

RENEWAL OF THE COVENANT

People:

Father, You have appointed our Lord Jesus Christ as Mediator of a new covenant. Give us grace to draw near with fullness of faith and join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Leader:

In the old covenant, God chose Israel to be a special people and to obey the law. Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection, has made a new covenant with all who trust in him.

We stand within this covenant and we bear his name.

On the one side, God promises in this covenant to give us new life in Christ. On the other side, we are pledged to live not for ourselves but for God.

Today, therefore, we have met to renew the covenant which binds us to God.

Let us claim the covenant God has made with his people, and accept the yoke of Christ. To accept the yoke of Christ means that we allow Christ to guide all that we do and are, and that Christ himself is our only reward.

We take on the Yoke of Christ our guide.

Christ has many tasks to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some make others applaud, others bring only reproach; some we desire to do because of our own interests; others seem unnatural. Sometimes we please Christ and meet our own needs, at other times we cannot please Christ unless we deny ourselves.

We take on the tasks of Christ our reward.

Yet Christ strengthens us and gives us the power to do all these things. Therefore, let us dedicate ourselves anew to this covenant with God. Let us give ourselves completely to God, trusting in his promises and relying on his grace.

People (with hands extended and palms upward):

I give myself completely to You, O God.

Assign me to my place in Your creation.

Let me suffer for you.

Give me the work You would have me do.

Give me many tasks or have me step aside while You call others.

Put me forward or humble me.

Give me riches or let me live in poverty.

I freely give all that I am and have to You.

And now, holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

You are mine and I am Yours. So be it.

May this Covenant made on earth continue for all eternity. Amen