

REPENTANCE • RENEWING • RE-OPENING

Christian Life Center, A Foursquare Church | clcriverside.org | 951-689-6785

As we transition into a new season, we want to seek the LORD together. This is not simply a way to fill in the service with activity but a time to sincerely seek God's new direction for our church. During this time we are praying the following great pillars: repentance, renewing the Covenant God made with our church, and re-opening the spiritual wells of blessing and purpose!

PART 1. REPENTANCE.

Repentance is *the* very entry point into the Kingdom of Heaven. John the Baptist, Jesus, and the apostles began their preaching with a call to repentance before people could enter God's kingdom.

- John the Baptist | Matthew 3:2 *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.*
- Jesus | Matthew 4:17 *From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."*
- The great pattern for personal and corporate revival... 2 Chronicles 7:14 *...if my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

PART 2. RENEWING God's Covenant with Christian Life Center (Arlington Foursquare).

- Joshua renewed God's covenant with Israel after the conquest of Canaan was nearly complete and the land had been distributed to the tribes. This renewal took place at Shechem (Joshua 24:1), between Mount Gerizim (blessings) and Mount Ebal (curses), where the blessings and curses of Deuteronomy 28 were proclaimed. Shechem is also where God first promised the land to Abraham (Genesis 12:6-7).
- Joshua 24:25-26 *On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws. And Joshua recorded these things in the Book of the Law of God.*


PART 3. RE-OPENING the wells.

- Genesis 26:18 *Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them."*
- Re-opening the wells means restoring the spiritual inheritance God established in Christian Life Center so His life and blessing can flow again. (John 7:38)


- Aimee Semple McPherson, founder of the Foursquare Movement, often said that revival wells were placed by God in different regions, and that believers were called to re-dig and steward them. She felt that the Inland Empire is one of those areas.




1. Reopening the well of our first love.

- The greatest threat to the Christian faith is not only Satan or cultural decline, but also complacency and apathy within the hearts of believers. Apathy is a silent destroyer.
- Revelation 2:1-7 *...you've drifted from your first love. You've exchanged that deep, passionate love for Christ you once had. Stop and **remember it.** Reflect on the joy, the freedom, and the excitement you felt when He first rescued you from the bondage of sin. Think back to the time where you started... and realize how far you've slipped. Now, **turn back.** Change your direction. Go back and **do the things you did in the beginning**, when your love was fresh, real, and alive. (Remember, repent and return)* 

2. Reopening the well of our worship to a new level of maturity.

- John 4:19-24 *“...the time is coming when worshiping the Father won't be about being in the right place. It'll be about having the right heart. God is Spirit, and He's looking for people who will worship Him with sincerity, guided by the Holy Spirit and expressing something real, honest, and authentic.”* 
- **Worship begins as a lifestyle.** Before worship is something we do, it is who we are. (Romans 12:1)
- **Worship flows from the attitude of the heart.** It is an attitude that recognizes the glory of Christ and our dependence upon Him. It unites worshipers, sets the atmosphere for worship, and “gives voice” to what is already in the heart.
- **Worship has progression.** The levels of worship are seen in Psalm 100:4 *Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.* The progression is thanksgiving to praise to the deeper intimacy of worship.
- **Praise and worship are born in faith.** Praise is an instrument of war, and a way of creating an atmosphere for the Presence of the LORD. Worship is born from the womb of relationship. (Adapted from Judson Cornwall)

3. Reopening the well of the flowing of the Spirit through us.

- John 7:37-39 *Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.* 
- QR code is our teaching on the Holy Spirit.