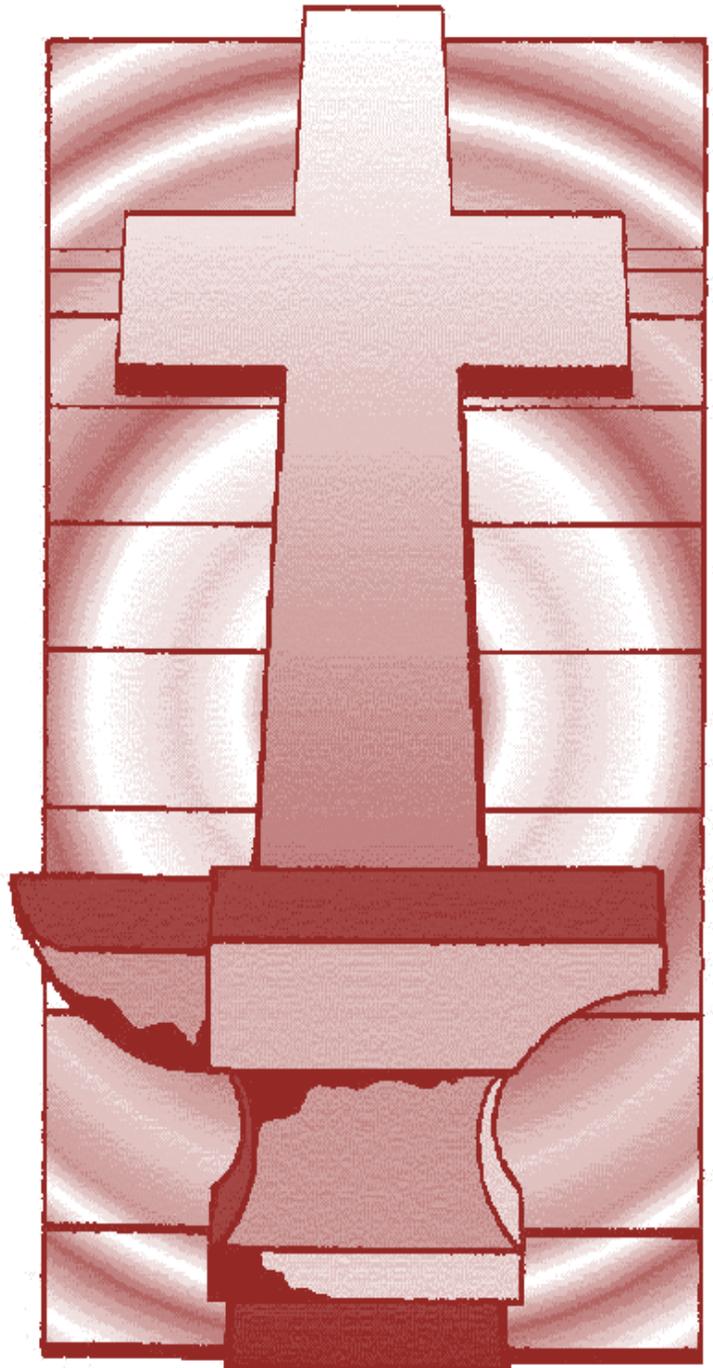
THE WESLEY COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE



JOHN WESLEY – 1703-1791
The Founder of Methodism



RICHARD ALLEN – 1760-1831
The Founder of the A.M.E. Church



THE CROSS & THE ANVIL
*The Symbol of our Risen Savior...
The Symbol of God's Strength
& our AME Beginnings*

S A I N T P A U L
A F R I C A N M E T H O D I S T E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H

W W W . S P V A M E . C O M

THE WESLEY COVENANT SERVICE & COMMUNION CELEBRATION

From our AME Book of Worship to Renew our Covenant with God and Celebrate the Body & Blood of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ!

