

CHRISTIAN LIFE

PUT ON CHRIST AND WALK IN THE SPIRIT

As a disciple of Jesus Christ and Christian of the Anglican Communion:

GOD - I am committed to God, to LOVING AND WORSHIPPING HIM (Mk.12:30; Jn.4:23,24), living in a PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with him (Mt.22:37), and trusting in his wisdom, providence and power; to God my heavenly Father, joyfully obeying his will (Mt.6:10, 7:21, Jn.15:10); to Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour, following in his way and truth (Jn.5:30; 14:15,21), and to God the life-giving Holy Spirit, who dwells in my heart; to God's daily call to conversion, bringing me back from being lost, and forming me in his image and likeness (2 Cor.3:18); and to living and rejoicing in his presence and most excellent way of love (1Cor.12:31). I bind unto myself today the strong Name of the Trinity.

THE CHURCH

I am committed to the CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST: to LOVING THE CHURCH, as Christ loved her and gave his life for her (Eph.5:25); to holding her faith (Acts 14:22; Phil.1:27), based in HOLY SCRIPTURE, and set out in the CATHOLIC CREEDS; to taking a full part in her life and fellowship, worship and prayer (Acts 2:42); to the Church, community of my brothers and sisters, with LOYALTY AND LOVE; to bringing others to Christ in the Church's common life, prayer and service; to being part of her ministry and mission in the world; and to providing for her needs and those of her ministers. I believe the Church is not an option for Christians.

SPIRITUALITY

I am committed, like Christ, to a LIFE OF PRAYER (Eph.6:18): to reading, meditating and acting on the WORD OF GOD in SCRIPTURE, and allowing his Word to go deep into my heart [LECTIO DIVINA]; to receiving regularly the SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S BODY AND BLOOD in the EUCHARIST (1Cor.11:24ff); to both the COMMON PRAYER of the Church (Lk.4:16; Acts 20:7), and to

PRIVATE PRAYER, alone with God (Mt.6:6): praising and worshipping him, interceding for others (1Tim.2:1), and fasting (Mt.6:16); to REPENTING OF MY SINS (Acts 2:38, 3:19), FORGIVING those who have sinned against me (Mt.6:12), and receiving God's FORGIVENESS. We speak to God when we pray; we hear him when we read the divine Word.

DISCIPLES

I am committed to being A DISCIPLE and FOLLOWER of JESUS CHRIST, which is his calling to us (Mt.28:19); to LISTENING to him and LEARNING from his TEACHING (Mt.11:29), especially in Holy SCRIPTURE, and putting it faithfully into practice (Mt.5:24); to being formed into his likeness; to being taught by the CHURCH'S TEACHERS, and cared for by her PASTORS (Eph.4:11); to being BUILT UP to the maturity of CHRIST'S FULL STATURE in the CHURCH, in unity of faith, for MINISTRY (Eph.4:12f). To be ignorant of Scripture is to be ignorant of Jesus. (St Ambrose)

DAILY LIFE

I am committed to LIVING EVERY DAY FOR CHRIST; to my way of life being 'DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD'S' (St Benedict), like salt and light (Mt.5:13f), like the fragrance of Christ in the world (2 Cor.2:14), a witness to him (Acts 1:8); to living in the Spirit (Eph.5:18), with wisdom and the values of the kingdom; to living love - in my home, among my neighbours and friends, at work, in the street, shops and in my neighbourhood; to modelling my life on Christ (Eph.5:1f) in compassion, holiness, humility, justice and truth; to obeying the commandments - the Ten Commandments (Ex.20), loving God and neighbour (Mt.22:37ff), and Christ's new commandment to love as he loved us (Jn.13:34); to acting on his teaching - like the parables and the Sermon on the Mount (Mt.5-7), with their priorities and moral values; and to knowing and resisting all that leads me away from him (James 4:7; 1Pet.5:9), like temptation, and the seven deadly sins.

SERVING

I am committed to SERVING LIKE CHRIST (Mk.10:45; Phil.2:7), being a servant, a neighbour to others, a good Samaritan (Lk.10:29ff); to washing feet (Jn.13:14), caring for the poor and needy (Mt.25:31),

loving friends and enemies alike (Mt.5:43-46); to doing good works (Col.1:10; Heb.10:24), and treating others with a kind and generous heart (1Tim.6:18), with a giving of myself that is pressed down and running over (Lk.6:38), always willing to go the extra mile (Mt.5:41); to loving my neighbour (Mk.12:31), and going wherever he calls; to working for the coming of God's kingdom on earth.

SPEAKING OF CHRIST TO OTHERS

I am committed to TELLING OTHERS OF CHRIST and SPEAKING OF HIM, sharing the GOOD NEWS of his kingdom and love, of living life his way, and of his liberation and transforming power (Lk.5:17, 6:19, 8:46); to bearing witness to things he has done in my life and for those around me, and of my need of conversion (Acts 2:38): that he lifts the fallen, restores broken lives, heals sickness, opens the eyes of the blind, sets the imprisoned free and brings hope (Mt.11:4; Lk.4:18f) - like springs of water in desert places (Isa.35:6f); and to explaining his teaching as best I can. Jesus sends the Spirit that we might be his witnesses in all the world. (Acts 1:8)

STEWARDS OF GOD'S GIFTS

I am committed to being a GOOD STEWARD OF GOD'S GIFTS, and a faithful administrator (Lk.12:42) of all that he has given me - my abilities, opportunities, time, money - acknowledging that all belongs to him, placing everything under his lordship, and using it according to his will; to giving my tithes and offerings (Dt.12:6,14:22) regularly to the Church; to caring for his creation; and to being a faithful, responsible, and thankful servant before him. (Mt.25:14ff)

GOD'S GLORY

When I hear the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" I shall say, "Here am I! Send me." (Isaiah 6:8) For I am committed to glorifying God - doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with him. (Micah.6:8)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
(Philippians 4:23)⁹