

Lavendon

Baptist Church

Covenant Service
30th January, 2022

Making and renewing covenant

A covenant service is an opportunity for us as church to acknowledge God's covenant grace and to express our commitment to being part of a covenant fellowship. This service celebrates God's generous and costly love for us all, and calls us to generously and costly love for one another and God's world.

We gather and are gathered, both here and online

(please say aloud the responses in bold)

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 in truth.**

We believe (the Apostle's creed)

Together with all God's people, we proclaim our faith and celebrate the story of our salvation.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Response to the word

We are called to be a worshipping community, **offering all to God in prayer.**

We are called to be a missionary community, **making known the redeeming love of God**

We are called to be a sacrificial community, **generously giving from all that God has given us.**

We are all called to be an inclusive community, **sharing the hospitality of God's kingdom with all**

We are called to be a prophetic community, **challenging powers that oppress and corrupt**

As a gospel people, let us covenant together before God and each other;
Amen

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 our companions in discipleship; to watch over each other and to walk together before you in ways known and still to be made known.

Pour down your Spirit on us. Help us to walk in your ways so that the promises we make this day, and the life we live together may be 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.

Covenant promises

We promise that in our church family we will exercise humility and love, bearing with one another in our weaknesses, supporting and encouraging each other in our journey with God and seeking to strengthen our unity in Christ.

We promise to pray with, and for, one another, to pray for the ministry of the church and our role within that ministry, to seek God's guidance for each other and for the church.

We promise to pray for the community of Lavendon, its people and organisations, that they would know God's saving grace, love and blessing.

We promise that we will seek to bring God's light and hope to the community around us, being people of grace, peace, truth and justice.

Signing the covenant promise

Communion

We send and are sent

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace, that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

Amen.