



## A Service for New Year's Eve

Thursday, December 31, 2020



### Introit

O Thou Who art unchangeable, Whom nothing changes,  
May we find our rest and remain at rest in thee unchanging.  
Thou art moved and moved in infinite love by all things:  
the need of a sparrow, even this moves Thee;  
and what we scarcely see, a human sigh,  
this moves Thee, O infinite Love!  
But nothing changes Thee, O Thou unchanging!  
*(from Prayers of Kierkegaard)*

*Samuel Barber*

*Officiant* Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Officiant* Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
*People* **Amen.**

**O Gracious Light** *Phos hilaron*

*Victor Hudson Schramm*

O gracious light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!  
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

## Readings

### The Hebrew Year

Reading

Exodus 23:9-16, 20-21

You shall not oppress a resident alien; you know the heart of an alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield; but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave the wild animals may eat. You shall do the same with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard. Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may have relief, and your homeborn slave and the resident alien may be refreshed. Be attentive to all that I have said to you. Do not invoke the names of other gods; do not let them be heard on your lips. Three times in the year you shall hold a festival for me. You shall observe the festival of unleavened bread; as I commanded you, you shall eat unleavened bread for seven days at the appointed time in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. No one shall appear before me empty-handed. You shall observe the festival of harvest, of the first fruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. You shall observe the festival of ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor. I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. Be attentive to him and listen to his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression; for my name is in him.

Psalm 111

Plainsong (*Tone VIII.5*)

- 1 Hallelujah!  
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, \*  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
  - 2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! \*  
they are studied by all who delight in them.
  - 3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, \*  
and his righteousness endures for ever.
  - 4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; \*  
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
  - 5 He gives food to those who fear him;  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
  - 6 He has shown his people the power of his works \*  
in giving them the lands of the nations.
  - 7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; \*  
and his commandments are sure.
  - 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, \*  
because they are done in truth and equity.
  - 9 He sent his redemption to his people;  
he commanded his covenant for ever; \*  
holy and awesome is his Name.
  - 10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; \*  
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;  
his praise endures for ever.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Prayer

Officiant

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God our Creator, you have divided our life into days and seasons, and called us to acknowledge your providence year after year: Accept your people who come to offer their praises, and, in your mercy, receive their prayers; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People

**Amen.**

## A Season for all Things

Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

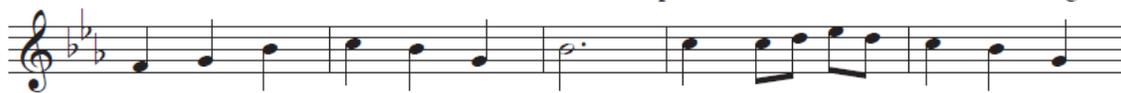
Hymn

Praise to the Lord for the joys of the earth

SLANE



1. Praise to the Lord for the joys of the earth: cy - cles of  
2. Praise to the Lord for the prog - ress of life: cra - dle and  
3. Praise to the Lord for his care of our kind: faith for the  
4. Praise to the Lord for the peo - ple we meet safe in our  
5. Praise to the Lord for the car - pen - ter's son dove - tail - ing



sea - son and rea - son and birth, con - trasts in land - scape and  
grave, bond of hus - band and wife, pain of youth grow - ing and  
faith - less and sight for the blind, heal - ing, ac - cep - tance, dis -  
homes or at risk in the street; kiss of a lov - er and  
wor - ship and work in - to one; trades - man and teach - er and



out - look and need, chal-lenge of fam - ine, pol - lu - tion, and greed.  
wrin - kling of age, ques-tions in step with ex - pe - rience and stage.  
tur - bance, and change, all the e - mo - tions through which our lives range.  
friend-ship's em - brace, smile of a stran-ger and words full of grace.  
va - grant and friend, source of all life in this world with - out end.

