

NEW YEAR'S EVE

December 31, 2024

6:00 pm



Endings and Beginnings

AS WE GATHER

Tomorrow, we celebrate the beginning of the new year. For many, that will mean a family gathering, a meal, and stories about the past. On this New Year's Eve, many will make New Year's resolutions—something they intend to change in the upcoming year. There is a good chance you already know where you will spend that time, often with family, food, and storytelling.

Have you ever considered there is a day coming that will be like no other before it? That day will be a day of judgment and salvation. It will be a day when wickedness is forever vanquished to the pits of hell and the righteous will celebrate with a feast and the story of our salvation told. It will be a day of change—one the world has never seen before and never will again. Thanks be to God for that day—let us look forward to it with great joy!

WELCOME – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

899 Across the Sky the Shades of Night



1 A - cross the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are
 2 Be - fore the cross sub - dued we bow, To You our prayer ad -
 3 We gath - er up in this brief hour The mem - 'ry of Your



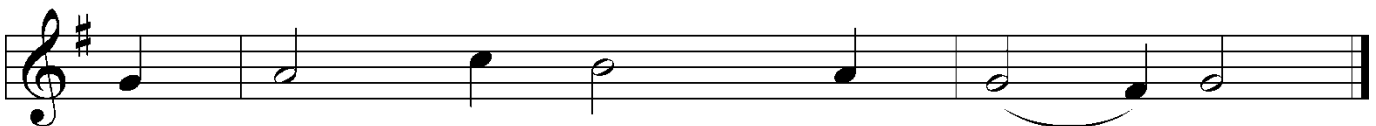
fleet - ing. We deck Your al - tar, Lord, with light, In
 dress - ing, Re - count - ing all Your mer - cies now, And
 mer - cies: Your won - drous good - ness, love, and pow'r Our



sol - emn wor - ship meet - ing; And as the year's last
 all our sins con - fess - ing; Be - seech - ing You this
 grate - ful song re - hears - es; For You have been our



hours go by, We raise to You our ear - nest cry,
 com - ing year To keep us in Your faith and fear
 strength and stay In man - y a dark and drea - ry day



Once more Your love en - treat - ing.
 And crown us with Your bless - ing.
 Of sor - row and re - vers - es.

5 Then, gracious God, in years to come,
 We pray Your hand may guide us,
 And, onward through our journey home,
 Your mercy walk beside us
 Until at last our ransomed life
 Is safe from peril, toil, and strife
 When heav'n itself shall hide us.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, who created and still sustains you, in the name of the ✠ Son, who redeemed and still intercedes for you, in the name of the Holy Spirit, who called you to faith and still sanctifies you.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: We are weary, Lord.

People: Stay with us.

Pastor: Remain by our side,

People: for we are so tired at the end of the year.

Pastor: We do not know what the future holds,

People: but we know that You hold it.

Pastor: Increase our faith in You,

People: and bring us safely to Your side.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: People of God, our Lord remains unchanging. So often, though, we forget that the God who thundered at Sinai still thunders at our sin. The God who gave the Ten Commandments remains just as serious about them today as He was then. We confess our forgetfulness.

People: Lord, we confess our sin.

Pastor: People of God, our Lord remains unchanging. Just as He protected the nation of Israel and brought them out of Egypt, He has promised to protect us. Yet we ignore His promise, and we worry and fret. We confess our anxieties.

People: Lord, we confess our sin.

Pastor: People of God, our Lord remains unchanging. He tells us that as long as it is today, we should repent. Yet we hold on to our sins. We confess our unrepentance.

People: Lord, we confess our sin.

Pastor: People of God, our Lord remains unchanging. Yet we constantly give in to our sinful natures. We promise faithfulness to God and run back to old sins. We confess our sinful natures.

People: Lord, we confess our sin.

Pastor: People of God, our Lord remains unchanging. The same Jesus who chose to die for His people died for you. The same Jesus who loved you at your Baptism loves you still. The same Jesus who fought to win you from sin, death, and Satan still fights for you.

People: Lord, we thank You!

