

Service of
Rededication

**"This is my Son,
my Chosen;
listen to him!"**

Luke 9:35

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Clarinda, Iowa
Jerald L. Irvin, Minister
Ken Garrett, Lay Leader

2-17-80

ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 17, 1980

9:30 AM

SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION AND REDEDICATION

PERSONAL PREPARATION

We United Methodists believe in the importance of strong doctrine. But we know that the stream of life flows far deeper than doctrine. The river of God flows deeper than our beliefs. Vital religion is not in itself a matter of what we believe, but whom we trust. Even the demons believe and tremble.

ORGAN PRELUDE: Toccata - Muzel; Fugue on "Kyrle",
Little Prelude in E minor - Bach; Adagio - Liszt

*CHORAL INTROIT

JUNIOR CHOIR

*HYMN "O Come, and Dwell in Me"

No. 277

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: O Lord, open thou our lips

People: And our mouth shall show forth our praise

Liturgist: Praise ye the Lord

People: The Lord's name be praised

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

LITURGIST

INFORMAL MOMENTS

OPENING STATEMENT

MINISTER

*THE GENERAL RULES OF THE EARLY METHODIST SOCIETIES

Liturgist: It is expected of all who continue in The United Methodist Church that they shall continue to evidence their desire of salvation.

People: First, by doing no harm.

Liturgist: By avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced.

People: By not taking the name of the Lord in vain.

Liturgist: By not profaning the day of the Lord, either by doing ordinary work therein or by buying and selling.

People: By not buying or selling spiritous liquors or drinking them.

Liturgist: By not fighting or quarreling, or going to law brother against brother.

People: By not returning evil for evil, or railing for railing.

Liturgist: By not indulging in uncharitable or unprofitable conversation, nor in speaking evil of others.

People: By not doing to others as we would not have them do unto us.

Liturgist: By not doing what we know is not for the glory of God.

People: By not taking such diversions as cannot be used in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Liturgist: By not singing those songs, or reading those books, which do not tend to the knowledge of the love of God.

People: By not giving away to softness and needless self-indulgence.

Liturgist: By not laying up treasures on earth.

People: By not borrowing without the probability of repaying, or taking up goods without the probability of paying for them.

Liturgist: It is expected of all who continue in the Methodist Society that they shall continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

People: Second, by doing good.

Liturgist: By being in every kind merciful after their power.

People: As they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and as far as possible, to all men.

Liturgist: To their bodies, by giving food to the hungry, clothing the naked, and by visiting or helping those who are sick or in prison.

People: To their souls, by instructing, reproofing or exhorting all we have any dealings with.

Liturgist: By doing good, especially to them who are of the household of faith . . . ;

People: Employing them preferably to others, buying of one another, and helping each in business.

Liturgist: And so much more, because the world will love its own and them only.

People: By all possible diligence and frugality, that the gospel be not blamed.

Liturgist: By running with patience the race that is set before them.

People: Denying themselves, and taking up their cross daily.

Liturgist: Submitting to bear the reproach of Christ.

People: And looking that men should say all manner of evil against them falsely, for the Lord's sake.

Liturgist: It is expected of all who continue in the Methodist Society that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation.

People: Third, by attending upon the ordinances of God:

Liturgist: Such are: the public worship of God.

People: The ministry of the Word, either read or expounded.

Liturgist: The Supper of the Lord.

People: Family and private prayer.

Liturgist: Searching the scriptures.

People: Fasting and abstinence.

Liturgist: These are the general rules of the Methodist Societies.

People: All of which we are taught of God to observe, even in His written word.

Liturgist: Which is the only rule, and the sufficient rule, both of faith and of practice.

People: And all these we know His Spirit writes on truly awakened hearts.

Liturgist and People: If there be any among us who observes them not, or habitually breaks any of them . . . we will admonish him of the error of his ways. We will bear with him for a season, but if then he repent not, he hath no place among us. We have delivered our souls.

ANTHEM "Tell All the World About Love" JR. CHOIR

STATEMENT: A GOOD CHURCH MEMBER MINISTER

MEDITATION: DEFINITION OF A UNITED METHODIST MINISTER

"A United Methodist is

- one who has the love of God in his heart and the spirit of God in his life.

