

WORSHIP AT HOME 17th January 2021
This service includes our Covenant Promise

LET US PRAY

God, the father of love, we adore you
Jesus our Lord, we worship you
Holy Spirit, the power for our life with you,
we welcome you **AMEN**

Let us prayerfully sing or say

Father, we adore you, lay our lives before you
How we love you
Spirit, we adore you, lay our lives before you
How we love you
Spirit, we adore you, lay our lives before you
How we love you

Confession Forgive us, God of mercy, for our
failure to follow your calling and prompting.
Forgive us for when we evade our responsibilities
Forgive us when we have neglected others needs.
As we turn again to God, we are forgiven.
Thank you for this new start Lord AMEN

THE LORD'S PRAYER - Our Father who art....
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**LET'S PRAISE GOD AS WE SING OR SAY**

**FILL THOU MY LIFE**, O Lord my God,  
In every part with praise,  
That my whole being may proclaim  
Thy being and Thy ways.

Not for the lip of praise alone,  
Nor e'en the praising heart  
I ask, but for a life made up  
Of praise in every part:

Praise in the common things of life,  
Its goings out and in;  
Praise in each duty and each deed,  
However small and mean.

Fill every part of me with praise;  
Let all my being speak  
Of Thee and of Thy love, O Lord,  
Poor though I be and weak.

So shall Thou, gracious Lord, from me  
Receive the glory due;  
And so shall I begin on earth  
The song forever new.

So shall no part of day or night  
From sacredness be free;  
But all my life, in every step,  
Be fellowship with Thee. © Horatius Bonar 1808

**TODAY'S GOSPEL READING - John 15 vs 1ff**

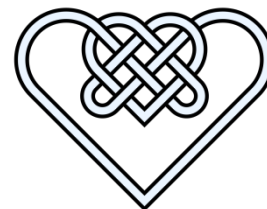
I am the true vine, and my Father is the  
gardener. He cuts off every branch in me  
that bears no fruit, while every branch that  
does bear fruit He prunes, so that it will be  
even more fruitful.

**A Reflection** I was listening to Premier  
Christian Radio the other day and heard this  
story.... In some areas of Africa, when the time  
comes to make a commitment to Christ, folk  
don't ask to be 'confirmed', but they ask to  
'sing'. These African Christians sing all the  
time, while they are waiting, watching, walking.  
The story went on to say how people recognise  
the joy and faith in Christians because of their  
singing.

In Biblical times Psalms were used as hymns  
of worship and praise, to lift the spirits and  
express love and thanksgiving to God.  
The gospel reading speaks of the gardener  
pruning, in order that the vine becomes even  
more fruitful. For many, it feels as if we've  
been pruned over the past year, and it doesn't  
feel as though any good has come of it.  
Maybe the pain of this 'pruning' has been and  
is still felt. I'd like to encourage you to 'sing'  
again the praises of God, not just on Sundays  
but through the week. Using a hymn which we  
are familiar with, maybe a favourite from the  
past. 'Singing' not only lifts our Spirits, but is  
also a great witness to others, and will be very  
fruitful for us and, we pray, others.

**LET'S SING THIS HYMN VERSE**

Come let us sing of a wonderful love  
Tender and true  
Out of the heart of the Father above  
Streaming to me and to you  
Wonderful love,  
dwells in the heart of the Father above



**WE PREPARE TO MAKE OUR  
COVENANT PROMISE**

The annual Covenant service first took place on  
11<sup>th</sup> August 1755 and has been held annually  
ever since. In this service we celebrate all that  
God has done for us, and affirm that we give  
our lives and choices to God. In our culture

we tend to prize our ability to make decisions and choose our own path in life. It can feel very hard to give that up, but this prayer is like a love poem. It is about surrendering to God in love and joy. The prayer is a serious one and embraces the whole of our life, in all its parts.

### LET'S READ THE COVENANT WORDS TO US

Beloved in Christ, let us claim for ourselves this Covenant which God has made with his people, and take the yolk of Christ upon us.

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 materials interests, others are contrary to both. In some ways 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 us in Christ, who strengthens us. Therefore let us make this Covenant of God our own. Let us give ourselves anew to Him, trusting in His promises and relying on His grace.....

### THE COVENANT WE MAKE - we say

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**

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### LET US PRAY

We pray for the church throughout the world, and our own church families. Let us be constantly renew and strengthen us for your service.

-We pray for the people of God's world, leaders and whole populations, for freedom, justice and peace for everyone.

-We pray for our own country and all that is happening at this time.

-We pray for those we live and work among. Asking that we will use the gifts we have for the good of all.

-We pray for those who are in sorrow, need, anxiety, sickness, lonely, persecuted. For those who suffer from cruelty, injustice and neglect. We ask that in their weakness they will know God's strength and find hope.

-Father God, we remember we are one family in earth and heaven. We remember in your presence those who have died. Help us all to follow the example of your saints in light, and bring us to your eternal joy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

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Our offering Lord, bless the gifts we have given & those we lay aside now, for your purposes and for your Kingdom. AMEN

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Lord for the years, Your love has kept and guided, Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way, Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided: Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us, Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze, Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us: Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation, Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care: For young and old, for commonwealth and nation, Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world where folk disown and doubt You, Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain, Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without You: Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us – Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne, Past put behind us, for the future take us: Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

The blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us, those we love and pray for, now and forever more. AMEN