**Sermon Notes Sunday 9 January 2022**

**“Making or renewing our covenant relationship with God”**

**Bible passages :** Jeremiah 31 : 31 0- 34, 1 Corinthians 11 : 23 – 26

Making or renewing our covenant relationship with God is one of the most demanding and significant undertakings we can engage in. The practical implications embrace the whole of life and eternity.

**The Covenant Prayer**

“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 willing 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”**

1. Covenant can involve: - Doing what we may not want to do

- Going where we don’t want to go

- Giving in the widest sense, including financially

-Suffering what we would prefer to avoid

In what way do we see the life of Jesus embracing these demands of covenant?

Which other biblical characters come to mind who embrace these challenges?

In what ways have we experienced some of these challenges in our daily life?

1. If we are serious about putting into practice aspects of the covenant prayer. What difference should this make:

- To the life of the Church?

- To our own discipleship

1. Words from the Covenant Service state “Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ who strengthens us.” In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit enabling you to do what you may not have thought possible?
2. Isaac Watts, in his hymn “When I survey the wondrous cross” declares in response to the love of God seen in Jesus…”Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all. Similar words occur in the Covenant Service. “With joy we offer ourselves anew to you. We are no longer our own but yours.” *(Covenant Service)*

What does this mean to us in practice?

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