“On December 25, 1747, John Wesley strongly urged the Methodists to renew their Covenant with God. His first Covenant Service was held in the French Church at Spitalfields on August 11, 1755, which he published that year in the ‘Christian Library.’ Wesley issued this as a pamphlet in 1780, and the form was used without alteration for nearly a century. Various modifications were then made, till a form was prepared which gave the people a larger share in the devotions. That form has now been revived with deep sense of the importance of a service which has been a fruitful source of blessing to Methodism ever since 1755.” ~ *The Book of Offices*, The Methodist Church of Great Britain and Ireland

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OCCASION – *The Process of Our Covenant Renewal*

THE PASTOR

THE SALUTATION

All Standing

Elder: Give honor to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: And to all the children of our Father, now and forever. Amen.

THE OPENING HYMN - #1, AMEC HYMNAL

“O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING”

<p>1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!</p>	<p>4. He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free; His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood availed for me.</p>
<p>2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.</p>	<p>5. He speaks, and listening to His voice, new life the dead receive; the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.</p>
<p>3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease; 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.</p>	<p>6. Hear him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ; ye blind, behold your savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.</p>

THE INVOCATION: *THE PRAYER OF PURIFICATION & PARDON*

Elder: Let us pray.

Almighty God, who of your great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who turn to you with true repentance and sincere faith; Have mercy upon us. Pardon and deliver us from all of our sins. Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life: through Jesus Christ our Savior. To You all hearts are open, all desires known, and from You no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your Holy Name; through Christ our Lord. And thank you for teaching us to pray as Jesus taught his Disciples to pray... *The Lord's Prayer*

THE HYMN PRAISE - #139, AMEC HYMNAL

“ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED!”

<p>1. Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die? Would he devote that sacred head for such a worm as I? Refrain</p>	<p>2. Was it for crimes that I have done, he groaned upon the tree? Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree! Refrain</p>
<p><u>REFRAIN</u> At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light, and the burden of my heart rolled away; it was there by faith I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day.</p>	<p>4. But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe. Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do. Refrain</p>

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ “ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

THE GLORIA PATRI
- HYMN #628

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.”

THE WORSHIP IN GIVING

“All things come of Thee, O Lord and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen” - 1 Chronicles 29:14~HYMN #644

• THE COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE •

Then the People may be seated and the Elder shall say,

Dearly beloved, the Christian life, to which we are called, is a life in Christ, redeemed from sin by him, and through him consecrated to God. For unto this life we have entered, having been admitted into that new covenant (*new agreement*) of which our Lord Jesus Christ is mediator, and which he sealed with his own blood, that it might stand forever.

On one side the covenant is God's promise that he will fulfill in and through us all that he declared in Jesus Christ, who is the author and perfecter of our faith. And we are sure that his promises still stand, for we have known his goodness and his grace is proved in our lives day by day.

On the other side of the covenant, we stand pledged to live no longer for ourselves, but to him who loved us and gave himself for us and called us to serve him that the purposes of his coming be fulfilled.

From time to time we renew our vows of consecration, especially when we gather at the table of the Lord; but on this day we meet for a purpose, as generations of our fathers and mothers have met, that we may joyfully and solemnly renew the covenant, which bound them and binds us to God.

Let us then, remembering the mercies of God and the hope of his calling, examine ourselves by the light of his Spirit, that we may see where we have failed or fallen short in faith and practice and, considering all that this covenant means, may give ourselves anew to God.

• THE ADORATION •

THE PEOPLE SEATED, BUT IN AN ATTITUDE OF PRAISE.

Then the Pastor shall say:

Let us adore the Father, the God of love who created us;
who every moment preserves and sustains us; who has loved us with an everlasting love,
and given us the light of the knowledge of his glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

The People shall respond:

We praise you, O God; we acknowledge you to be the Lord!

Minister:

Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ;
 who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor;
who went about doing good and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom;
 who was tempted in all points of life as we are, yet without sin;
who became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross;
 who was dead, and lives for Evermore;
who opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers;
 who sitteth at the right hand in the glory of the Father.

People: **You are the King of glory, O Christ!**

Minister:

Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, by
whom we are born into the family of God, and made members of the body of Christ;
 whose witness confirms us;
 whose wisdom teaches us;
 whose power enables us;
 who waits to do for us, exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.

