

New Year's Eve Service 2020

Prelude music

In All Times: A Faithful God

*Welcome and Call to Worship

Rejoice, friends of God!

Celebrate we are born anew in Jesus Christ, the hope of the world.

Thanks be to God, we are born anew in Jesus Christ, the hope of all the world.

We come to God, this night of all nights, to praise him for his faithfulness throughout our days, to lament all that was hard, and to pray for guidance in the coming year.

We come to God, our Creator Redeemer, who formed us and moulds us, who healed us and makes us whole. We place ourselves before God, whose care we know and whose help we seek.

We gather in the promise that nothing and no one shall separate us from the love of God.

Neither death nor life, Neither angels nor demons, Neither the present nor the future.

Nor powers, neither height nor depths, nor anything in all of creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*God's Greeting

*Song:

Remembering the Past Year

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Meditation

Remembering the Difficulties

God. Sometimes you are hidden from our eyes.

And so we cry out with the psalmist: (Psalm 22)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

**O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.**

And we ask!

How long O Lord? Will you hide your face forever?

We hold all the complexities of our life and world before you.

All the times life was hard,

And the times we could not see your face.

The unexpected or hard pregnancies, the illness, the difficult depression,

the loss of life or relationships or dreams,

the frustrations and hurts of family life,

the realization that life will never go back to the way it used to be,

the forced changes, the times we did not have enough,

and for all the times we could not receive love.

How long O Lord?

[Remembering those who have died]

We hold before you the times of achy loneliness and longing which is not fulfilled,

the private suffering,

the fear we travel with,

the abuse, trauma and addictions we live with.

the times people did not come to be with us but long buried memories did.

All the suffering of the world and in our communities which we've witnessed.

We lift before you our anger and sadness.

Why? How long? Still? When will evil end?

Where were you? Have you heard us? Will we make it through?

Do we wait for you in vain?

God, speak to us, bring healing to these deep places. Tell us of love and hold us in your embrace.

Jesus, give us hope again.

We wait for you, for your life, for your salvation.

Song:

Remembering our Failings

Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

(Silent Prayer)

In your mercy forgive us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Song:

Remembering with Gratefulness

Scripture: Psalm 8

Meditation

Generous God, for the abundance of your blessings to us

day by day and year by year,

We give you our thanks.

For the pleasures of life: for garden harvests,

coffee conversation, and familiar surroundings,

For health and strength to appreciate the wonder of life,

For needs met, desires fulfilled, love received

We give you our thanks.

For foods distributed to nourish body and spirit,

For homes which supply shelter, which nurture

order and beauty, and offer hospitality,

We give you our thanks.

For daily tasks, work and school which give us purpose,

For creativity, routine and flexibility,
For friends, family and even strangers who heard our stories,
For support, encouragement and growth,

We give you our thanks.

For glimpses of your love which holds and sustains us,
For healing and the freedom you give us,
For courage, wisdom, and resilience to face the hard and uncertain moments,

We give you our thanks.

For your grace and goodness found sprinkled throughout our days,

We give you our thanks.

[Remembering the births]

*Song:

The New Year

Hope for the Future

Scripture: Rev 21:1-6a

Meditation

On this edge of years
The crossroads between past and future
We come as who we have been,
All of who we are in this present moment,
And offer to you who we might yet be.

God, bless the servants that we are,

And the servants we will be.

We seek to embrace your mission in our communities and in the world.

Holy Spirit, grow us into Christ like servants, trusting in your transforming work.

Remind us of your promises and help us hope a vision of your reign here.

That all might come to know your presence and love. Amen.

Commitment to Trust

Lord's Day 1

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong—

body and soul, in life and in death—

to my faithful Saviour, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,

and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.

He also watches over me in such a way

that not a hair can fall from my head

without the will of my Father in heaven;

in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him,

Christ, by his Holy Spirit,

assures me of eternal life

and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready

from now on to live for him.

Blessing

Song:

(If there is an offering, we'll have it taken at the door)