Pastor: People of God, our Lord remains unchanging. The same Jesus who died to take away your sins still declares you to be His forgiven children. By His authority as a called servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Your sins of forgetfulness, your sins of habit, your sins of choice, your sins of thought, your sins of word, your sins of deed: They are all forgiven.

People: Lord, we thank You!

Pastor: People of God, our Lord remains unchanging. Just as He loved you then, nothing can separate you from His love now. Live in that unchanging love, from this year and into the next.

People: Praise be to God Whom we adore! Amen!

HYMN OF PRAISE**Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
 God of glory, Lord of love;
 hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
 opening to the sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
 drive the dark of doubt away;
 Giver of immortal gladness,
 fill us with the light of day!

Thou art giving and forgiving,
 ever blessing, ever blessed,
 wellspring of the joy of living,
 ocean depth of happy rest!
 Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
 all who live in love are thine;
 teach us how to love each other,
 lift us to the joy divine.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Unchanging God, You have watched over us from eternity and set our lives so that all things happen at the proper time. In the new year, grow our trust in You as the One who provides all we need at the proper time, and who has already given us our salvation through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Come and Hear the Good News!

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 *God has ordered a time for all things!*

Reader: For everything there is a season,
 a time for every activity under heaven.
² A time to be born and a time to die.
 A time to plant and a time to harvest.
³ A time to kill and a time to heal.
 A time to tear down and a time to build up.

People: ⁴ **A time to cry and a time to laugh.**
 A time to grieve and a time to dance.
⁵ **A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones.**
 A time to embrace and a time to turn away.

Reader: ⁶ A time to search and a time to quit searching.
 A time to keep and a time to throw away.
⁷ A time to tear and a time to mend.
 A time to be quiet and a time to speak.
⁸ A time to love and a time to hate.
 A time for war and a time for peace.

Reader: This is the powerful Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to our glorious God.

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

1) Our God, our help in ages past,
 Our hope for years to come,
 Our shelter from the stormy blast,
 And our eternal home.

2) Under the shadow of your throne
 Your saints have dwelt secure;
 Sufficient is your arm alone,
 And our defense is sure.

EPISTLE *Romans 8:31b–39* *Nothing will separate the Church from God's love.*

Reader: ³¹ What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³² Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? ³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. ³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.")

People: ³⁷ **No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.**

³⁸ **And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.**

Reader: ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



HOLY GOSPEL Luke 12:35-40 (*Be ready for Christ.*)

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. But understand this:

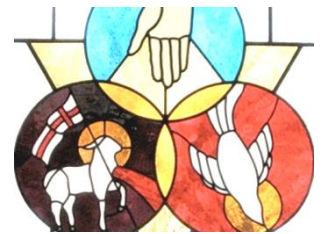
If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



732 All Depends on Our Possessing



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's a - bun - dant
 2 He who to this day has fed me And to man - y
 3 Man - y spend their lives in fret - ting O - ver tri - fles



grace and bless - ing, Though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
 joys has led me Is and ev - er shall be mine.
 and in get - ting Things that have no sol - id ground.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en By their God are
 He who ev - er gent - ly schools me, He who dai - ly
 I shall strive to win a trea - sure That will bring me



not for - sak - en And will keep a daunt - less heart.
 guides and rules me Will re - main my help di - vine.
 last - ing plea - sure And that now is sel - dom found.

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

+++ *As we end this year, let us approach our God with humility and in repentance.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father, over the last year we sinned against You so many times. We confess our thoughts of sin. We confess our desires to sin. We confess our unloving words. We confess our harsh actions. We confess our refusal to trust Your care. We confess all our rebellions against You.

People: Father, we confess our sin. Be merciful, O Lord!

+++ *As we end this year, let us approach our God with confidence.*

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You died for us. You lived a life without sin and without worry. You took our every sin on You and gave us Your robe of righteousness. Every sin we committed this past year and every sin of the next year, You already paid.

People: Jesus, You are our hope for years past and years to come.

