

**The Methodist Church
The Church of England**

AN ORDER OF SERVICE
To be used on November 1st
or on some other suitable occasion

To celebrate the national signing of
AN ANGLICAN-METHODIST COVENANT

Either the whole service or extracts may be used

The printed text of The Preamble, The Affirmations and The Commitments should accompany the full Order of Service. (see Appendix)

The Greeting
Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

See, how good and joyful it is:
To live together in unity.

Hymn

Tune: Dundee

Come, let us join our friends above
That have obtained the prize,
And on the eagle wings of love
To joys celestial rise.

Let all the saints terrestrial sing
With those to glory gone;
For all the servants of our King,
In earth and heaven are one.

One family we dwell in him,
One church, above, beneath;
Though now divided by the stream,
The narrow stream of death.

Jesu, be thou our constant Guide;
Then, when the word is given,
Bid Jordan's narrow stream divide,
And bring us safe to heaven.

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 and others

Prayers

Let us pray.
Come, Holy Spirit,

**fill the hearts of your faithful people,
and kindle in us the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Act of Penitence

When we have brought discredit on the gospel
Lord, forgive.
Christ, have mercy.

When we have broken the unity of the Church
Lord, forgive.
Christ, have mercy.

When we have failed in our love for others
Lord, forgive.
Christ, have mercy.

May God who is both power and love,
forgive us and free us from your sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ. **Amen**

A Collect

Gracious God,
send your Holy Spirit
upon your church and people,
that they may build each other up in holiness and peace;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

From John Wesley's *A Collection of Forms of Prayer*, 1733

A Reading from Saint John's Gospel

Jesus said: Father, the glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one,
as we are one,
I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know
that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that
those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you
have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

An Address

Hymn

Tune: Vienna

**Christ, from whom all blessings flow,
Perfecting the saints below,
Hear us, who thy nature share,
Who thy mystic body are.**

Join us, in one spirit join,

**Let us still receive of thine;
Still for more on thee we call,
Thou who fillest all in all.**

**Closer knit to thee, our Head,
Nourished, Lord, by thee, and fed,
Let us daily growth receive,
More in Jesus Christ believe,**

**Never from thy service move,
Needful to each other prove,
Use the grace on each bestowed,
Tempered by the art of God.**

**Love, like death, has all destroyed,
Rendered all distinctions void;
Names, and sects, and parties fall:
Thou, O Christ, art all in all.**

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (for use when the service is non-eucharistic)

Let us pray:

Ever-living God,
you are the hope of the world
and the joy of the nations.
In wisdom and love
you have brought forth the wonders of creation
and fashioned us in your own image.
Blessèd be God for ever.

Ever-living God,
you have caused the light of your glory
to shine forth in the face of Jesus Christ
and through the preaching of the gospel
you have called into being
one holy, catholic and apostolic Church
throughout the world.
Blessèd be God for ever.

Ever-living God,
you have blessed our nation
through the ministry and witness of the Church of England,
and by its saints, its divines and its parish life.
You have renewed the life of the nation
by raising up your servants John and Charles Wesley
and through the ministry and witness
of the people called Methodist.
Blessèd be God for ever.

Therefore with the Church of all the ages,
with apostles, evangelists and martyrs
and with all the angels in heaven

we give you thanks and praise.
Blessèd be God for ever.

An Act of Intercession

Let us pray:

Remember, O God, your holy Church throughout the world.
Pour out your Spirit on the bishops, clergy and people
of the Church of England
and upon the ministers and congregations
of the Methodist Church
that together we may renewed for mission and service.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Remember, O God, the families of the nations
scattered across the face of the earth.
Pour out your Spirit upon Elizabeth our Queen,
and upon all rulers and governments,
that from east to west peace and justice
may be established among all peoples.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Remember, O God, those who have been pioneers and apostles of Christian unity.
Pour out your Spirit on those who now follow in their footsteps,
and unite us with them in one communion and fellowship

