

***From John Wesley's Covenant Service, 1780***

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou  
wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

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 thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.



**EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH**

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**COVENANT SERVICE**

**Sunday January 7th, 2024**



Worship Leader: Mr. Timothy Pinder & Mrs. Michelle Ryan

Preacher: Rev. Milton Lightbourne

## Order Of Service

Covenant Sunday Service

Preacher: Rev. Milton Lightbourne

Worship Leader: Mr. Timothy Pinder & Mrs. Michelle Ryan

Welcome and Announcements Mr. Timothy Pinder

Opening Hymn **“Sing To The Great Jehovah”** #959

Prayer Minister

Almighty God, unto Whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from Whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer (sung) Congregation

Scripture lesson Jeremiah 31vs31-34 Mr.Dwight Thurston

Minister: 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. Upon this life we have entered, having been admitted into that New Covenant 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 fill in and through us all that He declared in Jesus Christ, who is the Author and Perfector of our faith. That His promise still stands we are sure, for we have known His goodness and proved His grace in our lives day by day.

On the other side we stand pledged to live no more unto ourselves, but to Him who loved us and gave Himself for us and has called us so to serve Him that the purposes of His coming might be fulfilled.

**Communion Hymns : #749, #400 , #150, #954, #199**

### Prayer after Receiving

**All: We thank You Lord, for feeding us in this sacrament; Uniting us in Christ; and giving us a foretaste of Your heavenly banquet; Prepared for all humanity. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Closing Hymn **“Thy Faithfulness Lord”** #745

Benediction

### “Here I Am Lord”

1. I the Lord of sea and sky  
I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright,  
Who will bear My light to them?

### Refrain:

**Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night  
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.**

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain  
I have born My people’s pain,  
I have wept for love of them,  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give the hearts for love alone,  
I will speak My word to them  
Whom shall I send?

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide,  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them,  
Whom shall I send?

Minister: Send down your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ. Unite us with Him forever and bring us with the whole creation to Your eternal kingdom.

**All:** Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we worship You in songs of everlasting praise. Blessing and honour and glory and power be Yours for ever and ever. Amen.

### **The Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

*The presiding minister breaks the bread in the sight of the people*

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

**All: May Jesus Christ be praised!**

Minister: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to His supper.

**All: Lord, we come to Your table, trusting in Your mercy and not in any goodness of our own. We are not worthy even to gather up the crumbs under Your table, but it is Your nature always to have mercy, and on that we depend. So feed us with the body and blood of Jesus Christ, Your Son, that we may forever live in Him and He in us. Amen.**

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 expressly, as generations of our fathers 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 wherein we have failed or fallen short in faith and practice, and, considering all that this Covenant means, may give ourselves anew to God.

**Hymn**      **“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”**      #615  
(Tithes and Offering to be received. Please stand on the last verse)

### **Offertory Prayer**

Miss Gabriella Arhcer

### **ADORATION**

Minister: Let us pray:

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.

**Congregation: We praise Thee, O God, we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.**

Minister: Let us glorify 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 like we are, yet without sin; Who became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross; Who was dead, and liveth for evermore; Who opened the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers; Who sitteth at the right hand of God in the glory of

the Father.

**Congregation: Thou art 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 power enables us; Who waits to do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.

**Congregation: All praise to Thee, O Holy Spirit.**

### THANKSGIVING

Minister: Let us give thanks to God for His manifold mercies. O God our Father, the fountain of all goodness, Who hast been gracious to us not only in the year that is past, but through all the years of our life we give Thee thanks for Thy loving-kindness which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

**Congregation: We praise Thy Holy Name, O Lord.**

Minister: Thou hast given us life and reason, and set us in a world which is full of Thy glory. Thou hast comforted us with kindred and friends and ministered to us through the hands and minds of our fellows.

**Congregation: We praise Thy Holy Name, O Lord.**

Minister: Thou hast set in our hearts a hunger for Thee, and given us Thy peace. Thou hast redeemed us and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus. Thou hast given us a place in the fellowship of Thy Spirit and the witness of Thy Church.

