

Completion of Covenant Cards

We will need to complete the covenant cards so that we can offer ourselves our talents our whole beings to God this day and for the days ahead. So please take a few minutes to complete them then they can be collected as part of our covenant offering in a little while when we take up our usual collection.

(Covenant are available in the foyer for any who still need them)

Call to worship

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Genesis 9: 13.

Today is our covenant service I want to share with you a poem that I came across. It's written by Kirsty Clarke as she was training to be an Anglican minister but inspired by the Methodist covenant service that she was studying. Sentiments that will be echoed in the words of the covenant that we will make in a few minutes time.

I no longer belong solely for myself, but to you, entirely.
Set your will alight in me; may it illumine my way,
Place me amongst whoever you desire;
Set my head and heart and hands to doing;
Set me to compassion; to suffer alongside the contemporary crucified;
Let me be immersed in your word and work and mission, for you;
Or let me be passed by, marginalised and maligned, for you;
Approved and admired for you or abused and abased, for you;
Let me be overflowing the brim, let me be exhausting the dregs,
Let me have all that I desire, let me be nothing;
To be emptied of all possessiveness and earthly acclamations, for you;
With an unshackled and Godward-looking heart I surrender all that I have, to you
To choose your delight or disapproval, of me. And now, most glorious and blessed God,
Creator, Redeemer and much-needed Sustainer, You belong to me and I belong to you.
Let it be. And the covenant now consented aloud on earth,
Confirm it sealed in heaven. Amen.
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Hymn/Song: "Blessed Assurance"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qviE7fWWmRc>

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
Refrain:
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.

2 Perfect communion, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Prayer of Adoration

Let us pray:

Glory to the God of Love, you created us; you continually preserve and sustain us; you love us with an everlasting love you give us the light of the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

Blessèd be God for ever.

Blessèd be God for ever, Glory to you, Lord Jesus, You were rich, but became poor for our sake, you were tempted as we are, yet without sin, you preached the good news of the kingdom and were obedient to death, even death on a cross. You were raised from death and are alive forever. You sit at God's right hand in glory and will come again to judge us.

Blessèd be God for ever

Blessèd be God for ever Glory to you, Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life. By you we are born into the family of God and made members of the body of Christ. Your witness confirms us; your wisdom teaches us; your power enables us. You will do for us more than we can ask or think.

Blessèd be God for ever.

To the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be praise and glory for ever. **Amen.**

The Collect

God of grace, through the mediation of your Son, you call us into a new Covenant. Help us to draw near with faith and join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Readings – Isaiah 49: 1 – 6.

Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.

2 He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.

3 He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendour."

4 But I said, "I have laboured in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God."

5 And now the Lord says— he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength—

6 he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection:

Hymn/Song: I surrender

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgsqfjRslzA>

Here I am
Down on my knees again
Surrendering all
Surrendering all

Find me here
Lord as You draw me near
Desperate for You
Desperate for You

I surrender

Drench my soul
As mercy and grace unfold
I hunger and thirst
I hunger and thirst

With arms stretched wide
I know You hear my cry
Speak to me now
Speak to me now

I surrender
I surrender
I wanna know You more
I wanna know You more
[x2]

Like a rushing wind
Jesus breathe within
Lord have Your way
Lord have Your way in me

Like a mighty storm
Stir within my soul
Lord have Your way
Lord have Your way in me

Like a rushing wind
Jesus breathe within
Lord have Your way

Lord have Your way in me

Like a mighty storm
Stir within my soul
Lord have Your way
Lord have Your way in me

Like a rushing wind
Jesus breathe within
Lord have Your way
Lord have Your way in me

Like a mighty storm
Stir within my soul
Lord have Your way
Lord have Your way in me

Lord have Your way
Lord have Your way in me

I surrender
I surrender
I wanna know You more
I wanna know You more

THE COVENANT

God made a covenant with the people of Israel, calling them to be a holy nation, chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love by finding delight in the law.

The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord, in his life, work, death and resurrection. In him all people may be set free from sin and its power, and united in love and obedience.

In this covenant God promises us new life in Christ. For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God.

We meet today, as generations before us have done, to renew the covenant which bound them and binds us to God.

Let us, then, humbly seek forgiveness for the sin by which we have denied God's claim on us.

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sins. You showed us how to live in the life of Jesus. We confess that we have been slow to learn from him, failed to follow him and showed our reluctance to carry the cross.

Lord have mercy.

Lord forgive.

We confess the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and the means of grace, our evasion of responsibilities in your service and our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

Lord have mercy.

Lord forgive.

Have mercy upon us, O God, through your constant love. In the fulness of your mercy, blot out our offences. Wash away all our guilt and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a new heart and renew a right spirit within us. **Amen**

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, to all who truly repent this is his gracious word: "Your sins are forgiven." **Amen**

Hymn/Song: No longer slaves

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxkNj5hcy5E>

You unravel me
With a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance
From my enemies
'Til all my fears are gone

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

From my mother's womb
You have chosen me
Love has called my name
I've been born again
Into Your family
Your blood flows through my veins

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear

I am a child of God

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

I am surrounded
By the arms of the Father

I am surrounded
By songs of deliverance

We've been liberated
From our bondage

We're the sons and the daughters
Let us sing our freedom

You split the sea
So I could walk right through it
My fears are drowned in perfect love

You rescued me
So I could stand and sing
I am a child of God

You split the sea
So I could walk right through it
My fears are drowned in perfect love
You rescued me
So I could stand and say
I am a child of God
I am a child of God
Yes, I am a child of God

The Promise

Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us again accept our place within this covenant which God has made with us and with all who are called to be Christ's disciples.

