

SERVICE FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE

December 31, 2020

OPENING DIALOGUE

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have beheld Christ's glory.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

HYMN OF LIGHT

Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory

#561

**Joyous light of heav'nly glory, loving glow of God's own face,
you who sing creation's story, shine on ev'ry land and race.
Now as evening falls around us, we shall raise our songs to you.
God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.**

**In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn,
in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song.
Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul,
love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.**

**You who made the heaven's splendor, ev'ry dancing star of night,
make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light.
Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way,
loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.**

PRAYER

Let us pray. **Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever—the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

PSALM 141

Let My Prayer Rise Up

232

Refrain Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

O God, I call to you, come to me now; oh, hear my voice when I cry to you.

Refrain

Keep watch within me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright. Refrain

All praise to the God of all--Creator of life; all praise be to Christ and the Spirit of love. Refrain

A time for silence

Let the incense of our prayer ascend before you, O God, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with purified hearts we may sing your praises with the church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify you forever and ever. **Amen.**

PSALM 8

Many and Great, O God

837

Many and great, O God, are your works, maker of earth and sky.

Your hands have set the heavens with stars;

your fingers spread the mountains and plains.

Lo, at your word the waters were formed; deep seas obey your voice.

Grant unto us communion with you, O Star-abiding One.

Come unto us and dwell with us; with you are found the gifts of life.

Bless us with life that has no end, eternal life with you.

A time for silence

God of majesty, amid the grandeur of your creation you sought us out, and by the coming of your Son you adorned us with glory and honor, giving us dominion over your works. Enable us so to care for the earth that all creation may radiate the splendor of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten

295

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,

he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,

**of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.**

Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,

by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,

**and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.**

This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,

whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;

**now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord
evermore and evermore.**

Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;

pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;

**let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore.**

**Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory
evermore and evermore! Amen.**

READINGS

Revelation 21:1-6a

A time for reflection

Matthew 25:31-46

A time for reflection

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness.

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Canticle of the Turning

723

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and
my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not
spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?**

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

**Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your
mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you
yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is
about to turn. *Refrain***

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.

Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.

**The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.**

Refrain

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:

God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.

**This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us
bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the
world around. *Refrain***

PRAYER LITANY

In peace let us pray to the Lord. For peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the health of all creation, for abundant harvest that all my share, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us; for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, for Interim Bishop Murray Finck, and for all servants of the church, for this virtual assembly, and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

A time for silence.

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

God is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

God grant you grace and peace at the dawn of this new year. **Amen.**

All flesh is grass, but the word of God remains forever.
God who is eternal keep you in hope of the resurrection. **Amen.**

The past, the present, and the future rest in God's hands.
God guard your coming in and your going forth, this new year and forevermore. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

282

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Stay safe and be safe. God is with us. **Happy New Year! Amen!**