

Banning United Methodist Church
Epiphany Sunday
New Year and Covenant Renewal Service
January 1, 2023

GATHERING MUSIC

Maxine Hoth

MEDITATIVE THOUGHT

Dan Mabey

A new day has dawned, a new year begun. O Lord, call us so we may hear Your voice.

PRELUDE

"Standing on the Promises"

Maxine Hoth

WELCOMING FRIENDS and NEWCOMERS

Dan Mabey

We ask that you please sign the attendance book, then pass it to the middle aisle. If you are here this morning as a guest, please include your address and phone number, so that we can reach out to you and extend our welcome.

WELCOME and PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Janice

Peace be with you
And also with you

MINISTRY MOMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Mabey

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Dan Mabey

L: The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future.

P: O Lord, keep us in Your ways and on Your path.

L: We enter this new year with hope and excitement.

P: O Lord, remind us that You lead us. O Lord, guide us as we look to You and worship You. Amen.

†OPENING HYMN

"O God Our Help in Ages Past"

Hymnal #117

OPENING PRAYER

O God, Searcher of all 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 on this New Year's Day, reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us. 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, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Dan Mabey

Isaiah 60:1-6 NIV

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense, and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY MESSAGE

"Covenant for a New Year"

Pastor Janice

†HYMN

"Here I Am Lord"

Hymnal #593

WESLEY'S COVENANT SERVICE

INVITATION

Pastor Janice

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. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, 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. It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ.

Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

Let me be Your servant, under Your command. I will no longer be my own.

I will give up myself to Your will in all things.

Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

Lord, make me what You will. I put myself fully into Your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for You, or laid aside for You, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to Your pleasure and disposal.

First, set apart some time, more than once, to be spent alone before the Lord;

in seeking earnestly God's special assistance and gracious acceptance of you;

in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant; in searching your hearts whether you have already freely given your life to Christ. Consider what your sins are. Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, strict, and spiritual they are, and whether you, after having carefully considered them, are willing to choose them all. Be sure you are clear in these matters, see that you do not lie to God.

Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant, rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength, so you can keep your promise.

Trust not your own strength and power.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful. You have given to the Lord your hearts, you have opened your mouths to the Lord, and you have dedicated yourself to God.

With God's power, never go back.

And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord. Fall down on your knees, lift your hands toward heaven, open your hearts to the Lord, as we pray:

COVENANT PRAYER

Dan Mabey

O righteous God, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, see me as I fall down before You. Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done Your will,

for You have promised mercy to me if I turn to You with my whole heart.

God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

I, here from the bottom of my heart, renounce them all, covenanting with You that no known sin shall be allowed in my life. Against Your will, I have turned my love toward the world. In Your power, I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from You. For my own righteousness is riddled with sin, unable to stand before You.

Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again if you would let Him.

Before all heaven and earth, I here acknowledge You as my Lord and God.

I take You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion, and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as Your servant, to serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.

The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

O God, You know that I make this covenant with You today without guile or reservation. If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright. And now, glory be to You, O God the Father, whom I from this day forward shall look upon as my God and Father. Glory be to You, O God the Son, Who have loved me and washed me from my sins in Your own blood, and now is my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to You, O God the Holy Spirit, Who by Your almighty power have turned my heart from sin to God.

O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through Your infinite grace, have become Your covenant servant. So be it. And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

You are advised to make this covenant not only in your heart, but in word; not only in word, but in writing.

Therefore, with all reverence, lay the service before the Lord as your act and deed. Keep it as a reminder of the holy agreement between God and you, that you may remember it during doubts and temptations.

†HYMN "One Bread, One Body" Hymnal #620

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE NEW YEAR Hymnal #7-11

PRAYERS OF THE PASTOR and PEOPLE Pastor Janice

Children in Prayer

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Janice

GIVING BACK TO GOD (TITHES AND GIFTS)

OFFERTORY "God Leads Us Along" Maxine Hoth

†**DOXOLOGY** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Dan Mabey

Our gifts from our wealth seem simultaneously too material and woefully shabby. They are outshined by what You have given us. Just the same, use our gifts for the work of justice, mercy, and compassion—as would befit the Savior Who sleeps in a manger. It's in His Holy Name, we pray. Amen.

†**CLOSING HYMN** "Go Tell it on the Mountain" Hymnal #251

†**BENEDICTION**

Pastor Janice

(Please remain standing in your pew while the acolyte carries the light of Christ out into the World, followed by the pastor and liturgist.)

POSTLUDE "Praise Him, Praise Him" Maxine Hoth