

OBM - COVENANT RENEWING & VOW-MAKING COMMUNION

Becoming present to God

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

Seek the Lord, *call upon him who is near.*

Celebrating the presence of God

Loving God, in Jesus you come into the world
bringing life in all its fullness. **Receive our praise**

*A pause to notice tokens of God's presence
and to name any specific thanks or praise*

We Gather

God has made us a people: **we have been shaped by God's will.**

Jesus calls us together: **we meet in Jesus' name.**

The Spirit binds us together: **and leads us into truth.**

Words of Invitation

Look, here is the Lord's Table spread as for a feast.

Bread for breaking, wine poured for drinking:

signs of his love and hospitality,

symbols of his life broken, his blood poured out.

He is not dead!

He is risen and present among us,

evidence of God's covenant grace and promise.

So we come in faith to the table, you and I,

companions on the journey.

Some of us fresh and eager,

others weary, in need of nourishment.

All of us conscious of our failings.

Acknowledging out humanity (Words of confession and forgiveness)

Come now, don't hesitate, the feast is ready

and the Lord himself invites you.

Love bids us welcome – we shall sit and eat.

Listening for the Word (Scripture and Reflection)

We Covenant

**Creating and redeeming God,
we give you thanks and praise.
Your covenant of grace
was made for our salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
We come this day
to covenant with you
and with companion disciples:
to watch over each other
and to walk together before you
in ways known and still to be made known.**

Pour your Spirit upon us,
helping us so to walk in your ways
that the vows we make this day,
and the life that we live together,
may become an offering of love,
our duty and delight
truly glorifying to you –
Father Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

This day,
we give ourselves again
to the Lord
and to each other
**to be bound together in fellowship,
and to work together
in the unity of the Spirit
for the sake of God's mission.**

In our congregations, associations, and in the wider Union,
**we commit all that we have and are
to fulfil your purposes of love.**

Making of Vows

As a sign of covenant, we share the peace.

We Remember (As the story is told the bread is broken and wine poured)

It was the night of the Passover:
Jesus and his friends were sharing supper together.
While they eating he told them that one of them would betray him.
They were appalled and protested saying
'Not I Lord, I would never betray you.'
Jesus took some bread, gave thanks, broke it
and gave it to them saying
'Take this and eat. This is my body.'
He took the cup of wine and after giving thanks
passed it among them saying as they drank
'this is my blood of the covenant.
It is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
I will not drink again until the day comes
when I drink with you in my father's Kingdom.'

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Creating and redeeming God,

we give you thanks and praise

for your covenant of grace:

A: a covenant expressed in sinful people who know forgiveness,

B:the weary who are refreshed,

A:the hungry who are nourished,

B:the captives who are set free

ALL:and the oppressed who experience liberation.

Thank you that you chose to make us a part of your story.

Thank you for Jesus Christ

who revealed your love in his death and resurrection

and who continues to share his life with us

through bread and wine.

Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit

who sustains us in our walk together,

helping us to watch over each other,

to pray for one another,

and to work together for justice and truth.

As we eat this bread
and drink from the cup - signs of hospitality and grace -
**may we be empowered to serve boldly
wherever you may call.**

Accept these prayers and our heartfelt thanksgiving
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

We Share

The bread: One people, one loaf, a sign of our common faith
and testimony to the generosity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Take this loaf, food for faith,
and feed on it with thanksgiving.

The wine:

One people, one cup, a sign of the new covenant
poured out for you and for many.

It is a covenant sealed by his blood.

When we drink, we bring our thanks, and agree together never to forget.

We Journey

Holy God, we have been nourished and had our thirst quenched,
through bread broken and wine poured
in thanksgiving for your son Jesus Christ.

**Living God, enable us
to be pilgrims and companions:
committed to the way of Christ,
faithful to the call of Christ,
discerning the mind of Christ,
offering the welcome of Christ,
growing in the likeness of Christ,
engaging in the mission of Christ,
in the world that belongs to Christ.**

And so may we show through word and deed
that he is not dead,
but risen and present among us. **Hallelujah! Amen.**

Going to love and serve

And now may the God of hope **fill us with all joy and peace in believing,**
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit **we may abound in hope.**

+ *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*