



The Covenant Service
GOD'S CALL FOR COMMITTED PARTNERSHIP
January 2, 2022

CELEBRANT & PREACHER: REV.NAVIN K JOHN

CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come... Revelation 1:4-5
 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear,
 though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.

Psalm 46: 1,2

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31.

OPENING HYMN: O for a thousand tongues to sing...

<p>1. Oh for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise, The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace.</p>	<p>4. Hear Him, ye deaf: His praise, ye dumb, Your loosened tongues employ; Ye blind, behold your Saviour come; And leap, ye lame for joy !</p>
<p>2. Jesus, the Name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease; 'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.</p>	<p>5. He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoner free; His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.</p>
<p>3. He speaks and listening to His voice, New life the dead receive, The mournful, broken hearts rejoice, The humble poor believe.</p>	<p>6. My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim— To spread through all the earth abroad— The honours of Thy name.</p>

PRESBYTER: Let us pray

ALMIGHTY God, for whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom 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.

DEARLY beloved, the Christian life, to which we are called, is a life in Christ, redeemed from sin by Him and, through Him, consecrated to God. Upon this life we have entered, having been admitted into that New Covenant of which our Lord Jesus Christ is Mediator, and which he sealed with His own blood, that it might stand forever.

On God's part, the covenant is His reconciliation of the world to himself in Jesus Christ and His promise that He will fulfil in and through us all that He declared in Him, who is the Author and Perfecter of our faith. That His promise stands, we are sure, for we have known His goodness and proved His grace in our lives day by day.

On our part we have received this covenant through faith, and stand pledged to live no more unto ourselves, but unto Him who loved us and gave Himself for us and has called us to serve Him to the praise of His glory.

From time to time we renew our vows of consecration, especially when we gather at the Table of the Lord; and on this day we meet expressly, that we may joyfully and solemnly renew the covenant which binds us to God.

Let us then, remembering the mercies of God, and the hope of His calling, lift up our hearts to Him in adoration.

ADORATION

Presbyter: Let us pray

All kneel.

Let us adore God, who is the embodiment of love; Who created us; Who continually preserves and sustains us;

Cong: We praise you, O Lord.

Presbyter:

Let us adore God, who's glory is revealed in the life and death of Jesus Christ our Lord and saviour; and who raised him from the dead to promise us everlasting life and who has loved us with an everlasting love, and given us the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

Cong: We praise you, O Lord.

Presbyter: Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; Who, though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor; Who was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin; who came to bring good news to the poor, to give liberty to those who are oppressed, Who has opened the kingdom of heaven to all; Who sits at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father; Who shall come again as Judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom has no end.

Cong: We praise you, O Lord.

Presbyter: Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, by whom we are born into the family of God, and made members of the body of Christ; Whose witness confirms us; Whose wisdom teaches us; Whose power enables us; and Whose presence unites us.

Cong: We praise you, O Lord.

THANKSGIVING

Presbyter: Let us give thanks to God for His manifold mercies.

O GOD our Father, the source of all goodness, who has been gracious to us [not only in the year that is past, but] through all the years of our life: We give thanks for your love and kindness which has brought us to this time and place.

Cong: We thank you, O Lord.

Presbyter: You have redeemed through Jesus Christ and given us minds to think, hands to work, and hearts to love. You have called us with a high calling in Jesus Christ and made us stewards of your creation. You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit and in the witness of your Church.

Cong: We thank you, O Lord.

Presbyter: In darkness you have been our light; in adversity and temptation a rock of strength; in our joys the very crown of joy; in our labours the all-sufficient reward. For all the long-suffering and the abundance of your grace.

Cong: We thank you, O Lord.

Presbyter: You give us communion with all your saints to teach, edify and share love by which You have united humanity.

Cong: We thank you, O Lord.

Presbyter: You cause us to hunger and thirst for righteousness and You have shown the way of salvation in Jesus Christ our saviour and Lord.

Cong: We thank you, O Lord.

Presbyter: You have given life in all its fullness through Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. You have called us to serve you in the Church and in the world.

Cong: We thank you, O Lord.

Presbyter: You nourish our souls and bodies so that we can be a holy and living sacrifice to you. Through your spoken Word , the written Word and the enacted Word in the sacraments, you enable us to grow up to maturity in all things till we attain the likeness of Christ.

Cong: We thank you, O Lord.

Presbyter: In joy and sorrow your presence sustains us, in darkness you are our light, in trouble and trial our strength and shield;

Cong: We thank you, O Lord.

