PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP†
Leader: Lord God, your love has called us here.
People: As we, by love, for love were made.
Leader: Your living likeness still we bear, though marred, dishonored, and disobeyed.
People: We come, with all our heart and mind, to hear your call and find your love.
Leader: Lord God, in Christ you set us free!
People: So we can live your life and share your joy.
Leader: Give us your Spirit’s liberty to turn from guilt and dull despair;
People: And offer all that faith can do, while love makes all things new.

*OPENING HYMN UMH No. 400
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

*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, 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.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON
Jeremiah 31:31-34

GOSPEL LESSON
John 1:1-14

SERMON

PROCLAMATION

WESLEY’S COVENANT SERVICE

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 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 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 (Please kneel or bow as you are able.)**

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, covenaniting 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 of 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 the 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 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.

HYMN UMH NO. 399 Take My Life, Let it Be (stanzas 1 & 3) MESSIAH

WORDS OF INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

**SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP
The communion elements are bread and grape juice. We will receive the elements by intinction. You will be directed to the communion stations by one of the ushers.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION UMH NO. 557 Blest Be the Tie That Binds DENNIS

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

*HYMN OF DEDICATION UMH NO. 606 Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine KINGSFOLD

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able.
†Adapted from UMH No. 579 “Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here”.
‡BOW 289.
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WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. Susan Pendleton Jones, Associate Dean for United Methodist Initiatives and Ministerial Formation
Celebrant: Rev. Sally Bates, Chaplain
Lector: Benson McGlone, Senior MDiv
Organist: Dr. Rob Horton, Interim Chapel Organist
Chaplain’s Office Interns: Mitzi Johnson, Jennifer Potter, Paul Richards, and Joe Varner

NEXT WEEK IN GOODSON CHAPEL

Tuesday, January 14, Service of the Word, John Stean, Senior MDiv, preaching.

Wednesday, January 15, Service of Baptismal Renewal, Rev. Brad Thie, Director Thriving Rural Communities Initiative, preaching.

Thursday, January 16, Service of Word and Table, Brock Meyer, Senior MDiv, preaching, Rev. Sally Bates, Chaplain, celebrating.

We welcome to our service today, Dr. Rob Horton, who will be serving as the Interim Chapel Organist for the next six months, following the departure of Dr. David Arcus. Rob earned his doctoral degree in music performance from the University of Kansas, and he has extensive experience as a church musician, teacher, and concert performer. Rob will be accompanying Duke Chapel and Goodson Chapel services during the Spring semester. His office is in the Chapel Music suite, next door to the Goodson Chapel.