

# COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE

## OPENING PRAYER

**O God, Searcher of all our hearts,  
you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own.  
As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace,  
and to enter anew into covenant with you,  
reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us.  
Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being,  
and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies.

O Lord, you are a gracious God.  
and we thank you for your loving care,  
**We praise your holy name.**

You have given us life,  
and set us in a world filled with your glory.  
**We praise your holy name.**

You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you,  
You have redeemed us through the sacrifice of your son Christ Jesus.  
**We praise your holy name.**

You have been our light in darkness  
a rock of strength in adversity and temptation.  
and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors.  
**We praise your holy name.**

You remembered us when we forgot you.  
You followed us even when we tried to flee from you.  
You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you.  
For all your patience and overflowing grace.  
**We praise your holy name.**

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

2 Kings 23:1 –3	Renewal of covenant
Jeremiah 31:31 –34	A new covenant written on the heart
Psalms 50	God requires a sacrifice of thanksgiving
I Peter 1.3-6	A call to holy living

## THE COVENANT

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
the Christian life is redeemed from sin and consecrated to God.

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Through baptism, we have been admitted into the new covenant  
Mediated through Christ Jesus.

He sealed it with his own blood, that it might last for ever.  
By this covenant, God promises to give us new life in Christ,  
And we are pledged to live no more for ourselves but only for Jesus Christ,  
who loved us and gave himself for us.

From time to time we renew our covenant with God,  
So today, we meet to renew the covenant that binds us to God.

Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants.  
Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him.  
Christ has many services to be done.  
Some are more easy and honorable,  
    others are more difficult and disgraceful.  
Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests,  
    others are contrary to both.  
In some we may please Christ and please ourselves.  
But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ  
    except by denying ourselves.  
It is necessary, therefore,  
    that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ.

Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:  
**Let me be your servant, under your command.**  
**I will no longer be my own.**  
**I will give up myself to your will in all things.**

Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.  
**Lord, make me what you will.**  
**I put myself fully into your hands:**  
**I freely and with a willing heart**  
    **give it all to your pleasure and disposal.**

Christ is the source of all salvation to those who obey.  
He will have no servants except by consent;  
He will not accept anything except full consent to all that he requires.  
Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

We confirm this by this holy covenant.  
To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to these admonitions:

*First*, set apart some time, more than once,  
    to be spent alone before the Lord;  
*Second*, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.  
*Third*, claim God's covenant,  
rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength,  
    so you can keep your promise of full obedience.  
*Fourth*, resolve to be faithful. You have given to the Lord your hearts,  
    With God's power, never go back.

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Open your hearts to the Lord, as we pray:

**O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
Forgive my unfaithfulness where I have not fully done your will,  
for you have promised mercy to me  
if I turn to you with my whole heart.**

God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

**I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all,  
covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in my life.  
I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you.  
For my own righteousness is riddled with sin,  
unable to stand before you.**

Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again  
if you would let him.

**Before all heaven and earth,  
I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God.  
I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion,  
and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant,  
to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.**

God has given the Lord Jesus Christ  
as the only way and means of coming to God.

**I accept Christ as the only new and living Way,  
and sincerely join myself in holy covenant with him.  
O blessed Jesus, I come to you,  
to take my lot with you as it may fall.  
Through your grace I promise  
that neither life nor death shall part me from you.**

God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

**I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke, to carry your burden.  
All your laws are holy, just, and good.  
I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions,  
promising that I will strive  
to order my whole life according to your direction,  
and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.**

The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

**O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today without reservation.  
Glory be to you, O God the Father,  
Glory be to you, O God the Son,  
Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit,**

**O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
you have now become my Covenant Friend.  
And I, through your infinite grace and mercy, have become your covenant servant.  
So be it. And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

*HYMN: O God Our Help in Ages Past*