People: **All praise to You, O Holy Spirit! AMEN!**

A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

To Adore God and give praise to him.

• THE THANKSGIVING •

THE PEOPLE SHALL ALL STAND TO GIVE THANKS.

Minister: Let us rise and give thanks to God for his many kinds of mercies...

People:

**O God our Father, the fountain of all goodness, who has been gracious to us
through all the years of our life: We give you thanks for your loving-kindness
which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.**

Minister: We praise your holy name, O Lord!

People:

**You have given us life and purpose, and set us in a world which is full of your glory.
You have comforted us with family and friends,
and ministered to us through the hands and minds of our fellow Christians.**

Minister: We praise your holy name, O Lord!

People:

**You have set in our hearts a hunger for you, and 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.**

Minister: We praise your holy name, O Lord!

People:

**In darkness you have been our light, in adversity and temptation a rock of strength,
in our joys the very spirit of joy, in our labors the all-sufficient reward.**

Minister: We praise your holy name, O Lord!

People:

**You have remembered us when we have forgotten you,
followed us even when we ran from you, met us with forgiveness when we turned our backs to you.
For all your long-suffering and the abundance of your grace,**

Minister: We praise your holy name, O Lord! **AMEN!**

- THE PEOPLE MAY BE SEATED -

<p>1. We praise Thee, O God! For the Son of Thy love, For Jesus who died, and is now gone above. Refrain</p>	<p>2. We praise Thee, O God! For the Spirit of light, Who has shown us the Savior, and scattered our night. Refrain</p>
<p><u>REFRAIN</u> Hallelujah! Thine the glory, Hallelujah! A-men; Hallelujah! Thine the glory, Revive us again!</p>	<p>4. Revive us again; fill each heart with Thy love; May our souls be rekindled with fire from above. Refrain</p>

• THE CONFESSION •

THE PEOPLE SHALL COME TO THE ALTAR & KNEEL.

Elder:

Let us now examine ourselves before God, with humility confessing our sins and watching our hearts, lest by self-deceit we shut ourselves out from his presence.

Let us pray:

O God our Father, who has set forth the way of life for us in your beloved Son: We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him, our reluctance to follow him. You have spoken and called, and we have not given careful attention to you; your beauty has shone forth, and we have been blinded; You have stretched out your hands to us through our fellow Christians, and we have passed by. We have taken great benefits -- with little thanks; we have been unworthy of your changeless love.

People: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Minister:

Forgive us, we beg you, for the lack of quality of our worship, the formality and selfishness of our prayers, our unfaithfulness and unbelief, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our false pretenses, and our willful ignorance of your ways.

People: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Minister:

Forgive us when we have wasted our time or misused our gifts.

Forgive us when we have excused our own wrongdoing or evaded our responsibilities.

Forgive us that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good, that we have drawn back from the cross.

People: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Minister:

Forgive us that so little of your love has reached others through us, and that we have taken so lightly, wrongs and sufferings that were not our own.

Forgive us when we have cherished the things that divide us from others, and when we have made it hard for them to live with us, and when we have been thoughtless.

People: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Minister:

If we have made no ventures in fellowship, if we have kept in our heart a grievance against another, if we have not sought reconciliation, if we have been eager for the punishment of wrongdoers and slow to seek their redemption,

People: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Let each of us in silence make confession to God.

A TIME FOR CONFESSION & SILENT PRAYER

Confess your sins to the LORD and Repent.

Elder: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your loving kindness; according to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within us. Amen.

People: **AMEN!** *[THE PEOPLE MAY RISE AND RETURN TO THEIR SEATS.]*

**THE CHILDREN’S MOMENT (“The Magi’s Gifts”) &
THE COVENANT MESSAGE (“Epiphany of the Lord”)**

THE PASTOR

• THE COVENANT •

THE PEOPLE SHALL BE SEATED, BUT IN AN ATTITUDE OF REVERENCE.

Then the minister shall say,

And now, beloved, let us bind ourselves with willing bonds to our covenant with God, and take the yoke of Christ upon us.