Presbyter: You have not abandoned us even though we have walked away like lost sheep, You have called us back to you even though we have not listened to your voice. You have filled us with abundant grace which is sufficient for us.

Cong: With our whole heart, and soul and mind, we thank you, O Lord.

CONFESSION

Presbyter: Let us examine ourselves in silence, asking God to search our hearts.

Silent confession.

Let us humbly confess our sins to God. Let us pray

O GOD our Creator, you have set before us the way of life in Christ. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failures to follow Him, our reluctance to bear the cross.

Cong: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Presbyter: Forgive us; we beseech thee, the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of our responsibilities in your service, our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

Cong: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Presbyter: Forgive us that so little of your love has reached others through us, that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, grudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, unwilling to help our neighbor as we ought.

Cong: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Presbyter: For our cold reception of the means of grace, when you pour out on us your great love. For our neglect of your stern warning, that unless we forgive others, we cannot be forgiven. For practicing so little in our lives of what we profess with our lips.

Cong: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Presbyter: You called us to be the salt and light in the world. But, in our unfaithfulness we conform to the world's own false ways, in cowardice we stand by and do nothing when wrong and evil unfold before our eyes.

Cong: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Presbyter: We confess the sins of our society, for which we all share equal social responsibility. You create everyone in your image. But, in our pride and self-righteousness we have failed to respect others. We give honour to whom we choose and despise those whom we neglect.

Cong: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Presbyter: You called us to be peacemakers, but we have disturbed the peace and harmony by creating division and weakening the unity of your Body, the Church.

Cong: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

Presbyter: You have commanded us to love one-another, just as you have loved us. But we have been thoughtless in our judgement, hasty in condemning, grudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation and unwilling to help our neighbour as we should.

Cong: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

All say together:

Cong: Have mercy on me O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me. Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

ABSOLUTION

Presbyter: This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.¹ John 1: 5, 7-9

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Presbyter: The Lord be with you:

Cong: And with thy spirit.

Presbyter: Let us pray

O GOD, who hast appointed our Lord Jesus Christ as Mediator of a new covenant, grant us grace, we pray, to draw near with fullness of faith and join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with you; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS

Old Testament:	Deuteronomy	10: 12-22
Epistle	: I Thessalonians	04: 01-08
Gospel:	Mark	10: 35-45

HYMN :

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me, My master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle, If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway, If Thou wilt be my guide.
2. O let me feel Thee near me, The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear:
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.
3. O Jesus, Thou has promised to all who follow Thee,
That were Thou art in glory, there shall Thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my master and my Friend. Amen

MESSAGE:

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ God's only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. 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. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - BANNES

THE COVENANT (*All stand*)

Presbyter: And now, beloved, let us with all our hearts and minds renew our part in the covenant that God has made with us, and let us take the yoke of Christ upon us. This taking of His yoke means that we are heartily content that He should appoint us our place and work, and that He alone should be our reward. Christ has many services to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and temporal interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves, in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is assuredly given us in Christ, who strengthens us.

Therefore let us make the covenant of God our own. Let us engage our heart to the Lord, and resolve in His strength never to go back. Being thus prepared, let us now, in sincere dependence on His grace and trusting in His promises, yield ourselves anew to Him, meekly kneeling upon our knees.

O LORD God, Holy Father, who hast called us through Christ to be partakers in this gracious covenant, we take upon ourselves with joy the yoke of obedience, and engage ourselves, for love of thee, to seek and to do thy perfect will. We are no longer our own, but Yours. Amen.

Cong: I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to your will, place me among whom you will; put me to doing your will, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or let me be laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and heartily yield all things to your will, glory and purpose.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are my God and I am your people, so be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

GLORY be to God the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Presbyter: The peace of the Lord be with you

And also with you

The peace is shared with the gesture of the namaskara.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presbyter: How very good and pleasant it is when people of God live together in unity! We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Cong: Now I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

OFFERTORY HYMN: Out of my bondage...

1. Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night, Jesus, I come! Jesus, I come! Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light Jesus I come to Thee! Out of my sickness into Thy health, Out of my want and into Thy wealth, Out of my sin and into Thyself, Jesus, I come to Thee!	3. Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come! Jesus, I come! Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee! Out of myself to dwell in Thy love, Out of despair into raptures above, Upward for aye on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee!
2. Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus I come! Jesus I come! Into the glorious gain of Thy cross, Jesus I come to Thee! Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm, Out of life's storm and into Thy calm, Out of distress to jubilant psalm, Jesus I come to Thee!	4. Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come! Jesus I come Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee! Out of the depths of ruin untol Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold, Ever Thy glorious face to behold Jesus, I come to Thee!

