

I Am about to Do a New Thing: Perceive it!
Reaffirmation of Our Christian Vows and Commitments

As we engage with Scripture, with each other, with our contexts, and our moment, we take this time in the presence of Almighty God to reaffirm our own commitments to participate in the new thing God is doing. These vows are our acts of faith in the face of doubt.

This year, we will all join together in bidding each other to acknowledge the commitments we've made in our various Orders that together make the One Body of Christ.

The Bishop begins the liturgy:

Dear friends,

The Church is the family of God, the body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit.

The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the good news of God in Jesus Christ. Every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Creator, through the power of the Holy Spirit. This ministry we share is the honor of representing Christ by our words and actions; the ways we work together; and our engagement with the world. Affirming these duties, I invite you to reaffirm your own Baptismal Covenant and ordination vows

Addressing All the Baptized

Bishop Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People **I do.**

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.**

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help**

Bishop Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

People **I will, with God's help**

Addressing Lay Persons

All Clergy says

Your ministry as lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever you may be; and, according to the gifts given you, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take your place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

Bishop Will you continue in this ministry?

Laity **I will, with God's help.**

Addressing Deacons

All Laypeople, Priests, and the Bishop say

Your ministry as deacons is a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world; to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need; and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.

Bishop Will you continue in this ministry?

Deacons **I will, with God's help.**

Addressing Presbyters

All Laypeople, Deacons, and the Bishop say

Your ministry is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor, priest, and teacher, together with your bishop and fellow presbyters, and to take your share in the councils of the Church; to preach; to administer the sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God; to love and serve the people among whom you work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor.

Bishop Will you continue in this ministry?

Priests **I will, with God's help.**

Addressing all clergy together, the Bishop then continues,

Siblings, as clergy in the Episcopal Church, we are called to proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, to administer the Sacraments of the New Covenant which he sealed with his blood on the cross, and to

care for his people in the power of the Spirit, that their life of faith may be supported and their ministry encouraged and empowered.

Do you here, in the presence of Christ and his Church, renew your commitment to your ministry, under the pastoral direction of your bishop?

I do.

Do you reaffirm your loyalty to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them.

I do.

Do you promise to be faithful in prayer, and in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures?

I do.

Do you reaffirm your promise to minister the Word of God and the Sacraments of the New Covenant that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received?

I do.

Do you reaffirm your promise to be a faithful servant of all those committed to your care, patterning your life in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to your people?

I do.

Addressing the Bishop

All members of the assembled body say together:

Bishop Shannon, your ministry, as bishop, is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as apostle, chief priest, and pastor to encourage and support all baptized people in their gifts and ministries; boldly to proclaim and interpret the Gospel of Christ, enlightening the minds and stirring up the conscience of your people, and to pray for them without ceasing. With your fellow bishops you share in the leadership of the Church throughout the world; guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the whole Church; proclaim the Word of God; act in Christ's name for the reconciliation of the world and the building up of the Church; and ordain others to continue Christ's ministry.

All Will you continue in this ministry?

The Bishop responds

I will with God's help. And as your bishop, I, too, before God and you, re-dedicate myself and reaffirm the promises that I made when I was ordained. I ask your prayers.

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

In that we have all renewed our solemn baptismal and ordination vows before God and one another this day, may the Lord who has given us the will to do these things, give us also the grace and power to perform them. **AMEN.**

Deacons Let us bless the Lord

All Thanks be to God