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Looking for the coming of the kingdom, we say together:

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

An Anthem may be sung

An Act of Dedication

An Anglican says:

All who belong to the Church of England, I invite you to say with me:

**Our brothers and sisters
of the Methodist Church
we thank God for you.**

**In the name of Christ,
we the members of the Church of England
dedicate ourselves
to share our life with you.**

**Guided by the Holy Spirit,
we look forward to the years ahead
in a common life of worship and mission,
and of ministry and service.**

A Methodist says:

All who belong to the Methodist Church, I invite you to say with me:

**Our brothers and sisters
of the Church of England
we thank God for you.**

**In the name of Christ,
we the members of the Methodist Church
dedicate ourselves
to share our life with you.**

**Guided by the Holy Spirit,
we look forward to the years ahead
in a common life of worship and mission,
and of ministry and service.**

The Peace

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you:
and also with you.

A sign of peace is exchanged.

Hymn

Tune: Hereford (S.S.Wesley)

**O thou who camest from above,
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of perfect love
On the mean altar of my heart.**

There let it for thy glory burn

**With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return
In humble prayer and fervent praise.**

**Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work, and speak, and think for thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up thy gift in me.**

**Ready for all thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death thy endless mercies seal,
And make the sacrifice complete.**

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

The Blessing

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,
give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
and to proclaim the word and works of God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

Organ Music

Appendix

AN ANGLICAN-METHODIST COVENANT

We, the Methodist Church of Great Britain and the Church of England, on the basis of our shared history, our full agreement in the apostolic faith, our shared theological understandings of the nature and mission of the Church and of its ministry and oversight, and our agreement on the goal of full visible unity, as set out in the previous sections of our Common Statement, hereby make the following Covenant in the form of interdependent Affirmations and Commitments. We do so both in a spirit of penitence for all that human sinfulness and narrowness of vision have contributed to our past divisions, believing that we have been impoverished through our separation and that our witness to the gospel has been weakened accordingly, and in a spirit of thanksgiving and joy for the convergence in faith and collaboration in mission that we have experienced in recent years.

AFFIRMATIONS

1. We affirm one another's churches as true churches belonging to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ and as truly participating in the apostolic mission of the whole people of God.
2. We affirm that in both our churches the word of God is authentically preached, and the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist are duly administered and celebrated.
3. We affirm that both our churches confess in word and life the apostolic faith revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the ecumenical Creeds.
4. We affirm that one another's ordained and lay ministries are given by God as instruments of God's grace, to build up the people of God in faith, hope and love, for the ministry of word, sacrament and pastoral care and to share in God's mission in the world.
5. We affirm that one another's ordained ministries possess both the inward call of the Holy Spirit and Christ's commission given through the Church.
6. We affirm that both our churches embody the conciliar, connexional nature of the Church and that communal, collegial and personal oversight (*episkope*) is exercised within them in various forms.
7. We affirm that there already exists a basis for agreement on the principles of episcopal oversight as a visible sign and instrument of the communion of the Church in time and space.

COMMITMENTS

1. We commit ourselves, as a priority, to work to overcome the remaining obstacles to the organic unity of our two churches, on the way to the full visible unity of Christ's Church. In particular, we look forward to the time when the fuller visible unity of our churches makes possible a united, interchangeable ministry.
2. We commit ourselves to realise more deeply our common life and mission and to share the distinctive contributions of our traditions, taking steps to bring about closer collaboration in all areas of witness and service in our needy world.

3. We commit ourselves to continue to welcome each other's baptised members to participate in the fellowship, worship and mission of our churches.
4. We commit ourselves to encourage forms of eucharistic sharing, including eucharistic hospitality, in accordance with the rules of our respective churches.
5. We commit ourselves to listen to each other and to take account of each other's concerns, especially in areas that affect our relationship as churches.
6. We commit ourselves to continue to develop structures of joint or shared communal, collegial and personal oversight, including shared consultation and decision-making, on the way to a fully united ministry of oversight.