Presbyter: O Father you have given us a new and living way to offer ourselves to you. Though unworthy, we come to you as we are, by that way, your Son, Jesus of Nazareth; and in his name we ask you to accept and use us, and these gifts however it best pleases you. All that is created is yours and everything that we can offer already belongs to you. **Amen.**

Presbyter: May we all together say the prayer of the presence:

Cong: Be present, be present, O Jesus you good High Priest, as you were in the midst of your disciples and make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. Amen.

Presbyter: The Lord be with you:

Cong: And also with you

Presbyter: Lift up your hearts.

Cong: We lift them up to the Lord.

Presbyter: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Cong: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presbyter: Truly it is right and good to glorify you at all times and in all places, by offering you our thanksgiving O Lord, Holy Father. You spoke and the light shattered darkness, order arose from confusion. You breathed into the dust of the earth and we were formed in your image.

Through your Son, our Lord Jesus, you came to us while we wandered. He met us as a refugee, a threatened child. He called us by name to leave what is comfortable to be his disciples,

friends, and partners. With his outstretched arms on the cross, and through his death he bore our sins and through his resurrection we are saved.

And through your Holy Spirit you brood over chaos that we create, mothering us and shaping a new creation. You enlighten everyone coming into the world. You inspired the prophets and the apostles to find the right word at the right time. You liberate, equip and commission your people for the continuance of your mission to make everything new.

Cong: Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we proclaim and say your glory: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna in the highest.

Presbyter: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night, in which he was betrayed, took bread and when he had given thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

The same way after supper, he took the cup and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying: 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.

Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me. **Amen.**

Cong: Lord we commemorate your death on the cross, we celebrate your resurrection, and we await your coming.

Presbyter: Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these earthly gifts of bread and wine, that they may be the communion of the Body and Blood of Christ, and that we may become one in him. May his coming in glory find us ever watchful in prayer, strong in truth and love, and faithful in the breaking of the bread. Then, at last, all people will be free, all divisions healed, and with your whole creation, we will sing your praise, through your Son, Jesus Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty Father, forever and ever.

Cong: Amen.

Presbyter: As our Saviour Christ hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

Cong: Our Father in Heaven, holy be your Name, your kingdom come; your will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

All: We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs from under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies and souls may be made clean by his most precious body and blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.

Presbyter: When we break the bread, do we not share in the body of Christ?

Cong: We seek to share your life, gracious God.

Presbyter: When we lift the cup, do we not share in the life blood of Christ?

Cong: We seek to share your life, gracious God.

Cong: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.

The words of administration

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, the true vine...

Presbyter: Having now by faith received the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, let us give thanks.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE COVENANT SERVICE

Presbyter: Glory be to you, O God who has accepted us as your people in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Cong: Amen. Glory to you O God.

Presbyter: Glory be to O God our Saviour in Jesus Christ, who has loved us and redeemed us from all our sin by his own blood on the cross.

Cong: Amen. Glory to O God our Saviour.

Presbyter: Glory be to you, O God our comforter in the Holy Spirit, who anoints us and fill us with heavenly gifts to serve you faithfully.

Cong: Amen. Glory to O God the Holy Spirit, our Guide and comforter.

Presbyter: O Triune God, you reveal your glory as the Creator, Saviour and Comforter in our lives and in all eternity.

Cong: Amen. Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you; and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: All hail the power of Jesus name...

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall: Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him, Lord of all.	4. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall, Go, spread His trophies at His feet And Crown Him Lord of all.
2. Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God Who from the altar call, Extol the stem of Jesse's rod And crown Him Lord of all.	5. Let every kindred every tribe On this terrestrial ball, To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all.
3. Ye saints redeemed of Adam's race Ye ransomed from the fall, Hail Him who saves you by His grace	6. Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall, Join in the everlasting song,

And crown Him Lord of all.

And crown Him Lord of all!

Presbyter: The Lord be with you

Cong: And also with you

Presbyter: Let us depart in peace

In the name of the Father. Amen.

GOD BLESS YOU On Your Birthday...

