

This service is based on the Commitment to Christian Service in the Book of Common Prayer 1979. Prayers have been adapted slightly. The Act of Commitment language was developed in consultation with the two parties. The service followed with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, with the customary post-communion prayer and blessing.

A Celebration of Commitment

Introit	Jesus Loves Me	Bradley Phillips
Hymn in Procession	Joyful, Joyful	Hymnal 376

The Word of God

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer

People: And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Song of Praise	Hymnal S-280
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Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Together, let us pray.

Gracious God, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Ruth 1: 16-17

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67 (sung by the choir)

The Second Lesson: I Corinthians 13:1-7

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Sequence

Hyfrydol

Hymnal 657

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel: John 17:6, 15-23

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Celebrant: I call upon you to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship and the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

All: I will, with God's help

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

All: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

All: I will, with God's help

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

All: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

All: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus Our Lord. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer*

Inspire your church and its leaders to be a bright beacon to the oppressed that they may be loved and accepted in their wholeness.

Silence

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Strengthen and empower all gay and lesbian persons who are struggling to find their place in your world. Surround them with persons who lift them up. Give them courage to proclaim who they are and whom they love.

Silence

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your peace.

Silence

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Be with N. and N. as they faithfully live out the commitment that they make here today. Guide them through the joys and challenges of family life and parenthood. Comfort them in times of heart ache, strengthen them in times of adversity.

Silence

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled, especially N. And we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer

A Concluding Collect

People: Amen.

The Act of Commitment

(The couple join hands and facing each other say the following in unison, with prompts by the officiant as necessary)

We believe that God has called us into a lifelong partnership with one another. Today we covenant that our relationship will be grounded in love, fidelity, mutual affection and respect, and the willingness to speak the truth in love. We covenant to love one another, as we share both successes and failures, joys and sorrows, sickness and health. We covenant to support each other's spiritual growth and personal dreams. By God's help, we intend to create a home filled with love, laughter and learning, joy, forgiveness and hope. In the Spirit of Christ, we covenant to honor one another, and through our commitment, becoming a reconciling witness to the love of God for others

(The celebrant then addresses the "attendants" as follows.)

Celebrant: Those of you standing with N. and N. have been chosen as representatives of their families and friends. You, along with the congregation assembled here today, will act as an important support for them in the faithful living out of their act of commitment. You are not here as onlookers, but to promise the offering of your wisdom and prayers for them in their commitment throughout the years to come. Do you believe that you are called, in the name of Christ, to this important work of loving care?

Representatives: I do

(The celebrant then addresses the congregation as follows.)

Celebrant: As members of N. and N.'s extended community, do you, their family and friends, also promise to uphold them in this commitment, offering your wisdom, support and prayers through the years?

Congregation: We do.

Let us Pray:

Almighty God, look with favor upon N. and N. who have now reaffirmed their commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give them courage, patience and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world, and of service to others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Oh gracious and ever-living God, you have shown yourself to be the source of life and goodness, overflowing in love. Look mercifully upon N. and N. who come to you in prayer and supplication. Assist them with your grace, that with true faithfulness and holy love they may hold true to the commitment they make to you and to one another. Grant that the witness of their life together in the company of your people may bring others into the reconciling communion of your love, through Jesus Christ our savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

N. and N., may the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this commitment, and in all things, you may do God's will in the service of the kingdom of Christ. Amen.

The Peace

All stand.

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Holy Communion

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST TOGETHER WITH
A COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

Hymnal

Book of Common Prayer

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

THE WORD OF GOD

THE ENTRANCE RITE

	The Processional	<i>Trumpet Voluntary</i> Jeremiah Clarke (1670-1707)	
	The Acclamation		355
	The Collect for Purity		355
S278	The Gloria in Excelsis Deo		356

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY 194

THE LESSONS

	The First Lesson	Song of Solomon 2: 10-13, 8:6-7
	The Second Lesson	Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13
	The Psalm	67
	The Third Lesson	I Corinthians 13:1-13
	The Procession of the Gospel	

Blessed are the pure in heart
Walford Davies (1869-1941)

Blessèd are the pure in heart, / For they shall see our God; / The secret of the Lord is theirs, / Their soul is Christ's abode. Still to the lowly soul / He doth himself impart, / And for his cradle and his throne / Chooseth the pure in heart.

The Gospel John 15: 11-17

THE SERMON

THE FORM OF COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN SERVICE

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The Celebrant addresses the candidates in these words:

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Celebrant: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

Candidates: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Candidates: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

Candidates: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread,
and in the prayers?

Candidates: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant : Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return
to the Lord?

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Candidates: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Candidates: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every
human being?

Candidates: I will, with God's help.

The Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows:

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water
and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep you in eternal life by his
grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

THE PRAYERS

The Celebrant then says to the congregation:

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions:

Leader: Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Send them into the world in witness to your love.
People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Candidates: I will, with God's help.
Leader: Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People: Lord, hear our prayer.

