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 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:

The Lord's Prayer No. 895 (In unison)

Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition No. 607

*Closing Hymn No. 256

"We Would See Jesus"

Cushman

(In the United Methodist faith tradition, our altar rail is always open for prayer and re-commitment.

Please feel free to take some time at the altar rail during the Closing Hymn.)

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Postlude

*Please stand if able.

FUMC STAFF

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The Mission of First United Methodist Church is to win and nurture souls for Jesus Christ by sharing and living the message of salvation.



THE CHURCH WITH A HEART, IN THE HEART OF CHERAW A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP JANUARY 5, 2020

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

LITURGICAL COLOR: WHITE

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

*Welcome to all who are worshiping with us. As we enter a holy space and time this morning, please silence all electronic devices. *

Welcome and Opening Narrative

*Prelude

(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it to everyone on the pew, putting the sheet in the offering plate.)

*Opening Hymn No. 254

"We Three Kings"

Kings of Orient

Narrative - Part II

*Act of Praise No. 795

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Eric Dusa, Lay Reader

*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2: 1-18

*Gloria Patri No. 71

Greatorex

Witness to the Word

"Who Is the Real King?"

"Lead On O King Eternal"

Rev. L. Kim Eanes

*Hymn No. 580

Lancashire

Offertory

*The Giving

"We Would See Jesus"

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Chancel Choir Lasst Uns Erfreuen

*The Thanksgiving

Covenant Renewal Service

Opening Prayer (in unison)

*The Dedication No. 94

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,

reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us.

Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being,

and 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,

one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(DAVID TRIPP, ENGLAND, 20TH CENT.)

Litany of Thanksqiving

Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies.

O God, our Covenant Friend,

you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives.

We thank you for your loving care,

which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have given us life and reason,

and set us in a world filled with your glory.

You have comforted us with family and friends,

and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers.

You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you,

and have 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.

You have been our light in darkness and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation. You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys

and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors.

You remembered us when we forgot you. You followed us even when we tried to flee from you. You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you. **For all your patience and overflowing grace.**

Scripture Lesson Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Introduction

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 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.

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.