153 Mount Edward Road
Charlottetown, PE C1A 5T1
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Churchy Words 3: Covenant

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Preached by Rob McDonald

KEY PASSAGES

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NIV)

"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

FIVE KEY POINTS

1. **A covenant is a promise that lives inside a relationship.** Rob used BibleProject's definition, two partners making binding promises to each other, often with oaths and signs, and more personal than any contract.
2. **In Hebrew, covenants are cut.** The verb for making one means to cut, and something is cut in each of them, from the animals in Genesis 15 to the commandments carved into stone.
3. **Each Old Testament covenant came with a promise, a part for people to keep, and a sign.** Noah got the rainbow, Abraham circumcision, Moses the law on stone, and David a temple his son would build.
4. **The covenants narrow before they open back up.** All life with Noah, then many nations, one nation, one family, and one person, Jesus, through whom the whole world gets access again.
5. **In the new covenant, the box for our part is empty.** Hebrews 9:15 calls Christ the mediator of a new covenant, who died as a ransom to set us free. All that is left for us is to take the hand he holds out.

STORIES & ILLUSTRATIONS

The songwriter riddle. He opened by asking who wrote the best-known song by an Islander, working up from Lennie Gallant's Peter's Dream and Stompin' Tom's hockey song to Gene MacLellan. He held the answer until near the end. It was Put Your Hand in the Hand, the song Elvis covered, and it became his picture of our part in the covenant.

What was on his office walls. About ten years ago, early in a job at a Christian school, a visiting consultant noticed only maps of PEI on his walls and said he would like to see that Rob loved Jesus. His second thought was that he did not, not anywhere near the way Jesus loves him, and that is why he is so glad that love does not depend on his.

A good grip. He asked the kids if they had ever tried to pull away from a parent's hand to chase something across the road. It rarely works, because the parent is the one holding on, and that is how Jesus holds us.

Listen to the sermon again on Spotify · **Re-watch the sermon on YouTube**

902-894-4721 · info@charlottetowncrc.org · charlottetowncrc.org

Created by Levi Ewald