

The Worship of Our Lord

A New Year’s Service of Covenant Renewal

Gathering Music *O Morning Star How Fair and Bright* Tony Childers

Greeting Rev. Karen Kagiyama

✠Processional Hymn #254. *We Three Kings*

Prayer of Adoration & Lord’s Prayer Rev. Ken Stephens

Let us worship our Creator, the God of love; God continually preserves and sustains us; we have been loved with an everlasting love; through Jesus Christ we have been given complete knowledge of God's glory.

You are God; we praise you, we acknowledge you to be the Lord.

Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, for our sakes he became poor; he was tempted in all points as we are, but he was without sin; he went about doing good and preaching the gospel of the kingdom; he accepted death, death on the cross; he was dead and is alive for ever; he has opened the kingdom of heaven to all who trust in him; he sits in glory at the right hand of God; he will come again to be our judge.

You Christ are the King of Glory

Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. Through the Spirit we are born into the family of God, and made members of the body of Christ; the witness of the Spirit confirms us; the wisdom teaches us; the power enables us; the Spirit will do far more for us than we ask or think.

All praise to you, Holy Spirit

Silent Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Readings from Holy Scripture

Old Testament Lesson - Isaiah 49:1-10	Sue McBrayer
Psalter - Psalm 8:1-9 (#743, responsively)	Justin Stephens
Epistle Lesson - Colossians 2:1-7	Sue McBrayer

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

✠Hymn #395, *Take Time to Be Holy*

✠Gospel Lesson Matthew 25:31-46 Britt Martin

Homily Rev. Karen Kagiyama

✠Hymn of Response #606, *Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine*
(Sung to the tune of Amazing Grace)

Offertory Prayer Rev. Sam Dawkins

Offertory *I Need Thee Every Hour* Justin and Miranda Stephens

✠Doxology #95, *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Holy Communion of Covenant Renewal

Confession of Sin

Let us humbly confess our sins to God

O God, you have shown us the way of life through your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him, our failure to follow him and our reluctance to bear the cross.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us

We confess the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibilities in our service, our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

Have mercy on us Lord, and forgive us.

Let each of us in silence make confession to God. ***Silence***

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; In your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions; thoroughly wash my iniquity from me, and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new right spirit within me. Now the message that we have heard from God’s Son and that we announce is this: God is Light, and there is no darkness in him. When we live in the Light—and God is the Light—Then we have fellowship with one another, And the blood of Jesus his Son Purifies us from every sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, And there is no truth in us. But if we confess our sins to God God will keep his promise; God will forgive us all our wrongdoing. Amen. Thanks be to God.

Collect

Let us pray: **Father, you have appointed our Lord Jesus Christ as mediator of new covenant; Give us grace to draw near with fullness of faith and join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with you, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

The Covenant

In the first covenant, God chose Israel to be a special people and to obey the Law. Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection, Has made a new covenant with all who trust in him. We stand within this covenant and we bear Christ’s name. On the one side, God promises to give us new life in Christ. On the other side, we are pledged to live, Not for ourselves but for God. Today, therefore, we meet to renew this covenant that binds us to God. *(the people stand.)*

Friends, let us claim the covenant God has made with his people and accept the yoke of Christ, we allow Christ to guide all that we do and all that we are, and Christ himself is our only reward. Christ has many ways for us to serve him; Some are easy, others are difficult. Some receive applause; others bring only reproach; Some we desire to do because of our own interests; Others seem unnatural. Sometimes we please Christ and meet our own needs; At other times we cannot please Christ Unless we deny ourselves. Yet Christ strengthens us and gives us the power

to do all these things. Therefore, let us make this covenant with God our own. Let us give ourselves completely to God, Trusting in God’s promises and relying on God’s grace.

I give myself completely to you, God. Assign me to my place in your creation. Let me suffer for you. Give me the work you would have me do. Or have me step aside while you call others. Give me the riches or let me live in poverty. I freely give all that I am and all that I have to you. And now, Holy God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—You are mine and I am yours. So be it. May this covenant continue for all eternity. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, Always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image And breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, Your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, Made covenant to be our sovereign God, And spoke to us through your prophets. And so, With your people on Earth And all the company of heaven We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, To proclaim release to the captives And recovering of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed, And to announce that the time had come When you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, And ate with sinners.

By the baptism Of his suffering, death, and resurrection, You gave birth to your church, Delivered us from slavery to sin and death, And made with us a new covenant By water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, He promised to be with us always, In the power of your Word and Holy Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, Gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body Which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup, Gave thanks to you, and gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; This is my blood of the new covenant, Poured out for you and for many For the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, In remembrance of me.”

And so, In remembrance of these your mighty acts In Jesus Christ, We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, One with each other, And one in ministry to all the world, Until Christ comes in final victory And we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

Sharing the Elements

Prayer after Communion

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

Lord, we give thanks for the gift of this holy meal. We praise you that you sent your Son that through him we might be reconciled completely to you. Christ sacrificed himself. We offer the sacrifice of our lives. Let all that we do be a response to the sacrifice Christ made for us. Amen.

