

## Renewal of our Christian Commitment 2025

Today we are invited to renew our commitments  
in each other's presence  
to Christ who has raised us,  
the Spirit who has birthed us,  
and the Creator who is making all things new.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all  
**and also with you**

In the old covenant, God chose Israel to be his people.  
He showed them his ways and gave them his laws.  
We stand within the new covenant  
made by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
and we bear his name.  
We are initiated into this covenant by baptism,  
dying with Christ, being buried with Christ,  
set free from sin and its power  
and rising with Christ to a life of faith, hope and love.  
In the strength of the covenant,  
which he has made with his people,  
and mindful of our shortcomings,  
let us bind ourselves anew to God  
who has so graciously bound himself to us,  
renewing our promise to no longer live for ourselves but for God.

Let us first seek forgiveness for the sin by which we have denied God's  
claim upon us.  
God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sins.

For the sin that has made us slow to learn from Christ, reluctant to  
follow him, and afraid to bear the cross:

**Lord, have mercy,**  
Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has caused the poverty of our worship, the formality  
and selfishness of our prayers, our neglect of fellowship and the means  
of grace, and our hesitating witness for Christ:

**Lord, have mercy,**  
Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has led us to misuse your gifts, evade our  
responsibilities, and fail to be good stewards of your creation:

**Lord, have mercy,**  
Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has made us unwilling to overcome evil with good,  
tolerant of injustice, quick to condemn, and selfish in sharing your love  
with others:

**Lord, have mercy,**  
Lord, forgive.

Do you turn to Christ?  
**I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?  
**I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil?  
**I renounce evil.**

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins,  
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Create in us a clean heart, O  
God, and renew a right spirit within us. Give us the joy of your help  
again and strengthen us with a willing spirit.

Therefore, to all who truly repent, this is his gracious word: 'Your sins are forgiven.'

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

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 renew our commitments.

Let us give ourselves to God again,

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.**

**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.**

Baptism is the sign and seal of the covenant God has made with us in Christ. If you have been baptised as an infant or as an adult, that sign and seal is on you. But we need to remind ourselves every now and then and the words we have just used place us back inside our baptismal identity, we belong to God in Christ and Christ belongs to us.