

WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE
WORSHIP BOOK
2017 Annual Conference Session



The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved. (Acts 2:47)

June 8-11, 2017
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Sandra Steiner Ball, Residing Bishop

Evening Worship Service Celebration of Ministry

Saturday, June 10, 2017 ❖ 7:30 pm



Acts 2:47 - They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

† signifies that all are invited to stand as are able

†PRELUDE

Performed by David Wells

†HYMN

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

adapt and arr. by William Farley Smith

***Refrain:* Every time I feel the spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.**

**Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke,
out of his mouth came fire and smoke.
All around me looks so shine,
ask my Lord if all was mine
*Refrain***

**Jordan river runs right cold,
chills the body, not the soul.
Ain't but one train on this track,
runs to heaven and right back.
*Refrain***

OPENING PRAYER

(David Tripp, England, 20th Cent.)

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, forever and ever. **Amen.**

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

(responsive)

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.

We praise your holy name, O God.

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.

We praise your holy name, O God.

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.

We praise your holy name, O God.

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.

We praise your holy name, O God.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

†SONG:

“I Choose Love”

Text by Lindy Thompson and Music by Mark Miller

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In the midst of pain, I choose love.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.

In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,

I a wait the sun again, I choose love.

I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.

I midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,

I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.

When my world falls down, I will rise.

When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,

I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

I will rise.

**In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I a wait the sun again, I choose love.
I choose love.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(unison)

Holy and Loving God, ignite your Holy Spirit within all of us to use our gifts and talents as we go out to fulfill the ministry of your Son Jesus Christ, to set the captive free, to clothe the naked, to provide shelter for the homeless, to feed the hungry, restore sight to the blind, to bring justice to those who are oppressed, and to make disciples in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Give us the courage to face the challenges of this world, and allow us to have the wisdom to make the best of any situation, and may the Holy Spirit guide us, the church, in the present and future of changing the world. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 12:9-21

SERMON

“What Really Matters”

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

WESLEY COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE

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

(responsive)

Commit yourselves to Christ as his partners and co-heirs. 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. Christ will be the Savior of all who work for love. He is the source of all salvation. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing. Today, we will confirm these words by holy covenant.

COVENANT PRAYER

(responsive)

O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see us as we come before you. Forgive our unfaithfulness in not having done your will, for you have promised mercy to us if we turn to you with our whole heart.

God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

We are here to renounce them all, covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in our lives. Against your will, we have turned our love toward the world. In your power we will watch all temptations that will lead us away from you. For our 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, we here acknowledge you as our God. We take you, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, and vow to give up ourselves to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives.

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

We accept Christ and join ourselves in a covenant with him. Blessed Christ we know we are not worthy and you choose us anyway. We know we are not wise, and you should be our only guide. We know our will is imperfect, and we seek your will always.

Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

We are in awe of your mercy and covenant to take our lot with you. Through your grace we promise that neither life nor death shall part us from you.

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

We do take your words as law, and your law as good and holy. We willingly take up yoke with you, so that our words, thoughts and actions may be motivated by citizenship in your kingdom. We will strive not to neglect those things you ask of us, and we will admit when we have faltered.

The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

God, we make this covenant without meaning any trickery or falsehood. If we have deceived ourselves, help us set our hearts toward what is good, what is just, what is holy. We do all things for the glory of God, whom we desire to look upon. Glory to God the Creator, Glory to God the Redeemer, Glory to God the Sustainer, by your grace, life, death, resurrection and inspiration you have turned my life from sin to redemption. So be it. Let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Brothers and sisters, you have made a covenant today, here, before God and before your village. Take strength in the promises you have made to God, knowing well that you are able to make promises

because God first promised you goodness and mercy. Take strength knowing that you are able to keep these promises in love because God first loved you. Keep this covenant not only in your heart, but in word; not only in word, but in writing; not only in writing, but in deed.

Keep it as a reminder between God and yourselves that you may remember in the days of doubt and temptation, that you have the holy power to resist evil, that you have been given gifts of grace and forgiveness, that you have audience with the God of the cosmos who comes to you when you call his name.

The God who has revealed himself to the world as a baby, as an adolescent, as a man and God is made vibrant through the work of his servants. Do good work, love God, and remember the many ways Christ has been at work, in doing this and in trusting the power of the Holy Spirit, 2017 is sure to be a kingdom year.

BLESSING OVER THE OIL

(unison)

Everlasting Father, we pray that your Holy Spirit would be upon this precious gift of oil, and upon those whom may wear it as a sign of your anointing. May your everlasting love and grace shine forth on all of us gathered here as we continue to do the work of your Son Jesus Christ. May it be a symbol and a reminder to us of the love of Christ, and may it give us the courage and strength to walk boldly from this place this evening to continue your son's most precious work of making disciples for the transformation of the world. It is in Christ's most precious name that we pray. Amen.

†SONG

"We All are One in Mission"

Rusty Edwards

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**We all are one in mission;
We all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission
compels us from above
to plan and work together
that all may know Christ's love.**

**We all are called for service,
to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different;
our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others
by God's surprising grace,
so every folk and nation
may feel God's warm embrace.**

**Now let us be united,
and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel
for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.**

†DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING and ANOINTING

*(As we depart stations will be at every exit of the chapel for anyone
who would like to receive anointing oil.)*

NOTES:

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Ole E. Borgen.

Liturgists:

Rev. Cindy Briggs Biondi
Rev. Darrick Biondi
Rev. John Flynn
Rev. Judy Flynn
Rev. Jeff Taylor
Rev. Jim Zinn

Anointers and Worship Designers:

(WV Conference Discover Team)
Chip Bennett
Eva H. Faulkner
Rev. Janet Harman
Erin Sears
Rev. Amy Shanholtzer
Claudia Thomas
Rev. Joe Webb

Preacher:

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, resident bishop of the South Carolina Conference

Musicians:

David Donathan
Craig Hinchman
David Wells