- one who "loves the Lord his God with all his heart and soul and strength and mind"
- one who "rejoices evermore, prays without ceasing, and in everything gives thanks."

"His heart is full of love for all mankind and is purified from every wrath, envy, malice, and every unkind affection.

"His one desire and the one design of his life is not to do his own will, but the will of God who sent him.

"He keeps all God's commandments from the least to the greatest.

"He follows not the customs of the world, for vice does not lose its nature through becoming fashionable.

"He cannot join in any diversion that has a tendency toward evil.

"He can speak no evil of his neighbor nor can he lie.

"He cannot utter unkind or evil words.

"He does good unto all men, unto neighbors, strangers, friends, and enemies.

"These are the principles and practices of our societies. These are the marks of a Methodist. By these alone do members of our societies desire to be distinguished from all other men."

SCRIPTURE Rev 3:14-22

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER AND INTERCESSION

LORD'S PRAYER

IN UNISON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"On This Day"

YOUTH CHOIR

*DOXOLOGY

*HYMN

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

No. 1

SERMON

"THIS IS MY CHURCH"

THE SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

CALL TO REDEDICATION

Minister: Come ye, all ye United Methodists, and let us walk in the light of the Lord. And he will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths. How

did you, each of you, become a member of the church?

People: I was admitted into the fellowship of Christ's people by baptism, and was made a member of the church by confessing my faith, taking the vows of loyalty, and by receiving the right hand of fellowship.

Minister: What was it you promised, or that was promised for you by your parents at baptism?

People: I promised to forsake all things known to me to be wrong, to submit myself to Christian nurture and training in home and church, and to keep God's holy will and commandments.

Minister: Are you still minded to live wholly in the spirit of these vows?

People: God helping me, I am.

Minister: What was it that you promised when you were admitted into membership in the United Methodist Church?

People: I renewed the vows made at my baptism; made solemn profession of my acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord, and of the Christian faith as contained in the Old and New Testaments. Furthermore, I earnestly promised loyalty as a church member in four ways: attendance, personal prayer, contributions and service to God's cause through the church.

Minister: Are you still determined to live by this profession of faith and loyalty?

People: I am, with God's help, determined so to do. May God support me in this intention, and may he grant me the supporting strength of this assembly of his people. May God also strengthen my will to carry out my profession.

Minister: Let us recite together some of the words written by Charles Wesley:

Minister and People: "Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on thee . . . All my trust on
thee is stayed, All my help from thee I bring . . .
Thou, O Christ art all I want; more than all in thee
I find . . . Let the healing streams abound; Make and
keep me pure within . . ."

*HYMN

"A Charge to Keep I Have"

No. 150

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

JUNIOR CHOIR

*ORGAN POSTLUDE

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 ORGANIST Ruth Garrett
 CHOIR DIRECTORS Sherrill Lisle, Linda Krueger
 LITURGIST Elaine Armstrong
 GREETERS Mr. & Mrs. Orie Clayton
 USHERS Mary Cahill, Linda Nassen
 Lois Simpson, Elaine Butler
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A N N O U N C E M E N T S

TODAY 10:30 AM - Church School for all ages
 6:30 PM - Community Refugee Committee at
 St. John Lutheran Church

CONFIRMATION CLASS - Members of todays class are:
 Jackie Turner, Doug Glenn, Doug Scherf, Tim Johnston,
 and Jim Bradrick.

TONIGHT The last of the series of special studies,
 on the Parables, 6:15 PM; and Human Rights, 7:30 PM.

MONDAY 7:00 PM - United Methodist Men - Meet in
 the Commons area at Sr. High School for recreational
 fellowship (basketball, cards, games), followed by
 refreshments.

Curriculum Previews with Ricki Mitchell by
 appointment.

WEDNESDAY 9:30 AM - Birthday Wednesday for Bible
 Study and Sew and Share Groups.

