

Leader: Forgive us that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good and that we have not been ready to carry our cross. Forgive us that we have not allowed Your love to work through us to help others and that we have not made their suffering our own. Forgive us for those times when instead of working for unity we made it hard for others to live with us because of our lack of forgiveness, inconsiderate judgment, and quick criticism.

**People: Forgive us for when we have not tried to reconcile with others and when we have been slow to seek redemption.**

Leader: Forgive us also for these sins that we silently confess to you now.  
[Silence]

#### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON**

Leader: God, the Father of all mercies, is faithful to cleanse us from our sins and restore us to Christ's image.

**People: Praise and glory be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.**

#### **WESLEY COVENANT PRAYER**

Leader: Let us, gathered here before the Lord now in covenant, commit ourselves to Christ as his servants. Let us give ourselves to Him so that we may fully belong to Him. Jesus Christ, we offer you this prayer:

**People: Let me be Your servant. Let me follow your commands. I will no longer follow my own desires. I give myself completely to your will.**

Leader: The power and strength to live as true servants is given to us in Christ. We accept the place and work given to us, acknowledging that God's grace alone will be our reward.

**People: I am not my own. I am Yours alone. Make me into what You will. Rank me with those You will. Put me to use for You. Put me to suffering for You. Let me be employed for You. Let me be laid aside for You. Let me be lifted high for You. Let me be brought low for You. Let me be full or let me be empty. Let me have all things or let me have nothing. With a willing heart, I freely give everything to Your pleasure and disposal.**

**Before all heaven and earth, I here and now acknowledge you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as my Lord and God. I vow to give all of myself, body and soul, to be Your servant and to serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.**

Leader: The Almighty God searches and knows you, even the thoughts of your heart.

**People: O God, you know that we have made this covenant today in sincerity, without deceit or reluctance. If You find anything false in us, guide us and help us to set it right. And now, glory be to You, Almighty God, Christ our Lord, and the Holy Spirit. You are mine and I am yours. So be it. May this covenant that I have made here on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

#### **PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING COMMUNION**

**Eternal God, We come before you today with thanksgiving. Having taken the bread and the cup our hearts overflow with gratitude for your love and sacrifice. Your desire to have a relationship with us was so great that you made a way for us to be with you.**

**We don't deserve your grace but you have extended it to us freely. Thank you Lord, Amen.**

#### **SENDING FORTH**

Leader: May our God be with you always. May Jesus Christ bring you peace. And may the Holy Spirit guide your life both now and forever. Go in peace to serve the Lord!

## WESLEY COVENANT SERVICE

### New Year's Day

#### OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, You search our hearts and you see every part of us. All our desires are known to You, and from you no secrets are hidden. By the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, cleanse our hearts so we may perfectly love you and glorify Your holy name. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### THE CONFESSION

Leader: We are those who seek to live as true disciples of Jesus Christ, but sometimes we fall short. Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins and submitting our hearts so that we do not deceive ourselves and cut ourselves away from God. Let us pray:

**People: Father God, You have set forth the way of life through Your Son Jesus Christ, whom You love dearly. We shamefully confess that we have been slow to learn of Him and have been reluctant to follow Him. You have spoken and called to us but we have not listened. You have revealed Your beauty to us, but we have been blind. You have stretched out Your hands to us through our friends, but we have passed by them. We have accepted Your gifts and offered little thanks. We are unworthy of Your unchanging love.**

Leader: We now confess to you our sins.

Please forgive us for the poverty of our worship...

for the selfishness of our prayers...

for our inconsistency and unbelief...

for the ways we neglect fellowship and Your grace...

for our hesitation to tell others about Christ....

for the ways we deceive others...

**People: Forgive us for when we waste time and when we misuse the gifts you have given us. Forgive us for when we have made excuses for the wrong things we have done and when we have purposefully avoided responsibility.**