Introduction









Covenant

- 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.

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 blessèd 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

Intercessions

Let us pray.

We watch together in prayer. Creator God, we watch for your coming into the life of the world you have made. We watch for a new heaven and a new earth. Come, Lord, come, as freedom to the prisoner; justice to the broken; food to those who hunger. We are ready and waiting. Come, loving God: and make us new.

- Saviour God, we watch for your coming into the lives of humankind.
- We watch for the wiping away of tears.
- Come, Lord, come, as healing to the sick;
- forgiveness to the sinful;
- comfort to those who mourn.
- We are ready and waiting.
- Come, loving God: and make us new.

Spirit of God, we watch for your coming into our lives.

We watch for the renewal of your people.

Come, Lord, come,

as love to bind us together;

hope to give us vision and courage;

power to be your witnesses.

We are ready and waiting.

Come, loving God: and make us new.

On the doorstep of a New Year, knock on the door of our lives, loving God, for we are ready to open to you, to walk with you in the way of love all the days that are to come, in Jesus' name.

Amen.