



# Covenant Renewal Service

Sunday, January 13, 2019

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*Welcome to a New Year! On Sunday, January 13, in both services, we will renew our Covenant with God and our Baptism using John Wesley's historic Covenant Renewal Service. In preparation for this very special service you are invited to take time to pray over this Covenant liturgy and consider its meaning for you in the new year.*

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## THE INVITATION

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*Leader: Let us gather here before the Lord now in covenant and commit ourselves to Christ as his servants. Let us give ourselves to Him so that we may fully belong to Him. Jesus Christ has left us with many services to be done. Some of these services are easy and honorable, but some are difficult and disgraceful. Some line up with our desires and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we please both Christ and ourselves, but then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.*

**People:** Let me be Your servant. Let me follow your commands. I will no longer follow my own desires. I give myself completely to your will.

*Leader: The power and strength to live as true servants is given to us in Christ. We accept the place and work that He gives us, acknowledging that He alone will be our reward.*

**People:** I am not my own. I am Yours alone. Make me into what You will. Rank me with those You will. Put me to use for You. Put me to suffering for You. Let me be employed for You. Let me be laid aside for You. Let me be lifted high for You. Let me be brought low for You. Let me be full or let me be empty. Let me have all things or let me have nothing. With a willing heart, I freely give everything to Your pleasure and disposal.

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## THE COVENANT PRAYER

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*Leader: Let us pray together:*

**People:** My righteous God, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, see me now as I fall down before You. Forgive my unfaithfulness when I have not done your will. You promise mercy if I turn to You with my whole heart.

*Leader: God requires that you rid yourself of every idol in your life.*

**People:** From the bottom of my heart, I here and now renounce every idol in my life, covenanting with You that I will not commit any known sin. By turning against Your will I have turned my love toward the world. In Your power I will watch for any temptation that will lead me away from You.

*Leader: Through Jesus Christ, God offers to be your God again, if you allow Him to be.*

**People: Before all heaven and earth, I here and now acknowledge You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as my Lord and God. I vow to give all of myself, body and soul, to be Your servant and to serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.**

*Leader: Jesus Christ is the way and means to God. God has given us Jesus as the way and means to salvation.*

**People: Jesus, I here and now accept You and the new and living Way. I join myself in covenant with You. I come to You hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of Your servants. With all my power, I accept You as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own unworthiness, and vow that You are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom and take You for my only guide. I renounce my own will and take Your will as my law.**

*Leader: Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.*

**People: Jesus, I here and now make this covenant with You and accept whatever comes in life. Through Your grace I promise that neither life nor death will separate me from You.**

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

**People: I here and now willingly take on Your yoke and burden. All Your laws are holy, just, and good. I accept them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising I will strive to order my whole life around your direction. I will not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.**

*Leader: The Almighty God searches and knows you, even the thoughts of your heart.*

**People: O God, You know that we have made this covenant today in sincerity, without deceit or reluctance. If You find anything false in us, guide us and help us to set it right.**

*You are advised to make this covenant not only in your heart, but in word; not only in word, but in writing. Therefore, with all reverence, lay the service before the Lord as your act and deed. And when you have done this, sign it. Then keep it as a reminder of the holy agreement between God and you that you may remember it during doubts and temptations.*

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Signature

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Date