

Happy New Year

Dear friends,

In 1775, John Wesley introduced a covenant service as an important part of spiritual life of the Methodist people. This was an opportunity for self-examination and reflection, a wholly giving up of themselves and a first or renewed commitment to God.

Having undergone revisions over the years its purpose as a celebration of all that God has done and an affirmation that we give our lives and choices to God in our ongoing discipleship remains as powerful and relevant as ever. Many of us we have gathered to pray this prayer every year, renewing our commitment to God and to one another. In a year when so many cannot gather together it is, perhaps, even more important than ever that we know we belong to a faith community which sustains us and within which, even when we cannot be together, we can both give and receive blessings.

Wherever you are when you read this please take some time to pray, acknowledging God's presence in your life and seeking God's will for the year to come. You may like to use the words of one of these versions of the covenant prayer:

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, let me be empty,
Let me have all things,
let me have nothing.
I freely and wholeheartedly
yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
You are mine and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant made on earth,
Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Dear God, I belong to You.
I want You to decide
everything in my life.
This means where I go,
What I do, and everything
that happens to me.

I want You to be in charge
whether I'm busy,
or with nothing to do:
When I'm worried,
or when I'm peaceful:
When I'm valued,
or when I'm forgotten about:

When I enjoy what I'm doing
and when I'm fed up:
When I have lots of things
and when I have nothing much.
I'm ready to serve You
with all that I've got,
as and where You choose.

Wonderful, special God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we belong to each other.
May it be so for ever
And please remember this in heaven.
Amen.



with prayers for a year of love, joy and peace, Caroline

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=DfcSlfODpDA>