**Congregation: We praise Thy Holy Name, O Lord.**

Minister: In darkness Thou hast been our light; in adversity and temptation, a rock of strength; in our joys, the very spirit of joy; in our labours, the all-sufficient reward.

Hymn ***"I Am Thine O Lord"*** #746

### HOLY COMMUNION

Minister: We praise You, gracious Father, our Maker and Sustainer. You created the heavens and the earth and formed us in Your own image. Though we sinned against You, Your love for us was constant, and You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ to be the Saviour of the world.

Sharing our human nature, He was born of Mary and baptized in the Jordan. He proclaimed Your kingdom, by word and deed, and was put to death upon the cross.

You raised Him from the dead; You exalted Him in glory; and through Him You have sent Your Holy Spirit, call-ing us to be Your people, a community of faith.

Holy God, we praise You that on the night in which He was betrayed our Saviour Christ took bread and gave You thanks. He broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, 'Take, eat; This is My body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.'

After supper, He took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is My blood of the new covenant, poured out for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of Me.'

Remembering, therefore, His death and resurrection, and proclaiming His eternal sacrifice, we offer ourselves to You in praise and thanksgiving, as we declare the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Minister: 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 love of Thee, to seek and do Thy perfect will. We are no longer our own, but Thine.

**All: And now Holy God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer; You are mine and I am Yours. May Your will be done, in all things, wherever You may place me, in all that I do, and in all that I may endure; when there is work for me, and when there is none. When I am troubled and when I am at peace. Your will be done, when I am valued, and when I am not recognized; when I find fulfillment and when it is lacking; when I have all things and when I may have need. I willingly offer myself to Your service; when and where You choose. Gracious and Blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, let this covenant now made on earth, be fulfilled in heaven. And so, I now renew this covenant with You and let it be sealed by Your Spirit. Amen!**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**Congregation: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**Congregation: It is meet and right so to do.**

Minister: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

**All: Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name; evermore praising Thee, and saying Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory: Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High. Amen.**

**Congregation: We praise Thy Holy Name, O Lord.**

Minister: Thou hast remembered us when we have forgotten Thee, followed us even when we fled from Thee, met us with forgiveness when we turned back to Thee, for all Thy long-suffering and the abundance of Thy grace.

**Congregation: We praise Thy Holy Name, O Lord.**

Period of Silent Prayer

### CONFESSION

Minister: Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly 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 hast set forth the way of life for us Thy beloved Son: we confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our reluctance to follow Him. Thou hast spoken and called, and we have not given heed: Thy beauty has shone forth and we have been blind; Thou hast stretched out Thy hands to us through our fellows and we have passed by. We have taken great benefits with little thanks; we have been unworthy of Thy changeless love.

**Congregation: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Minister: Forgive us, we beseech Thee, the poverty of our worship, the formality and selfishness of our prayers, our inconstancy 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 Thy ways.

**Congregation: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Minister: Forgive us wherein we have wasted our time or misused our gifts. Forgive us wherein 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.

**Congregation: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Minister: Forgive us that so little of Thy love has reached others through us, and that we have borne so lightly wrongs and sufferings that were not our own. Forgive us wherein we have cherished the things that divide us from others and wherein we have made it hard for them to live with us; And wherein we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, grudging in forgiveness.

**Congregation: 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 wrong-doers, and slow to seek their redemption.

**Congregation: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

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

Period of Silent Prayer

**All: Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

Minister: This is the message which we have heard from Him, and declare unto you, that God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Amen.

Selection  
Hymn "Here I Am Lord" (Page 11)  
Sermon Minister

Miss Asari Mackey

### **THE COVENANT**

Minister: And now, beloved, let us bind ourselves with will ing bonds to our covenant God, and take the yoke of Christ upon us. This taking of His yoke upon us means that we are heartily content that He appoint 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 honour, 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 strengtheneth 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. Being thus prepared, let us now, in sincere dependence on His grace and trusting in His promises, yield ourselves anew to Him, meekly bowing in His presence.