

LIVING COVENANT - Lent 1 [Green/Creation]

[six purple candles and Christ candle are lit before service]

One: Lent is literally a time of 'lengthening light' as the days grow longer after winter.

Two: It is a time to turn to God's light, as we journey with Jesus to the cross and beyond.

One: During this Lenten season we remember God's promises - promises of love and forgiveness; the promise of wholeness for creation; the promise of life beyond death.

Two: We are people of promise, living in God's covenant.

One: Today we reflect on God's promise to all of creation.

Two: We put out the first candle, remembering the beauty of Creation and how we continue to do things that hurt God's world. *[put out one purple candle]*

One: Many species are extinct, forests have become deserts, fields produce landmines, and water has been taken for granted. *[lay the coloured cloth on the communion table]*

Two: We lay this table with the colour of creation. Let us pray...

All Creator God, we come before you as part of your good creation. Help us to live as trustworthy stewards of your world. Give us ears to hear and eyes to see your presence. Fill our hearts with the courage to choose Christ's way of healing and compassion. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE #411 VU "O God, We Call"

O God, we call, [repeat]

From deep inside we yearn [repeat]

From deep inside we yearn for you.

LIVING COVENANT - Lent 2 [blue - hope]

[5 purple and Christ candle are lit before service]

One: Last Sunday we put out the first candle, reminding us how we hurt God's creation. Today we remember the times we have not trusted God's promise.

Two: God promised to make a great nation of Abraham and Sarah.

One: Even though they were very old, even though they didn't have any children at the time, God asked them to trust.

Two: Peter thought he knew better than Jesus.

One We put out the second candle and we remember the times we have not trusted God.

[put out one purple candle]

Two: We trust our own strength. We want the easy way. We give up hope. *[lay the coloured cloth on the communion table]*

Two: We lay this table with the colour of hope. Let us pray...

All God you know us by heart and call us by name. You know us better than we know ourselves. Help us to trust in your promises. Grant us the courage to answer your call. May we live as signs of your love and steadfast covenant. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE #411 VU "O God, We Call"

O God, we call, [repeat]

From deep inside we yearn [repeat]

From deep inside we yearn for you.

LIVING COVENANT - Lent 3 [purple/forgiveness]

[4 purple and Christ candle are lit before service]

One: God promises to care for all of creation, even when we do not.

Two: God promises to be with us, even when we forget about God.

One: God invites us to help create a world - where all people are valued - one relationship at a time. God calls us into right relationship with God and with one another.

Two: We put out this candle and we remember the times we have not cared about anyone but ourselves. *[put out one purple candle]*

One: Sometimes doing what is right upsets others.

Two: Sometimes we love things more than God or the people around us. Still God loves us.
[lay the coloured cloth on the communion table]

One: We lay this table with the colour of forgiveness... Let us pray...

All **Creator God, you have given us wisdom to live by, prophets to teach us, and still we have not learned. You bless us with love to sustain us and we try to keep it for ourselves. Help us live according to your will. In Christ's name, we pray, Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE #411 VU "O God, We Call"

O God, we call, [repeat]

From deep inside we yearn [repeat]

From deep inside we yearn for you.

LIVING COVENANT - Lent 4 [yellow/light]

[3 purple candles and Christ candle are lit before service]

One: God calls us to journey in faith. God promises to be with us.

Two: We are afraid of trying new things. Sometimes we are even afraid of you, Holy One.

One: Still you love us. You forgive us. You keep your promises even when we do not.

Two: We put out this candle and we remember when we have let fear keep us from living as You intend. *[put out one purple candle]*

One: Fear of death, fear of getting old, fear of being alone, fear of growing up, fear of being hurt, can keep us from loving, from risking, from growing.

Two: God's love can calm our fears. Like light in the darkest night, Jesus waits to show us the way. *[lay the coloured cloth on the communion table]*

One: We lay this table with the colour of light... Let us pray...

All Ever faithful God, break through our fear. Open our ears to hear your words of salvation. We are overwhelmed by your choosing to come among us in Jesus, the one we call Christ. Grant us the courage to live as Jesus lived, with compassion and conviction. Amen.

LIVING COVENANT - Lent 5 [red/heart]

[2 purple and Christ candle are lit before service]

One: On this fifth Sunday in Lent, we move closer to Good Friday, to Jesus' suffering and death.

Two: Through Jeremiah and Jesus, God speaks to us about a love that is deeper than hurt.

One: Jeremiah speaks of a new relationship with God, where God's promise will be written on our hearts.

Two: Jesus reminds us that even as a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it holds the promise of bearing fruit.

One: As we put out this candle, let us think about what needs to die in our lives, that we might know God's love more deeply.

[put out one purple candle]

Two: In our living, in our loving, may God's promise bear fruit.

[lay the coloured cloth on the communion table]

One: We lay this table with the colour of love ... Let us pray...

All Loving God, deeper than any hurt, stronger than death itself, your love reaches out to us. Keep us open to new possibilities. Help us to grow in your love and bear fruit in Christ's name. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE #411 VU "O God, We Call"

O God, we call, [repeat]

From deep inside we yearn [repeat]

From deep inside we yearn for you.

LIVING COVENANT - Lent 6 [orange/commitment]

[1 purple and Christ candle are lit before service]

One: Today we are part of the crowd.

Two: Palm branches wave. Children shout "Hosanna!" God saves.

One: Later this week the mood will change.

Two: Violence will replace healing. Lies will accuse truth. The crowd will shout "Crucify him!"

One: Where will we stand then?

Two: As we put out this candle, we remember the times our commitment has wavered; Times we have been afraid to stand out from the crowd when our discipleship sets us apart.

[put out one purple candle]

One: We have turned away from Jesus' example.

[lay the coloured cloth on the communion table with part of the black showing]

Two: We would rather skip over this next part of the story. It asks too much of us.

We lay this table with the colour of commitment. It completes the symbol of God's covenant. Let us pray...

All God of steadfast love and mercy beyond reckoning, forgive us. Breathe your peace into our fear. Call forth courage in our trembling. By your grace transform our faltering faith. May we live and love, confident of your unfailing presence. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE #411 VU "O God, We Call"

O God, we call, [repeat]

From deep inside we yearn [repeat]

From deep inside we yearn for you.

Living Covenant [Good Friday colours turn black]

Only the Christ candle is lit, during the service the colours have all been turned to black.

One: Today is the bleakest day of the year.

Two: We remember all that which crucifies life: broken promises, the plundering of creation, fear, lack of trust, betrayal, and our wavering commitment. Today we remember Jesus' death and those times when we too have felt forsaken by God.

[put out the Christ candle]

One: It is finished. The light of the world has been put out.

Resurrection Promise [Easter]

One: The women came to the tomb expecting death and found life.

Two: The stone was rolled away. And the women were afraid.

One: The angel told them Jesus was raised. Instead of fear, they were told to share the good news.

[the Christ candle is lit]

Two: God's promise is fulfilled. God's love outshines death.

One: The power of resurrection turns everything inside out and upside down. We are changed. We are called to share the good news.

Two: Today we celebrate: new life, new joy, new possibilities - God's covenant is for life.

**All: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia**

We used strips of cotton cloth in rainbow colours with black lining. They were about 8" wide and 6' long to hang on our cross. Size to fit your space. Good Friday worship had different parts where each colour was turned so only the black was showing.

On Easter morning, the colours are turned back to the rainbow before people begin to arrive.