- 2nd Dr. Mrs. Aparna Reuben, Mr. Ashish Wesley, Mr. Rohan Jacob,
Mr. David Rajendra, Mas. Giftson John, Ms. Shania Pacheco.
Ms. Diana Vamane.
- 3rd Ms. Cecilia Reuben, Ms. Lilly Selvi, Mas. Tristan Paul.
- 4th Ms. Rahael Mathew, Dr. Harsha Joseph,
Mr. Beniston Thangaraj, Ms. Jessica Anthony.
- 5th Ms. Rohini Mathew, Mas. Andrew David, Mas. Joash Rushil,
Mr. Israel Paramandam.
- 6th Mr. Samuel John , Dr. Chandan Prabhakar.
- 7th Mr. Bhaskar Loganathan, Ms. Parimala Daniel,
Ms. Anjali Dennis, Ms. Priyanka Kevin.
- 8th Mr. Jason Healy, Mr. Stephen, Mr. Rajkumar Solomon.

... And Your Wedding Anniversary

- 2nd Mr. & Mrs. Augustine Kaunds, Mr.& Mrs. Michael Samuel,
Mr. & Mrs. Devakumar Balachandran
- 3rd Dr. & Mrs. Clement Shirodkar, Mr.& Mrs. Paul Manoharan Moses,
Mr. & Mrs. Jayanth Dharmaraj.
- 4th Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Williams, Mr & Mrs. Lalkhomoi Tusing,
Mr. & Mrs. Sushanth Joshua.
- 5th Mr. & Mrs. Marcellus Meneaud.
- 6th Mr.& Mrs. Christopher Satish, Mr & Mrs. Raghu Kumar.
- 7th Mr. & Mrs. Elston Bell, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Chacko, Mr. & Mrs. Joshua O’Kelly,
Mr. & Mrs. John Sirengo.
- 8th Mr. & Mrs. Jerome David.

ANNOUNCEMENT

WELCOME: We welcome all the members of St. John’s Church and families, worshipping with us in the church as well as those participating from your homes.

EVERY SUNDAY, REGULAR SERVICE AT 9.00 AM AND 6.00 PM. Screening of members, who are attending the service, begins at 8.30 am and 5.30 pm respectively.

- * Kindly continue to pray for the ongoing restoration of the Church building.
- * Kindly contact the Church office for all official matters / clarifications / verification relating to the administration of the Church.
- * Kindly contact the Presbyter-in-charge, Rev. Navin K John for all Pastoral requirements. – **Ph. 9886942735**

* Kindly remit your tithes/offerings/subscriptions/medical fund/ education fund, through the online payment portal by using the following links:

LINK FOR THE ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL	Bank details
https://donate.stjohnschurchblr.com/ .	Name of the account: CSITA ST JOHN'S CHURCH
Once the remittance is done, please mail the transaction details to accounts@stjohnschurchblr.com (Attn: Hannah), and mention the purpose of your contribution	Account Number: 457702011005149 Name of Bank: Union Bank of India Branch: St. John's High School IFSC: UBIN0558923

- For any Verification/ clarification, please contact the church office accounts department for the details.

THE LINK FOR THE LIVE STREAMING OF THE SERVICE is posted on all official WhatsApp groups of the church, the YouTube channel, and the website.

THE RECORDING OF THE LIVE STREAMED SERVICE will be available on the YouTube channel of St. John's Church. Kindly subscribe to the channel or visit the website for the link.

Visit the **CHURCH WEBSITE** <http://www.stjohnschurchblr.com/> for the pew slip.

Please continue to SUPPORT OUR CHURCH for the projects, the Medical Fund and Education Sponsorships together with your subscription, offertory, and tithes. You can remit online either through the bank or the online portal.

NEW CHURCH EMAIL IDS

For better co-ordination and to streamline mails, St. John's Church has three new email ids, in addition to the existing email id sjchurchblr@gmail.com

- presbyter@stjohnschurchblr.com – for your pastoral needs (membership, baptism, marriage, burials, prayer meetings, counselling requests, etc.)
- accounts@stjohnschurchblr.com – for matters relating to accounts
- churchoffice@stjohnschurchblr.com -- official requests and correspondence of wings and sub-committees.

PRAY FOR: Mr. Joshua O'Kelly, Ms. Letitia Luther, Mr. John Luther, Ms. Joan Kishander, Mrs. Nalini Christudoss, Mrs. Geraldine Lincoln, Mrs. Sarojini Williams, Mrs. Violet Salins, Mr. Samuel Jesudas, Mrs. Eunice Leonhard, and Mr. Vinod David, Ms. Lilly Edward, Ms. Margaret Chinoy.

The St. John's Church Calendar - 2022: The calendars are available for sale @Rs.100/- each. The proceeds will be utilised towards the restoration of the church.