This means that, by the help of the Holy Spirit, we accept God's purpose for us, and the call to love and serve God in all our life and work.

Christ has many services to be done: some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests, others are contrary to both; in some we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us.

Therefore, let us make this covenant of God our own. Let us give ourselves to him, trusting in his promises and relying on his grace.

Eternal God, in your faithful and enduring love you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ. In obedience we hear and accept your commands; in love we seek to do your perfect will; with joy we offer ourselves anew to you. We are no longer our own but yours.

Shall we stand if we are able and join our voices with those of countless others down the ages and say together;

I am no longer my own but yours. Your will, not mine, be done in all things, wherever you may place me, in all that I do and in all that I may endure; when there is work for me and when there is none; when I am troubled and when I am at peace. Your will be done when I am valued and when I am disregarded; when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking; when I have all things, and when I have nothing. I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose.

Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. May it be so for ever. Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

We have entered into this covenant not for ourselves alone but as God's servants and witnesses. Let us pray for the church and for the world.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord of love we thank you that you have called us to be your disciples, we delight in your presence and pray that our presence also brings you delight. We come before you now to raise up those things that lay heavy on hearts.

For the world Lord we pray for your spirit of generosity and fairness to hold sway in people's hearts. May we all find ways to share your bounty that we enjoy with those who go without. May those who hold positions of power exercise that power with fairness and justice. Lord we hear so much of the impact that climate change is having on your creation. Lord we pray for those who have lost homes and loved ones because of the adverse weather condition brought about by climate change be that through drought, heat or fire and through torrential rain, floods and landslides. Lord help everyone of us to be better stewards of your creation.

In our country Lord we pray for our politicians as they struggle to find the means of dealing with the economic impact of the pandemic measure and also to address the increasing need to improve social care. May these be done in such a way as not to burden either our children and our children's children with debt but also to not impose unfair demands on the elderly or the poorer in our society who are already disadvantaged, may we not further disadvantage them either but that a balance be found that is honouring and fair to all generations.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.

Amen.

The peace

The Lord has made an everlasting covenant of peace with his people.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

LOVE FEAST

Jesus said to Nicodemus "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" and "those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Our God is a God of second chances and new opportunities, let us celebrate his grace and bounty to us.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, the true and living God. Endless is your mercy and eternal is your reign. All creation rejoices in your radiant splendour. You made a covenant with your people and declared your purpose of justice and love.

When all things were ready, you sent your Son to be our Saviour. In words and deeds, he proclaimed your kingdom, and obeyed your will even to death on the cross. Through his mighty resurrection he overcame sin and death to set the whole creation free.

Therefore, with saints and angels and with all the choirs of heaven, we join in the song of eternal praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise you, Father, that on the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

‘Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying,

‘This cup is the new covenant of my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.’

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Therefore, gracious God, with this bread and this cup we remember that our Lord offered his life for us. Believing the witness of his resurrection and ascension, we look for his coming in glory, and our sharing in his great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ and that we may live to your praise and glory with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers and the prayers of all your people on earth and in heaven with the intercession of Christ, our great high priest, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all worship and honour are yours, almighty God and Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

[Breaking of the bread](#)

The things of God for God’s Holy people

**Jesus Christ is Holy;
Jesus Christ is Lord;
Glory to God the father.**

Jesus said I am the bread of life. Those who come to me shall not hunger and those who believe in me shall never thirst.

So now we reach our hands to take and eat what is before us, the symbol of our fellowship with Christ and one another. We drink from the cup to refresh our spirits in God. We rejoice to be God's people, confident that, whatever lies before us, God is with us.

Draw near with faith and as a sign of our unity in Christ and of the covenant we have just made please retain the bread so that we may all eat together.

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

Prayer after communion

And now we pray together:

Holy God, we praise you for all that you are. We thank you for your bounty to us, the love we witness through the ebb and flow of the rhythms of your creation. We thank you for the grace that you show to us as individuals. Give to us courage to enact a way of life to which you have called us. Give us boldness to be holy people, called to serve the world. May we be kingdom people who always dare to live and speak out, motivated by our faith in God. Amen.

Hymn/Song: Waymaker

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXQGTInPpZU>

[Verse 1]

You are here, moving in our midst
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, working in this place
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, moving in our midst
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, working in this place
I worship You, I worship You

[Chorus]

Way maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper, light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are
Way maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper, light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are

[Verse 2]

You are here, touching every heart
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, healing every heart
I worship You, I worship You

[Verse 3]

You are here, turning lives around
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, mending every heart
I worship You, I worship You

[Chorus]

Way maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper, light in the darkness

That is who You are
Way maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper, light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are

[Bridge]

You wipe away all tears, You mend the broken heart
You're the answer to it all, Jesus
You wipe away all tears, You mend the broken heart
You're the answer to it all, to it all, Jesus... yeah

[Chorus]

Way maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper, light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are
Way maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper, light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are

[Verse 4]

You are here, touching every life
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, meeting every need
I worship You, I worship You

Blessing

As we go out from here this morning know that our God goes before us, is all around us and he makes the way for us to follow, know too that we are never alone he has promised to never forsake us. Boldly follow him.

Faithful God, with these holy gifts you have fed and strengthened us in Jesus Christ your son. Guide us on our way that with all your faithful people we may share the feast of your eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The blessing of God the father, the son and the Holy Spirit be upon us now and remain with us for ever. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ. Amen.