Prayer

Officiant

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

In your wisdom, O Lord our God, you have made all things, and have allotted to each of us the days of our life: Grant that we may live in your presence, be guided by your Holy Spirit, and offer all our works to your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People

**Amen.**

### The Acceptable Time

Reading

2 Corinthians 5:17–6:2

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

Canticle

*Nunc dimittis* (The Song of Simeon)

Plainsong (*Tone III*)

Lord, you how have set your servant free \*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
and the glory of your people Israel.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, \*  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, \*  
and will be for ever. Amen.

Prayer

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Most gracious and merciful God, you have reconciled us to yourself through Jesus Christ your Son, and called us to new life in him: Grant that we, who begin this year in his Name, may complete it to his honor and glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever.

People

**Amen.**

# New Heavens and New Earth

Reading

Revelation 21:1-14, 22-24

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal. It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling

BLAENWERN



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heav'n, to earth come down.
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lo - ving Spi - rit in - to e - very trou - bled breast!
3. Come, Al - migh - ty to de - li - ver, let us all thy life re - ceive;
4. Fi - nish then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be.



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown!  
Let us all in Thee in - he - rit; let us find the pro - mised rest.  
sud - den - ly re - turn and ne - ver, ne - ver more thy tem - ples leave.  
Let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee.



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;  
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
Thee we would be al - ways bles - sing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,  
changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heav'n we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter e - very trem - bling heart.  
end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at li - ber - ty.  
pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Prayer

*Officiant*

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty and merciful God, through your well beloved Son Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, you have willed to make all things new: Grant that we may be renewed by your Holy Spirit, and may come at last to that heavenly country where your people hunger and thirst no more, and the tears are wiped away from every eye; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People*

**Amen.**

Poem

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind  
For those that here we see no more;  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Welcome

The Rev. Peter W. Mayer

We praise thee, O God: we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.  
All the earth doth worship thee: the Father everlasting.  
To thee all Angels cry aloud: the Heavens, and all the Powers therein.  
To thee Cherubim and Seraphim: continually do cry,  
Holy, Holy, Holy: Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty: of thy glory.  
The glorious company of the Apostles: praise thee.  
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets: praise thee.  
The noble army of Martyrs: praise thee.  
The holy Church throughout all the world: doth acknowledge thee;  
The Father: of an infinite Majesty;  
Thine honorable, true: and only Son;  
Also the Holy Ghost: the Comforter.  
Thou art the King of Glory: O Christ.  
Thou art the everlasting Son: of the Father.  
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man: thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.  
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death:  
    thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.  
Thou sittest at the right hand of God: in the glory of the Father.  
We believe that thou shalt come: to be our Judge.  
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants: whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.  
Make them to be numbered with thy Saints: in glory everlasting.  
O Lord, save thy people: and bless thine heritage.  
Govern them: and lift them up for ever.  
Day by day: we magnify thee;  
And we worship thy Name: ever world without end.  
Vouchsafe, O Lord: to keep us this day without sin.  
O Lord, have mercy upon us: have mercy upon us.  
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us: as our trust is in thee.  
O Lord, in thee have I trusted: let me never be confounded.

Lord's Prayer

*All*      **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,  
          for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Collect**

*Officiant* Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

*People* **Amen.**

**Blessing & Dismissal**

*Officiant* May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, bestow upon you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

*People* **Amen.**

**Hymn**

The God of all eternity

WINCHESTER NEW



1. The God of all e - ter - ni - ty, un - bound by space yet al - ways near,  
2. What shall we of - fer God to - day—our dreams of things that might yet be,  
3. God does not share our doubts and fears, nor shrinks from the un - known or strange:  
4. Let faith or for - tune rise and fall, let ap - pre - hen - sion have its day;  
5. God grant that we, in this new year, may know and show the King - dom's face;



is pres - ent where his peo - ple meet to cel - e - brate the com - ing year.  
or, with eyes fas - tened to the past, our dread of what we can - not see?  
the one who fash - ioned heav'n and earth makes all things new and ush - ers change.  
those whom God loves walk un - a - fraid with Christ their guide and Christ their way.  
and may our work and wor - ship thrive as signs of hope and means of grace.