



Birchwood Community Church Promise

God made a promise with the people of Israel, calling them to be a holy nation, chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love by finding delight in the law. The promise was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord, in his life, work, death and resurrection. In him all people may be set free from sin and its power and be united in love and obedience. In this promise God gave us new life in Christ.

We therefore invite you as individuals and as one church, to renew the promise which God has made to His people, which enables us to be part of His family. And to respond by promising to serve God in all of our lives. At the start of a new year let us give ourselves afresh to Him, trusting in His promises, and relying on His grace.

First, as God's family, let us join together in the prayer Jesus taught us to pray:

***Our Father in heaven, holy is Your Name
Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven
Give us today Your daily bread
And forgive our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For the Kingdom, the power, and glory are Yours, now and forever.
Amen***

Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us again accept our place within this promise which God has made with us and with all who are called to be Christ's disciples. This means that, by the help of the Holy Spirit, we accept God's purpose for us, and the call to love and serve God in all our life and work.

Our vision at BCC is that we will see **Jesus Changing Lives**. That is our prayer, and all we do will be to this end. Our role is to be committed to 3 things: to worship God with all of our heart, to grow together as his family here in Birchwood and to reach out to others with the Good News of Jesus.

Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us. Therefore, let us give ourselves to Him, trusting in His promises and relying on His grace.

Would you please join with me in prayer:

Heavenly Father,

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, when life is good and when it is hard.

I lay everything about the coming year before You. I fix my eyes on You alone. You are the author and perfecter of our faith – I yield to the story that You are writing in and through my life. I commit myself to fervent prayer and greater intimacy with God, to growing as part of God's family here and to inviting others to hear the good news about Jesus at every given opportunity.

We pray that by Your grace we will see Jesus changing lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.