

**Called to Ministry:
An Aldersgate Service of Recommitment**

Need: candle, cross, Bible

(please type your prayers in Chat as we go through the service that we may all pray for each other in our hearts and while we are apart)

Prelude **"Breathe on Me Breath of God"** *UMH 420*

Welcome - Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator

Introduction – Rebeka Maples, Director of Spiritual Formation

Opening Responses

Leader: God has called us.

All: The Spirit of God is being poured out upon us even now.

Leader: We come from many places to share in this sacred time.

All: God has called us to a holy calling.

In Christ we are called and in Christ we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come,

Breathe into our hearts this day.

Bless and inspire this time of worship,

that we may recommit ourselves to our call to ministry

and live Spirit-filled lives with the assurance of your love and forgiveness.

Scripture **Romans 5:1-5**

HYMN **"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"** *UMH 57*

Invitation to Commitment

Almighty God, in a time of great need

you raised up your servants John and Charles Wesley,

and by your Spirit inspired them to kindle a flame of sacred love
which leaped and ran, an inextinguishable blaze.

Grant that all those whose hearts have been warmed at altar fires,

may be continually refreshed by your grace, and be so devoted

and renewed in holiness through

scripture, tradition, reason and experience,

that our lives may reflect your love in all things on earth as it is in heaven;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(adapted, Fred D. Gealy, U.S.A., 20th Cent., Alt.)

Act of Recommitment (lighting a candle)

Lighting a candle is a sacred act of commitment and prayer. We light our candles knowing that God is able to be present with us in real time and virtual space.

All knowing and all present God, we recommitment ourselves in this simple act as we recall the time we knew you had called us into ministry...

(lighting a candle of faith)

Affirmation of Faith (*holding the cross*)

The cross is one of our most sacred symbols. It reminds us of God's deep and abiding love for us. We cling to the cross in times of sadness and we lift the cross in celebration. We hold our crosses knowing that it holds the mystery of our eternal joy as we say these words of affirmation:

(holding the cross)

Voice 1 (and all):

We believe in God

**who made the sea and the earth, the sun and the sky,
who calls us to live responsibly.**

We believe in Jesus Christ

**who became human,
who healed the sick,
who talked to children,
who made friends with sinners.**

He burned brightly and offended many.

His journey was one of life and death and resurrection.

His light continues to shine in the darkness.

Voice 2 (and all):

We believe in the Holy Spirit

**who inspired the scriptures,
and whose breath we breathe.**

**We believe that God calls us to be a community,
committed to one another,
offering a welcome to everyone,
old and young, rich and poor,
strong and weak.**

Voice 3 (and All):

**We believe that God calls us to be peacemakers,
workers for justice,
brothers and sisters,
a light for our world. Amen.**

(written by two fourteen-year-old boys)

Blessing the Call (*laying hands on the Bible*)

The Bible is one thing that pastors (and Christians) have in common. It connects us to the One who created us and called us into ministry. And even though we are not in the same space, we know that we are connected. God is able to be present to us and bless us wherever we are. So lay your hands on your Bible or hold it as we bless the call God has placed on our hearts. You may close your eyes if you like and repeat after me,
(*holding/laying hands on the Bible*)

May God's joy be in my heart – (pause for repeat after each line)

May God's love surround my living -

Each day and every day -

May I hear God's call –

and recognize God's presence -

In my growing and learning -

In my joy and sorrow -

In busyness and loneliness -

In beginnings and endings -

May God bless my call to ministry with God's holy Word -

That I may be a blessing to others.

(*silent moment*)

The Wesley Covenant Prayer (contemporary version based on UMH 607)

The Wesley Covenant Prayer was not written by John Wesley but stems from the Covenant Service of 1780 when Wesley encouraged people to commit themselves to God. This prayer is part of our continual response to that covenant. After our service you may want to print a copy and read through the prayer slowly, then lay the prayer down as your act of recommitment and sign it, keep it as a reminder of the holy agreement between God and you.

Now, you are invited to read along or simply listen to this prayer of commitment:

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
praised for you or criticized for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and fully surrender all things
to your glory and service.

And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
you are mine, and I am yours. So be it.

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

Sending Forth

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can,
In all the ways you can, in all the places you can,
at all the times you can, to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can

John Wesley, from Rules of Conduct in "Letters," 1915

Postlude "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

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Sources:

"An Act of Commitment" from Iona Abbey Worship Book, (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2017)

Book of Worship, UMC

<https://thewell.cor.org/wesley-covenant-prayer-card-traditionalcontemporary>

https://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/liturgy_collection/year_b