

First Presbyterian Church

101 South Decatur Street, Strasburg PA 17579 (717) 687-6030

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP: 8:30am / CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 11:00am

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: 9:30am in Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:00am

Sunday, January 7, 2018

8:30am

PRELUDE

"As with Gladness Men of Old" — Hobby

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS / RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you

People: And also with you.

Leader: The newborn Christ is with us

People: Praise the Lord.

*HYMN

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

No. 210

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

God, our Covenant Friend, You have given us life and reason. You have given us light, but we continue to long for darkness. You promise to be by our side but we flee from You. Your patience is never-ending but we get restless when things don't go our way. You are a rock of strength but we decide to build our lives on the sand. Forgive us and remind us that through Your birth You have given us life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

[Please share Christ's peace with one another with handshakes, hugs, kisses—however you fee/ led.]

*HYMN

"Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

David Griffith

(For those who wish, children grades 1-4 can leave for children's church at this time.)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

2 Kings 23:1-3 (OT 356)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-8 (NT 109)

COVENANT RENEWAL

'Covenant Renewal'

"If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee"

No.282

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

"In Dulci Jubilo" —

Liszt

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer (pg. 16 in the hymnal)

Words of Institution

Welcome

Distribution

[Worshippers: Take a blue bead from the fountain to remind you of your baptism and your rededication to Jesus.]

*ALLELUIA

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

"Noel for the Epiphany of Our Lord" - Chauvet

Next Week

Job 38:1-7

Romans 11:33-36

"What Can We Know About God?"

11:00am

Greeting & Announcements

*Praise & Worship

The Lion & the Lamb

Be Enthroned

Come Lord Jesus (Even so Come)

Prayer & Peace

Children's Message: David Griffith

(For those who wish, children grades 1-4 can leave for children's church at this time.)

Scripture Readings

1 Kings 23:1-3; John 15:1-8

Covenant Renewal

"Covenant Renewal"

Communion

*Offering/Closing Song

Your Grace is Enough

*Benediction

SERMON NOTES:

COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE

Sunday, January 7, 2018

First Presbyterian Church 101 S. Decatur St.
Strasburg PA 17579

PROCLAMATION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Christian life is redeemed from sin and consecrated to God.

Through baptism, we have entered this life and have been admitted into the new covenant -of which Jesus Christ is the Mediator.

He sealed it with his own blood, that it might last forever.

On the one side, God promises to give us new life in Christ, the Source and Perfecter of our faith.

On the other side, we are pledged to live no more for ourselves but only for Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us.

From time to time we renew our covenant with God, especially when we reaffirm the Baptismal Covenant and gather at the Lord's table.

Today, however, we meet, as the generations before us have met, to renew the covenant that binds us to God. Let us make this covenant of God our own.

INVITATION

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 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.

Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants.

He is the source of all salvation to those who obey.

Christ will have no servants except by consent;

Christ will not accept anything except full consent to all that he requires.

Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Confirm this by a holy covenant.

To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to these admonitions:

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 and 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

(The people may kneel or bow if they so choose)

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.

God has given the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way and means to coming to God.

Jesus, I do here on bended knees accept Christ. as the only new and living Way, and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him.

O blessed Jesus, I come to you, hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants.

I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head.

I renounce my own worthiness, 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.

Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

I do here covenant with you, O Christ, to take my lot with you as it may fall.

Through your grace I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from you.

God has given holy laws as a rule of your life.

I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke, to carry your burden. All your laws are holy, just, and good.

I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising that I will strive to order my whole life according to your direction, and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.

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.

Signature: _____

Date: _____