

Worship Service – Jan. 2, 2022

Welcome

Good morning and welcome to this time of worship.

My hope is that these moments shared together online would be an encouragement to you amidst the ongoing challenges of life. Let's continue to hold up each other in prayer and remember that no matter where we are, whether in the church building or in our homes, we are the Body of Christ, joined together by his Spirit.

Opening Prayer – Heather Pattenden

Call to Worship

The psalmist has declared, "This is the day which the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Hymn: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" (Hymnbook #154, 3 verses)

Prayer of Confession

We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Let us, therefore, be free to confess the wrong we have done.

God of goodness and guidance,
In Christ you sent us light to live by,
yet we seek shadows in which to hide.
In him, you promise new life,
but we prefer with old habits,
nursing grievances and clinging to familiar opinions.
You are generous with your love,
but we reject neighbors and fear strangers who differ from us.
Remake us in the image of your Son with your mercy,
and teach us how to follow him in the year ahead. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The mercy of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting.
In fulfillment of the promises of God
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn: "Another Year is Dawning" (Hymnbook #281, 3 verses)

Pastoral Prayer

God of all time and space,

as we gather in prayer, we recognize that our lives are but small details
in the vast expanse of your universe.
So we thank you for attending to the details of our lives.
We thank you for the year just past,
for walking through the good days and the hard days with us.
The pandemic has been exhausting in so many ways
but we are grateful for your steadfast love.
We give thanks for all the ways ministries have been able to adapt
and for faithful generosity to support the needs we confront.
Thank you for friendships and relationships that sustain us in uncertain times.
We ask for your Spirit to guide us into the future,
and create new possibilities for ministry and mission through our congregation.
In gratitude
Our hearts kneel before you, O God;
Receive our humble prayers.

God of all people and places,
The year just ending has held sorrows for so many in our community and around the world.
We remember dear ones of have died
and pray for those who look ahead in loneliness or sadness.....

A silence is kept.

We pray for those who have faced challenges in health, in their families or at work.....
A silence is kept.

Support each one who needs you close by.

In compassion

Our hearts kneel before you, O God;

Receive our humble prayers.

God of light and love,
As we face the year ahead, so much around us is still uncertain.
We seek your strength and guidance in each challenge we will face.
Draw near to each one who must confront illness, loss,
economic hardship or changing circumstances....

A silence is kept.

Guide those for whom new opportunities appear and choices must be made

In anticipation

Our hearts kneel before you, O God;

Receive our humble prayers.

God of community and commitment,
We pray for wisdom and courage in the year ahead.
Strengthen us as a congregation to be a lively and committed witness to your love.
Help us reach out to our community in faithfulness and service.
Guide leaders in our nation and around the world

so that justice and peace may prevail,
especially in troubled places and vulnerable lives.
Show us all how to honour and protect your creation,
even when that takes sacrifice on our part.
Receive our humble prayers
and encourage us onward in the name of Jesus our Christ who taught us to pray together:

Lord's Prayer

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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Scripture Lesson: John 1:1-18 – Sandi Porter

Sermon: "Light and Life to all He brings"

Prayer after the Sermon

Light of life, you came in flesh,
born into human pain and joy,
and gave us power to be your children.
Grant us faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us,
so that all of creation may sing new songs of gladness
and walk in the way of peace. Amen.

Hymn: "Meekness and Majesty" (Let's Praise #138, 3 verses)

Benediction

Go in peace,
love and care for one another in the name of Christ,

and may the blessing of God
who established heaven and earth
fill your hearts and pour forth from you upon all people,

may the blessing of the Lord
who is born anew each Christmas time
call you towards a new tomorrow;

and may the blessing of the Spirit
who refreshes and renews all creation
guide and lead you as you enter the new year. Amen.