7:15 PM - Education Commission

8:00 PM - Church School Teachers' Sharing

Time in multipurpose room. This is being sponsored by
 the Commission on Education for all Church School
 teachers, Commission members and other interested
 persons. Ricki Mitchell, trained religious educator
 will also be in attendance.

CHOIRS: Youth, 7:00 PM; Chancel, 8:00 PM

BELLS: Ding Dongs, 5:00 PM; Les Clochettes,
 6:00 PM; Hope Ringers, 7:00 PM

THURSDAY 9:30 AM - Bible Study

CHOIRS: Junior, 3:30 PM; Cherub, 4:30 PM

announcements continued:

*No High School Class
Hughes - Wynn*

NEXT SUNDAY

Fast for Hunger day. You may minister to the hungry at home and world-wide by sharing, by fasting, by contributing to our food pantry.

7:00 PM - Interchurch Lenten series begins at Westminster. Tarkio College Choir will appear.

"TAKE A WALK OF FAITH." You will be able to leave your prayer concerns at the altar.

Coffee and cookie fellowship time immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall. We invite you to take a moment to share.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 23 & 24 - "Find the Great Good News" is the theme of the Senior High UMYF Winter Retreat, to be held at Camp Aldersgate next week-end. Meet at the church at 11:00 AM Saturday for rides. Bring: \$4.65, sack lunch and drink for noon on Saturday, records, games, bedding or sleeping bag, sleds, skates, food for meals and snacks, a Bible and pen. Sr. High youth are encouraged to attend. Many plans have been made for Christian fellowship. Talk to Alice Fulk for any other details. There will be a morning worship service Sunday morning, after which the group will return to the church.

COMING - March 12 - Annual Choir Concert

RACHAELS RECIPES - Recipes for desserts appropriate for serving at Circle meetings are being sought by Rachael Circle, by March 1. Please pin to bulletin board in kitchen. Especially wanted are recipes of refreshments served at past General and Circle meetings.

Several years ago in one of our larger cities the communists purchased a protestant church building. Set in the midst of a mixed population, the Protestants felt they could no longer financially maintain the church. So they duly sold the property to the communist group for \$100,000.

The communists, made up of working people, invested an additional \$200,000 to enlarge and reovate the building. Where the Protestants could not get enough money to operate the church, the communists raised \$300,000 immediately. They reopened the building on a Sunday morning. The 3 hour session from 9-12 AM centered around the beliefs and strategies of communism and atheism. At the close of the session each member took a package of propaganda material to distribute thru the week.

Here is what one of the communist leaders said to Dr Sharp, who tells the story: "I admit you have in the gospel of Christ a more powerful weapon for renovating society than we communists have in Marxism, but we will beat you in the end....Read in your scriptures the story of Gideon and the 300. We are Gideonites, we mean business. We give all our money over and above living expenses, and all our spare time over and above work and rest, to propagate communism. You give only a little fragment of your time and very little of your money for the propagation of your gospel of Christ. What good is your gospel if you don't

practice it, propagate it, sacrifice for it? We will beat you in the end because we believe in our gospel of communism. We will sacrifice for it and take life and death chances for its success".

That puts it sort of bluntly to each one who calls himself Christian. And herein is found the real challenge of communism or any other ism.

Are we willing to do as much for the Christian gospel and our Christ as the communist is for his beliefs; as the materialist is in fostering his atheism? The fact that there are fewer than 100,000 communists in the USA contrasted to over 100,000,000 church members makes the reference to Gideon very much to the point. What if every member of every local church were to give Christ the kind of support this communist leader claimed his group was giving to atheistic communism? Should we expect anything less from church members?

A pagan writer in 112 AD wrote with high regard for the loyalty which the early Christians exhibit toward Christ and in the world. Pliny the Younger wrote of the spread of Christianity in his province in a letter to the Emperor Trajan. He speaks of the decline of the market for animals as a result of the decrease in animal sacrifice and of the resultant effect on the grain market. Pliny held the Christians accountable for the falling market. He says: "The Christian assemble before daylight and sing hymns to Christ as God". He reports them to

honest upright people but they showed "obstinacy and unbending perversity" in their refusal to worship the emperor, (3)

Those Christians to which Pliny referred had taken vows of loyalty to Christ and they held fast to those vows, come what might.

It was May 24, 1738, that John Wesley, the founder of the United Methodist Church, had what has come to be called the Aldersgate experience. In a sense it is the birthdate of our denomination. This Sunday we are observing as confirmation Sunday, and it seems appropriate to think about our own commitment....especially when others in our land and world are making strong commitments to laien creeds.

If it is true that Christian commitment today does not match the commitment which others are making to their faiths - be it communism, secularism, playboyism, etc - what is it to which we Methodists have committed ourselves to?

Perhaps the best way for us to do this is to look at the membership vows. Let's take a look.

There are five promises and professions which each United Methodist made at one time or another. Do you remember?

1. Do you...renew the solemn promise and vow that you made or that was made in your name, at your baptism?

2. Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and pledge your allegiance to his Kingdom?

3. Do you receive and profess the Christian faith as con-

tained in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments? (4)

4. Do you promise according to the grace given you to live a Christian life and always remain a faithful member of Christ's holy Church?

5. Will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service?

In a day when we hear much about the church, and much of it critical, we who are church members should be brave enough to admit that if members of the church took these vows seriously the church would continue to make its witness in the world. A good question to ask yourself is: "What would my church be like if all of its members were like me?"

But the church's witness depends solely upon the loyalty of each individual member. It depends on your loyalty.

Gerald Kennedy tells about a church out west. It was old abandoned and put up for sale. There had been no services for many years and the denominational authorities decided it would be wise to dispose of the property. But a storm of protest arose and the local paper was filled with letters written by interested citizens who objected to the sale of the church.

Kennedy reports that one of the people who had served the church remarked that if the people had shown that much interest when the church was open, the church would not have been abandoned.

So with any church. It needs the interest and enthusiasm of its members while it is alive and active. And that is our obligation. We took a vow of membership to do just that. (5)

Will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service

Let's consider that briefly.

"Will you be loyal" to Christ thru that branch of his church which is called Methodist....

How are you loyal...well the second part amplifies and suggests how: "And uphold by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service".

There it is as plain as day...the vow you took. What have you done with it thru the years?

Have you prayed for your church, for its pastors, for its members, for its ministry, for its future, for its needs? In fact . . . have you prayed at all . . .except maybe for yourself? How the church would be strengthened if each member were a praying member. If we had as much prayer ^{due members} as we do back-biting and critical members then what progress in name of Christ we could make. Remember, Jesus says: "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone" . . . Or let him whose loyalty to Christ is above reproach speak the first word of scorn and criticism.

Have you been present . . . or has your loyalty to other things sometimes exceeded your loyalty to Christ. This pre-

sence means more than attending church, of course. It really has to do with being a vital member of the Christian community as that community seeks to express itself and to function through the United Methodist Church. It means involvement in experiences which will equip you to do the task which Christ has given you..the tasks of ministering, of healing, of redeeming, of lifting. To do that fully will demand more of your presence than just Sunday Morning for an hour.

But then...that was your promise as you once stood in the presence of God and in the presence of a Community of his people.

Have you given. How have you done. Are you a non-tipper? Are you a token giver? The church stands in need of more sharers and more sacrificial givers.

Of course you were aware when you made that vow that the traditional standard of giving for a Christian is the tithe .. 10%. Oh, maybe the preacher didn't tell you at the time, but hardly a soul is alive which does not know of this tradition, this command of God. What progress have you made toward this standard of giving since you made that promise?

And how about your service. The pressing need just for an adequate . . in numbers Sunday school teaching staff . . indicates that we do not have 700 members who take that vow seriously. My friends, we should not have to burden a few people with the job of recruiting leaders, teachers, etc. Christ-

are servants, they are interested and greatly desire that their faith be propagated. Really? ? (7)

"We give all our money over and above living expenses, and give all our spare time over and above work and rest time, to the propagation of communism....we will beat you in the end because we believe in our gospel of communism. We will sacrifice for it and take life and death chances for its success"

"Will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church, and uphold it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service".

"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospels will save it"

Empty words for many....but the full life for some.