✠Hymn #399, *Take My Life, and Let It Be, Consecrated Lord to Thee*

Dismissal with Blessing Rev. Sam Dawkins

May the God who established a covenant with those who seek to enter the kingdom be always present with you.

Amen.

May Jesus Christ, who sealed the new covenant with his sacrifice on the cross, bring you peace.

Amen.

May God's Holy Spirit guide your life.

Amen.

Go in peace to serve God and your neighbor In all that you do.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Choral Response #251, *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (chorus)

Postlude *March of the Magi* (DuBois)

✠Please stand as you are able.

Congregation responds with **bold** print statements.

Heartfelt sympathy: to the family of Greg Shadrix whose mother passed away. **Prayers for:** HL McCright, Vicki West, Baby Davis Brooks, Sammy Eady, Frankie Rodenberry, Peggy Gordon, Amy Wilson, Marta Worley, Jimmie Clay, Betty White, Louise Hearn, Ned Harman, Vi Carr, Heather Russell, Homer McEwen, George Archibald, Sally Sullivan, Christine Johnson, Harriette Phillips, Shaun Maddox, Bob Germany, Phil Kaughman, Marie Crews (cousin of James Crews), Judy Furr (Stacy Martin's mother), Margaret Mote (Sheri Evan's mother), Hilda Giles (Ken Stephen's cousin), Kay Howson, Dr. Bill McGee (friend of Milton & Susan Berry), Tiffany Henley (friend of Kathryn Samples), Henry Garrett (Jimmy Garret's grandson), Gwen Riddle, Jenny Bonner, Tyhesia Daniels, Cameron Teems (Glenda Banks grandson missionary training), Wayne Garner, Joe Kroll, Suzanne Phillips, Shirley Dennis (Harriett Phillips sister), Joan Nesbitt, Martha Thurman, Donna Holder, Benjamin Puckett, George & Jan Dixon, Tammy Ingram (friend of Donna Simmers), Glenda Banks, Kane Russell. Linda Aitken, Betty Guy (Cheryl Childers' aunt), Marie Yuran, neighbor of Karen Kagiama, Vicky Murphy, Jackie Ward, Nancy Hurston, relative of Laura Richards, All involved in the invasion of Ukraine, Celita Page, Doris McClendon, Don Harp, (grandson of Rev. Don Harp), Donna Prest (Alice Robertson's sister-in-law), Alan Payne (Gherry Gustafson's nephew), Catherine Maier, Camille Yahm, Bobbie Kitfield, Laura Richards sister-in-law, Timothy Farris, friend of John Cook, Brian Hanrihan, (friend of David Miceli), Patrice Washington, friend of Phil Tuggle, Debbie Burgamy, Jacqueline Roberts, Samantha & Aurelie Martin, Bill Young, Jamie McDowell, Judy Lambeth, Laurie Gustafson, Cindy Tolbert, Ed Johnson, George Ward, Barbara Tanner, Bonny Watkins, Judy Holt, Paul Burkett, Courtney Allen, Stuart Yahm, Eric Powell, **Our military and their families:** Jonathan Wilbanks, Jason Preston (Harry Preston's nephew), Kevin Ayers, Dylan & Becca Wood, Matt Landon, Davis Marlar, Robert Geiger, Clayton Couch, Austin Walls, Rob Bennett, Brett Edmondson, Scott McClendon, John Hamil. **Those serving in the mission field:** Joy and Wes Griffin, Ronnie and Angi Hopkins, Bishop David Thagana, Timothy Thagana (Strong Tower Orphanage & Glory Outreach Assembly, Kenya), Will & Ella Faircloth, (Costa Rica & Spanish translation of discipleship resources)...**our community, our nation and our world around us** *Please notify the church office of any updates or additions.*

Year-End Finance
For any last minute contributions, please ensure they are postmarked December 31 for the 2022 tax year. If you have any questions about pledging, tithing, and giving, please contact Amy Harris at Amy@cfumc.com, 770-832-7069. Thank you. The Lord grant you every blessing and mercy in your new year.

Other Announcements

- Long-range Planning Committee meets January 3 at 6:00 PM in Room 206
- Church Council Meeting January 10 6:30 PM Room 206
- Men's Breakfast. Saturday, January 14, 8 AM, Fellowship Hall

Ministry Staff

- We welcome Rev. Dr. John Simmons as Interim Pastor beginning January 2nd. He may be contacted through the church office at 770-832-7069 or by email at john.simmons@ngumc.net
- We also welcome Associate Pastor Sam Dawkins who will serve in a part-time capacity beginning January 1. He may be reached through the church office, by phone at 404-713-7037, or by email sam.dawkins@ngumc.net



Our Methodist Mission:
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ
For the transformation of the world. (Matt. 28:19)
January 1, 2023 11 AM
Epiphany Sunday



The Vision of First United Methodist Church:
*A congregation in which anyone and everyone can **Connect** with Christ ~ **Grow** in Faith ~ and **Serve** more and more fully in the Spirit of Jesus*

206 Newnan St. ▪ Carrollton, GA 30117 ▪ Ph: 770-832-7069

www.cfumc.com—info@cfumc.com