This taking of his yoke upon us means that we are heartily content that he appoints us our place and work, and that he alone be our reward.

Christ has many services to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honor, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations, and temporal interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is assuredly given us in Christ, who strengthens us.

Therefore let us make the covenant of God our own. Let us engage our heart to the Lord, and resolve in his strength never to go back to our former way of life.

Being thus prepared, let us now, in sincere dependence on his grace and trusting in his promises, yield ourselves anew to him.

The Pastor shall pray,

O Lord God, holy Father, who hast called us through Christ to be partakers in this gracious covenant: We take upon ourselves, with joy, the yoke of obedience, and engage ourselves, for the love of you, to seek and do your perfect will. We are no longer our own, but yours.

Then The People Shall Pray,

I am no longer my own, but yours, O God. Put to me what you would, rank me with whomever you would; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; 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 your pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And this agreement which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP & COVENANT RENEWAL

THE COVENANT HYMN - #242, AMEC HYMNAL

“A CHARGE TO KEEP I HAVE”

1. A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify, a never-dying soul to save, and fit it for the sky.	3. Arm me with jealous care, as in Thy sight to live, and oh, Thy servant, Lord, prepare a strict account to give!
2. To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill; O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will!	4. Help me to watch and pray, and on Thyself rely, assured, if I my trust betray, I shall forever die.

LIVE...LOVE...LEARN

• THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER & HOLY COMMUNION •

{THE MINISTERS KNEELING; THE CONGREGATION HUMBLED}

THE GENERAL CONFESSION

The Chief Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Celebrant and People: ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of our LORD, Jesus Christ, Creator and Judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed against Your Divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us.

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; Forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Celebrant and People: AMEN! *(Choral)*

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Celebrant: O Merciful Savior, we do not come to your holy table trusting in our own grace and mercy, but in the greatness of your mercy. We are not worthy enough to gather up the crumbs under your table. You are the LORD and your love has met, and always will meet, every human need. Grant us humble access to your love in the sacramental feast of the body and blood of Jesus Christ, and wash away our sinful pride, so that in mercy we may be drawn near to you and to him who with the Holy Spirit lives and reigns one God, now and forever.

Celebrant and People: AMEN! AMEN! AMEN! AMEN! *(Choral)*

THE CONSECRATION

The Chief Celebrant: All glory, power and honor to you, Almighty God, Holy Father, Creator of heaven and earth, who did make us in your own image. And when we fell into sin, you of your tender mercy did give your only begotten Son Jesus Christ, to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption: who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world: And instituted and commanded us to continue this perpetual memorial of his precious death until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore, with this bread and cup we remember the life our LORD offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Gracious God, you are holy indeed, the fountain of all holiness. Bless and sanctify these gifts with your Holy Spirit and bless us to your service that we may faithfully receive in unity and peace the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ. AMEN.

{THE CHIEF CELEBRANT NOW RECEIVES THE HOLY COMMUNION IN BOTH KINDS AND PROCEEDS TO DELIVER THE SAME TO THE OTHER MINISTERS PRESENT}

THE SOLICITATION

ALL STANDING

Celebrant: You that truly and earnestly repent of your sins and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking hereafter in his holy ways, draw near with faith to receive the holy sacrament.

Make your humble confession to Almighty God, in the presence of his church, devoutly kneeling.

THE SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

AFTER ALL HAVE COMMUNED, THE ELEMENTS ARE COVERED

THE CIRCLE, BLESSING & BENEDICTION

THE PASTOR

"THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU; THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE SHINE UPON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU; THE LORD TURN HIS FACE TOWARD YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE."

— Numbers 6:24-26 —

—ANNOUNCEMENTS & HAPPENINGS—

TEACHING MOMENTS

Next Week's Scripture Lessons:

Baptism of the Lord – Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Church School for ALL Ages – 9:30am Every Sunday

Pastor's Bible Study – Every Wednesday @ 11:00am

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

Announcements...

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays...

OUR SICK & SHUT-IN

Prayer List...