The Celebrant says:
Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Act of Commitment

The candidates state their intention in these words
After prayerful discernment, we come before you today because we believe God has called us to a lifelong commitment of fidelity, faith, and love so that we might best live into the ever deepening and loving relationship God has initiated with us in our baptisms. We seek the support of this community as we state our intention and seek to respond to God's call to us. We intend our relationship to be a witness to the world to God's love for us and for all of humanity. Having reaffirmed our own baptismal covenants, we further commit ourselves to this life's work in the service of God's never-failing desire for reconciliation with all. We pray that God will bless our lives together and uphold us with grace, now and always.
After this, the Celebrant says these words
May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this, and in all things, you may do God's will in the service of the kingdom of Christ. *Amen.*

In the name of this congregation I commend you to this work, and pledge you our prayers, encouragement, and support.

The Celebrant then says this prayer
Let us pray.
Almighty God, look with favor upon these persons who have now reaffirmed their commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world, and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY
The Anthem

My eyes for beauty pine
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

The Celebration of the Commitment of
N. AND N.

Prelude

Processional

Canon in D MajorJohann Pachelbel
Trumpet VoluntaryJeremiah Clarke

As the couple take their place, the congregation stands

The Invitation, Charge, Intentions & Consents

The Minister addresses all that have gathered

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the name and presence of God to celebrate the joining together of N. and N. in their sacred union. Holy scripture teaches us that God is love, and that when we abide in love we abide in God. We see the face of this love, in all its beauty and grace in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The fire of the Holy Spirit kindles all our friendships and human loves, inspiring them, ordering them, and hallowing them for our mutual comfort and the good of the world. Our covenants of intimate love signify the mystery of Christ's union with the church; and our delight in one another is a sign of God's pleasure in the whole creation.

As Jesus taught that the first commandment is to love God above all else, and the second commandment is to love our neighbors as ourselves, so do we see God's image reflected in the lives of N. and N.; and between them, the dignity and honor of the reconciling love of God in Christ. In the presence of God and in our presence these two persons now commit themselves to each other.

In this moment, let us keep silent, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and giving thanks for the mystery of God's love.

The congregation observes a time of silence. Then the Minister addresses the couple, as follows

Beloved, your covenant in heart, body, and mind is a sign of your mutual joy in each other; it speaks of your desire to share your lives with one another, in good times and bad, in joyfulness and solemnity, in your work and in your play, in your prayer and in your ministries, in all your being, all your becoming, and all you are to do together.

As you have meditated upon God's Holy Word, and are confident of the power and presence of God in your lives, and also are assured of the encouragement, support and prayer of those gathered with you today, therefore, I require and charge you both to enter into this covenant with the utmost seriousness, without any reservation whatsoever, in freedom, and in truth, and in love.

The Minister addresses each person in turn

Minister N., will you have N. to be your partner from this day forward? Will you love her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

N. I will.

Minister N., will you have N., to be your partner from this day forward? Will you love her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

N. I will.

The Minister then addresses the family of the couple

Minister Will you, who have nurtured and stood by N. and N. to this day, give your consent, blessing, guidance, and love to them in their life together?

Family We will.

The Minister then addresses the congregation

Minister Will you who witness the promises made this day do all in your power to support and uphold N. and N. in their covenant with God and one another?

People We will.

The Word Of God

Minister The Lord be with you

People And also with you.

Minister Let us pray.

God, the life giver, as near to us as breath, the author of all that is good and holy; be with us to unite us, to strengthen us, to guide us, and to bring us to your heavenly banquet; where with Jesus Christ our Lord, and your Holy Spirit, you live and reign throughout all ages.

People Amen.

The First Reading (*the congregation may be seated*)Ephesians 3: 14-19

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

N. I give you this ring as a sign of my commitment to you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Minister I now declare before God and this company that these two women are as one, in a covenant of sacred love. Those whom God has joined together in love, let no one put asunder. May God look with favor upon them all the length of their days, and bring them to eternal life.

People *Amen.*

The Prayers Of The People

The congregation stands and prays responsively with the intercessor

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth, which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

(Other petitions may be added)

Then the Minister continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Minister and People We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.*

The Minister continues

And we offer this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

Minister and People Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Minister breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

*Minister Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Facing the people, the Minister says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome at Christ's Table. The Bread and the Cup are given to the people with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. *Amen.*
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. *Amen.*

Music during Communion

Postcommunion Prayer

Minister Let us pray.
Minister and People *Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Blessing of the Congregation

Minister *May the blessing of God Almighty be amongst you and remain with you always.*

The Dismissal

Minister Dear friends, as you go forth from this place and this moment in your lives, nourished by the word of God, and filled with the Bread who lives, now be in full accord and of one mind, walking before God in loyalty and devotion each to the other, abounding in love and patience, kindness and generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, spontaneity and self-control, always loving and serving the Lord of all life.