+++ *As we end this year, let us pray for those closest to us: our families and friends.*

Pastor: Lord God, You bless us with friends and families. We praise You for this blessing! Remind us of the happy times we have shared this last year. Forgive us for the times we have failed to love our friends and families the way You would have us love. As we go forward into the new year, continue to remind us that friends and families are Your blessings to us.

People: We praise You for the blessings of this year.

+++ *As we end this year, let us pray for the weak.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father, be with those who cannot stand. Encourage the sick. Stand with those who despair. Warm the lonely. Use Your Word to strengthen those weak in faith. Forgive us for the times we have been callous to the needs of others. This year, open our eyes to see how we can serve and be Your hands. When we are weak, remind us that you are the Lord of time; You are ever with us.

People: We praise You for the blessings of this year.

+++ *As we end this year, let us pray for ourselves.*

Pastor: Dear Savior, be with us. This year has been hard. Forgive our sins. Remind us that just as You loved us enough to die for us, You remain unchanged. You love us still. Continue to be with us. Strengthen us in the knowledge that nothing in this coming year can separate us from Your love.

**People: We praise You for the blessings of this year.
Bless us this coming year! Amen.**

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

If you brought your offering today, you are welcome to leave it in the offering box you will find at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

We invite our guests and members to fill out our Friendship Card during worship, which is found on the back of the pew. Please leave your card at the end of the pew near the center aisle as you leave.

+ CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION +**LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promise, we are bold to pray:

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 forever and ever. Amen.



GOD'S MEAL GIVEN TO HIS PEOPLE

Preface

Tune: *The Church's One Foundation*

Pastor: May God the Lord be with you.

People: **God also be with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts rejoicing!

People: **We lift them up anew!**

Pastor: Give unto God all glory, all honor and all praise.

People: **To God is due thanksgiving and worship all our days.**

Words of Institution

People: **The night he was abandoned, the night he was betrayed,
Our Lord took bread and blessed it, then broke it, gave it, said:**

Pastor: Take, eat, this is my body, given in death for you.
Remember, as you taste it, my grace and mercy true.

People: **Again, the supper ended, before we all had fled,
He lifted in thanksgiving the cup, then passed it, said:**

Pastor: Drink, in my blood shed for you, forgiveness of your sin,
It's poured out so, rememb'ring, your love I then might win.

Angus Dei

All: **O Lamb of God, Christ Jesus, our sin you take away;
O Lamb of God, Redeemer, have mercy now, we pray.
O Lamb of God, our Savior, your grace in us increase;
Behold us with your favor, and grant to us Your peace!**

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

- 1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
 For weak and weary is my soul;
 Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
 To satisfy and make me whole:

Refrain

**Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
 Be for my soul the highest good!**

- 2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
 That sinners may salvation see
 Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
 So I, a sinner, come to Thee. Refrain.
- 3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
 Because I have a sinful heart,
 Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
 For Thou my faithful shepherd art: Refrain.
- 4 Weary am I and heavy laden;
 With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
 Receive me graciously and gladden
 My heart, for I am now Thy guest. Refrain.
- 5 What higher gift can we inherit?
 It is faith's bond and solid base;
 It is the strength of heart and spirit,
 The covenant of hope and grace. Refrain.

THE BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
 Who wondrous things has done, In whom his world rejoices;
 Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way
 With countless gifts of love
 And still is ours today.

BLESSING

Pastor: As the Lord has blessed and kept you this past year, He will continue to do so in the next year.

As the Lord has made His face shine on you and was gracious to you this past year, His face will still shine on you and He will be gracious to you next year.

As the Lord looked upon you with favor and gave you peace last year, He will continue to look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

All hail the power of Jesus' name!

Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe

On this terrestrial ball
To him all majesty ascribe
And crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe
And crown him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng

We at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown him Lord of all.

POSTLUDE

Have a BLESSED NEW YEAR!

WHERE WE SERVE

Preacher/Officiant	Pastor Christopher Fairbairn
Music Director	Paul Ventimiglia
Ushers	Christian Krauter Lenny Elliott
Greeters	Huskey Family
Elder	George Foor

Join Us for Church on Sundays at 8:30 & 11 AM