

COVENANT SERVICE

The Covenant Service has been a long standing tradition among Methodists. It began with John Wesley himself. On December 25, 1747, John Wesley strongly urged the Methodists to renew their Covenant with God. His first Covenant Service was held in the French Church at Spitafields on August 11, 1755. Our Church, at one time, had its roots in the Methodist Church.

What is a Covenant?

It is simply an agreement between two or more persons to do or not to do something for a given period of time. A good example of a Covenant is the Marriage Covenant made between a man and a woman.

Our Covenant is simply the New Covenant, the full details of which are found in the Holy Bible. The Covenant is made between you and your God. It is made for eternity but is vitalized by regular reaffirmation. It is verbal and we will not ask you to sign anything. However, if this is your first time making this Covenant, there will be something written in Heaven, Jesus will place your name in the Book of Life.

This Covenant has two sides.

1. God's Agreement: On one side, the Covenant is God's promise that He will fulfill in and through us, all that He declared in Jesus Christ, who is the author and perfecter of our faith. That His promise still stands we are sure, for we have known His goodness and proved His grace in our lives day by day.

2. Our Agreement: On the other side, we stand pledged to live no more unto ourselves, but to Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, and called us to serve Him that the purposes of His coming be fulfilled. In order to have previously made this Covenant, you need not have said the exact words of the following Covenant. What is essential is that you have received Christ as your Savior and do now acknowledge Him as Lord of your life. For those who are renewing their Covenant with God, let us examine ourselves by the light of His Spirit, seeing where we have fallen short of our agreement in the past. May we now give ourselves anew to God.

The Covenant:

The Pastor shall say: "And now, beloved, let us bind ourselves with willing bonds to our Covenant God, and take the yoke of Christ upon us."

All shall pray "I re-establish my Covenant with You, O God. I need You. I have sinned and come short of Your glory. I turn from my life of sin and self will. I will no longer go my own way but Yours. Jesus, I believe You died for my sins. Wash me clean of all sin and come and live in my heart right now. Thank You for coming into my heart. Take control of my life. I am no longer my own, but Yours. Put me to what You will, rank me with whom You will, put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for You or laid aside for You, exalted for You or brought low for You, let me be full or let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and heartily yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal.

And now O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are mine, and I am Yours. So be it. And the Covenant which I have made on earth let it be ratified in heaven. AMEN.