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Recessional Rondeau.....Jean-Joseph Mouret

Postlude

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST TOGETHER WITH
A COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

Hymnal

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Prelude and Fugue in G Major

**Johann Sebastian Bach
(1670-1750)**

Andante Sostenuto

**Charles Marie Widor
(1844-1937)**

Adagio for Strings

Samuel Barber

(1910-1981)

Rhosymedre

**Ralph Vaughn Williams
(1872-1958)**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE ENTRANCE RITE

The Processional

Le Joi de Printemps

Geary M Bean-Forbes (1974-)

The Acclamation

Celebrant

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you
No secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of
Of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify
Your Holy Name: though Christ our Lord, *Amen*

S278

The Gloria in Excelsis Deo

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant

The Lord be with you

People

And also with you

Celebrant

Let us pray

We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin
And death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: and we pray that, as by his
Death he recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and
Reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, *Amen*.

THE LESSONS

	The First Lesson	Ruth 1:6-18	
	The Psalm	Psalm 119:121-136	BCP
	774		
	The Second Lesson	Romans 8:31-39	
	Sequence Hymn		
657		Love divine, all loves excelling	Hyfrydol
	The Gospel	Matthew 5:1-16	

THE SERMON

THE FORM OF COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN SERVICE

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The Celebrant addresses the candidates in these words:

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Celebrant: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

Candidates: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Candidates: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

Candidates: I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

Candidates: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Candidates: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Candidates: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

Candidates: I will, with God's help.

The Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows:

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep you in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

THE PRAYERS

The Celebrant then says to the congregation:

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions:

Leader: Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

The Celebrant says:

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE ACT OF COMMITMENT

The candidates state their intention in these words

After prayerful discernment, we come before you today because we believe God has called us to a lifelong commitment of fidelity, faith, and love so that we might best live into the ever deepening and loving relationship God has initiated with us in our baptisms. We seek the support of this community as we state our intention and seek to respond to God's call to us. We intend our relationship to be a witness to the world to God's love for us and for all of humanity. Having reaffirmed our own baptismal covenants, we further commit ourselves to this life's work in the

service of God’s never-failing desire for reconciliation with all. We pray that God will bless our lives together and uphold us with grace, now and always.

After this, the Celebrant says these words

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this, and in all things, you may do God’s will in the service of the kingdom of Christ. *Amen.*

In the name of this congregation I commend you to this work, and pledge you our prayers, encouragement, and support.

The Celebrant then says this prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with favor upon these persons who have now reaffirmed their commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world, and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

The Anthem

*Sonata in D minor for Two Oboes
Adagio*

*George F Handel
(1685-1759)*

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The Hymn

Fairest Lord Jesus

St Elizabeth (1842)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Eucharistic Prayer (A)

Celebrant

The Lord be with you

People

And also with you

Celebrant

Lift up your hearts

People

We lift them up to the Lord

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People

It is right to give God thanks and praise

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and a joyful thing, always and

Everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of
Heaven and earth.
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and
Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing
This hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name

S125

The Sanctus and Benedictus

setting by Richard Proulx

Holy gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself;
and when we had fallen in to sin and become subject to evil and death,
you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share
our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the
God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in
Obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord
Jesus Christ, took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, broke
It and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body for
You, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine: and when he had given thanks,
He gave it to them, and said, “Drink this all of you: This is my Body of the
New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness
Of sins. When ever you drink if, do this for the remembrance of me. “

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith

Celebrant and People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The celebrant continues
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice
Of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and
Ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and
Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life
In him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy
Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last
Day bring us with all you saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ. By him and with him and
In him, in unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty
Father, now and forever. *AMEN*

And now as our Savior has taught us to, we now pray

People and Celebrant
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
Daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who forgive us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom
The power and the glory are yours, now and forever, Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE INVITATION AND COMMUNION

Music at Communion

**Kyrie
Agnus Dei**

Communion Hymn

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Humbly I adore Thee

Adore devote

Celebrant Let us pray

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously
Accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior
Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the
Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world
In peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve
You with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our
Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us for forth in the name of Christ
People Thanks be to God.

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Recessional

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe den Herrn

THE VOLUNTARY

Toccata in F from Symphonie V

Charles Marie

Widor

All baptized persons are invited and encouraged to receive the Holy Communion. Out of respect for this worship service, please no photography during the service.

O God, our gracious Creator: May (these two people) find a communion of ideal being and perfect grace. May their love reach the level of every day's quiet need. By sun and by candlelight may they love freely as people strive for right; may they love purely; may they find the strength to meet the adversities, tolerance for the prejudice, reverence for the beauties, respect for the truths and faith for the uncertainties which will come their way. *Amen.*

O God, we pray that this couple and all who are gathered here will grow in the understanding and experience of love. To your tender and watchful care we commit N. and N. In health and sickness, in abundance and want, in life and death, abide with them that they shall never draw away from their love or from you. In the name of all that is holy, we pray. Amen.

From *Daring to Speak Love's Name*, Dr. Elizabeth Stuart

