

Covenant and Commitment

Call to worship

A new year has begun.
Let us leave behind all that is past,
and walk together into the future.
Let us trust in the God of new beginnings,
and worship the God of fresh hopes.
Amen.

Welcome and Activity

Joys and Concerns

Offertory Prayer

Hymn 588 : by Charles Wesley

Behold the servant of the Lord!
I wait Thy guiding eye to feel,
To hear and keep Thy every word,
To prove and do Thy perfect will,
Joyful from my own works to cease,
Glad to fulfill all righteousness.

Me if Thy grace vouchsafe to use,
Meanest of all Thy creatures, me,
The deed, the time, the manner choose,
Let all my fruit be found of Thee;
Let all my works in Thee be wrought,
By Thee to full perfection brought.

My every weak, though good design,
O'errule, or change, as seems Thee meet;
Jesus, let all my work be Thine!
Thy work, O Lord, is all complete,
And pleasing in Thy Father's sight;
Thou only hast done all things right.

Here then to Thee Thy own I leave;
Mould as Thou wilt Thy passive clay;
But let me all Thy stamp receive,
But let me all Thy words obey,
Serve with a single heart and eye,
And to Thy glory live and die.

Dedication

Thanks for the work of those retiring
Thanks for those continuing to exercise their roles in
administration and ministry.
Thanks for the offer of new commitment by the
newly elected role-holders.

A prayer of thanksgiving and dedication

You have come close to each of us.
You have extended to us your own special love,
and have given to us such special gifts.
Thank you God for these.

Thank you for all the other gifts
that are present in these people around me.
Together we are a gifted people - Your people

You gave us these gifts for a purpose.
They are to be used by us,
to serve the needs of others.
Give us courage, Lord, and the confidence too,
to take these gifts with us now as we go.
Open our eyes and hearts to those we meet.
Help us to see their need, and to show your love,
and to use Your gifts that are invested in us,
to bring them hope, and life.
We go now with unwrapped gifts, ready to be used.
We go as your servants,
Ready to touch others with your love.
And we don't go alone.
Amen.

Lectionary

Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.1-7,10-14; Ephesians 3.1-12;
Matthew 2.1-12

Bible Reading : Ephesians 3.1-12;

Word

Covenant Prayers

Lord God, we thank you for the promises which you
made to Moses and to Abraham and renewed
through Jesus Christ our Lord in his life, work, death
and resurrection. We know that you will hold fast to
your promises to us even when we fail in ours to you.
We come together, united in the baptism we share,
to pray that we may constantly learn and relearn
what it means to be your people. And so we confess
that we have not always kept the promises made to
God at our baptism.
We have not always put you first in our lives.
We have sometimes preferred the ways of the world.
We have not always loved our neighbour as Jesus
taught us to do.

We have not always been Christ's faithful soldiers and servants in the world.

**Have mercy on me, O God,
in your constant love;
in the fullness of your mercy
blot out my offences.
Wash away all my guilt,
and cleanse me from my sin.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Give me the joy of your help again
and strengthen me with a willing spirit.**

At our baptism we became living members of the one body of Christ. We give thanks today for both the privilege and the challenge of serving him; and we pray for the worldwide church and for the whole company of the baptised, praying that we might be Spirit-filled and Spirit-led. We pray for the leaders of our churches, and especially for ...

We pray that we, and they, may be inspired and inspiring messengers of your word.

At our baptism (and confirmation) we pledged to follow the way which Jesus showed us and to live the life he taught. And so, as we bring to mind our own baptism, we say together:

I am no longer my own but yours.

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

Put me to doing,
put me to suffering.

Let me be employed for you
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you
or brought low for you.

Let me be full,
let me be empty.

Let me have all things,
let me have nothing.

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
Amen.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy
name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us. And lead us not into
temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and
ever. Amen.**

Communion

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Breaking and sharing the bread and wine

Hymn : 549 : by Charles Wesley

Come, let us use the grace divine,
and all, with one accord,
in a perpetual cov'nant join
ourselves to Christ our Lord:

Give up ourselves, through Jesu's power,
his name to glorify;
and promise, in this sacred hour,
for God to live and die.

The cov'nant we this moment make
be ever kept in mind:
we will no more our God forsake,
or cast his words behind.

We never will throw off his fear
who hears our solemn vow;
and if thou art well pleased to hear,
come down, and meet us now.

To each the cov'nant blood apply,
which takes our sins away;
and register our names on high,
and keep us to that day.

The Grace and the Vesper

May the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all
and remain with us always. **Amen**

Take, oh take me as I
am; summon out
what I shall be; set
your seal upon my
heart, and live in me.
Repeat

**Now let us all enjoy a
cup of tea or coffee
together.**

**A
COVENANT
WITH GOD**