

WHO IS JOHN WESLEY?

John Wesley started the Methodist revival in England in the 18th century (1720's). The movement focused on Bible study and a methodical approach to the scriptures.

LITURGICAL FEATURES..

A unique feature is the observance of the season of **Kingdomtide**, which encompasses the thirteen weeks before Advent, thus dividing the long season after **Pentecost**. During this time, the liturgy emphasizes charitable work and alleviating the suffering of the poor.

A second feature is the use of **Covenant** services. While this practice may vary, most Methodist churches annually follow the call of John Wesley for a renewal of their covenant with God. Usually held after the first of the year, and includes Wesley's Covenant Prayer in the order of service.

METHODISTS ARE PROTESTANT...WHAT IS THAT?

Protestant is a general grouping of denominations within Christianity. It generally refers to those that separated from the Catholic Church in the Reformation, their offshoots, and those that share similar doctrines or ideology. It is commonly considered one of the three major branches of Christianity, along with Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy.

METHODISTS GOALS ARE TO.....

- Increase the awareness of God's presence and celebrate God's love
- To help people grow and learn as Christians and through mutual support and concern
- To be a good neighbor to people in need and to challenge injustice
- To make more followers of Jesus Christ

WHAT DO METHODISTS BELIEVE?

- Free will vs. predestination. That people have the ability to make choices.
- The Triune God – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- There are two sacraments ordained by God: Baptism and Communion.
- Disciplined theological work calls for careful use of reason.
- Personal salvation always involves Christian mission and service in the world.

AMERICAN METHODIST CHURCH

There are over 40 denominations that descend from John Wesley's Methodist movement, which include the United Methodist Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Free Methodists, Wesleyan Methodists, Salvation Army, Church of the Nazarene, and the Assemblies of God, among others.

METHODISTS – A DEFINITION...

A member of the largest Protestant denomination that grew out of the revival of religion led by John Wesley: stresses both personal and social morality and has an **Arminian** doctrine, and in the U.S., a modified **episcopal** polity (having a Bishop).

Arminian Doctrine – doctrinal teachings of Jacobus Arminius, or his followers, esp. the doctrine that Christ died for all people and not just the elect.

METHODIST HYMN WRITER

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), brother of John Wesley, wrote hundreds of poems and hymns. His first hymn was "And Can It Be?" Like Martin Luther, Wesley thought hymns were a means of teaching theology. He wrote an average of 3 a week, amassing more than 6500.

His hymns often paraphrased scripture as well as the Anglican Prayer Book. They were always full of praise, and they are still sung today, including "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing."