

*Rejoice,*  
**Rejoice!**  
*Embrace*  
*Year*  
*grace*

*with Thanks*  
*another*  
*of*

# New Year's Eve

December 31, 2024

6:30 P.M.

## AS WE GATHER

As the world rings in the New Year, there are many things to consider from 2021. We consider those who have died in the past year. We consider our own sins and failures. But we also consider all the ways in which Jesus has continued to lead and guide us. On this night, we remember the love of Christ that sustains us through each passing year, and we pray His blessing on another year of grace.

## PRELUDE

Variations on "St. Anne"

Jan Bender/Franklin Ashdown

## OPENING HYMN

899 - Across the Sky the Shades of Night

- 1 Across the sky the shades of night  
This New Year's Eve are fleeting.  
We deck Your altar, Lord, with light,  
In solemn worship meeting;  
And as the year's last hours go by,  
We raise to You our earnest cry,  
Once more Your love entreating.**

- 2 Before the cross subdued we bow,  
To You our prayer addressing,  
Recounting all Your mercies now,  
And all our sins confessing;  
Beseeching You this coming year  
To keep us in Your faith and fear  
And crown us with Your blessing.
- 3 We gather up in this brief hour  
The mem'ry of Your mercies:  
Your wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r  
Our grateful song rehearses;  
For You have been our strength and stay  
In many\_a dark and dreary day  
Of sorrow and reverses.
- 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.

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## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: He has brought us to the ending of the day

People: **and to the close of another year.**

Pastor: As we remember the year that is past,

People: **forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: As we turn to the year that is ahead,

People: **lead us, O Lord.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Pastor: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by His death on the cross and freed us from death by His resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

LW 326 - Our Fathers' God in Years Long Gone

**Our fathers' God in years long gone, Our God for all the years to be,  
Accept the sacrifice of praise We bring to you on bended knee.**

**For mercies to our fathers shown, For all your grace, so rich and free,  
To you, great God, the One in Three, We sing the hymn of jubilee.**

**Grant us your mercy to the end, With all your Spirit's pow'r and grace,  
Till with the ransomed, white-robed throng We stand at last before your face,  
Where we with bright angelic choirs And all who served you faithfully  
Will blend our voices endlessly In one unending jubilee.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor**        The Lord be with you.

**People:**        **And also with you.**

**Pastor:**        Let us pray.

**People:**        **Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the New Year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**+ WORD +**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Isaiah 30:15-17

*(God urges us to find our strength in a quiet trust in Him.)*

<sup>15</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.

<sup>16</sup> You said, 'No, we will flee on horses.' Therefore you will flee! You said, 'We will ride off on swift horses.' Therefore your pursuers will be swift! <sup>17</sup> A thousand will flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you will all flee away, till you are left like a flagstaff on a mountaintop, like a banner on a hill."

**Pastor:**        This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**        **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.  
People: **Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Pastor: You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men."  
People: **For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.**

Pastor: You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning—  
People: **though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered.**

Pastor: We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation.  
People: **You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.**

Pastor: All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan.  
People: **The length of our days is seventy years-- or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.**

Pastor: Who knows the power of your anger? For your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.  
People: **Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

## EPISTLE

Romans 8:31b-39

*(Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ.)*

If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 12:35-40

*(Be ready, for Christ will come at a time we least expect.)*

<sup>35</sup>"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>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.

*(continued on next page)*

<sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> 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.

<sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise to You, O Christ.

## **HYMN OF THE WORD**

**663** Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Rise, my soul, to watch and pray;<br/>From your sleep awaken!<br/>Be not by the evil day<br/>Unawares o'ertaken;<br/>For the foe,<br/>Well we know,<br/>Is a harvest reaping<br/>While the saints are sleeping.</p>           | <p><b>4</b> Watch against yourself, my soul,<br/>Lest with grace you trifle;<br/>Let not self your thoughts control<br/>Nor God's mercy stifle.<br/>Pride and sin<br/>Lurk within,<br/>All your hopes to shatter;<br/>Heed not when they flatter.</p> |
| <p><b>2</b> Watch against the devil's snares<br/>Lest asleep he find you;<br/>For indeed no pains he spares<br/>To deceive and blind you.<br/>Satan's prey<br/>Oft are they<br/>Who secure are sleeping<br/>And no watch are keeping.</p> | <p><b>5</b> But while watching, also pray<br/>To the Lord unceasing.<br/>God protects you day by day,<br/>Strength and faith increasing,<br/>So that still<br/>Mind and will<br/>Shall unite to serve Him<br/>And forever love Him.</p>               |

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## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Sermon Notes

*(Please stand)*

### **NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength in all generations. Standing on the doorstep of another year of His grace, let us thank and praise Him for all of His benefits to us: For the gift of life, for food and drink, for house and home, for all that we need to support this body and life,

**People: we thank You, Lord.**

Pastor: For the beauty of Your creation; for the gifts of art and music to enrich Our worship, for the freedoms we enjoy to worship and serve You,

**People: we thank You, Lord.**

Pastor: For those whom You have placed in our lives: our spouses, parents and children; our friends and neighbors; our co-workers and colleagues,

**People: we thank You, Lord.**

Pastor: For those who have been examples of Christian living, who have gone before us in the faith, who have encouraged us in our walk with You, who have been called to eternal life during this past year; for these and all others known to You,

**People: we thank You, Lord.**

Pastor: For the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation; for having called us to faith and restored us to Your family.

**People: we thank You, Lord.**

Pastor: For the blessings of health and contentment in the year to come; for the strength of faith to trust in all of Your promises, love, and care for us,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: For the leaders of nations that peace and justice may prevail; for our own leaders, that they may have the gifts of wisdom and courage,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: For the spread of the Gospel, that You would give us the courage and strength to seize opportunities to boldly share the love of Christ in word and action,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

## OFFERING

"Peaceful Meditation"

Dan Locklair

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

*In the Lord's Supper we receive Christ's body and blood in and with the bread and wine. The two great blessings of the Lord's Supper are the forgiveness of sins and strength to live an improved Christian life. In response to the Lord's command we are to examine ourselves privately prior to partaking of the Sacrament. There are three basic questions on which we should examine ourselves, all of which we should be able to answer in the affirmative if we are to partake of the Sacrament worthily: 1) Am I truly sorry for my sins? 2) Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior? 3) Do I promise with God's help to live a Christian life? If you agree with the above statement, we invite you to the Sacrament.*

## PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You have indeed been our refuge throughout all generations. Even before You created the heavens and the earth, You are God of gods and Lord of lords. At the close of this year, we praise You for Your constant love and compassion, having forgiven our sins for the sake of Jesus Christ and having restored us to Your family. For these and all that You do to support our bodies and souls, we join together with angels, archangels, and all the generations of believers who have gone before us and those generations yet to come, as we praise You and sing:

## SANCTUS



**C** Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## 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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.

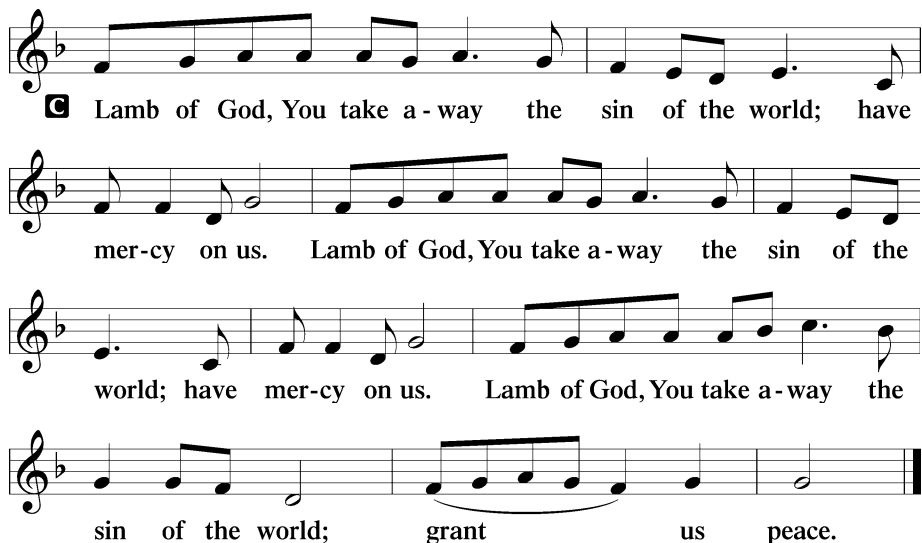
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

## GREETING OF PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

## AGNUS DEI



**C** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*If you wish to take communion in the pew, please raise your hand when the communion assistant comes down the aisle.*

*When the wine is distributed, individual glasses will be offered first, then the common cup. Communicants may take whichever is preferred. If taking the individual glass, please keep the glass visible so that the communion assistant with the common cup will know who has already communed.*

*Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the communion tray for those who have a sensitivity to the alcohol in wine.*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**733**    O God, Our Help in Ages Past

**880**    Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow

## **SILENT PRAYER**

*You may pray the following prayer as we give thanks to God for His good gifts:*

*Lord Jesus, we have gathered together in Your house to be guests at Your table. We thank and praise You that You have nourished us with Your body and blood and have covered our sinful hearts with the pure garment of Your perfect righteousness. As You have drawn close to us and shown us Your love and forgiveness, in the same way, help us to draw close and love one another. Keep us in the true Christian faith so that we glorify You with our lives until that time that You call us to be guests at Your heavenly table. In Your name we pray, Amen.*

*Please stand*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, assuring us, thereby, that we are truly members of His Body, the Church. And we ask You to help us by Your Holy Spirit that we continue in this fellowship and do the good works that You desire us to do, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom with You and the same Spirit be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

**878** Abide with Me

## **POSTLUDE**

“Abide With Me”

Franklin D. Ashdown

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## **Serving at Chapel**

Preacher: Samuel Wondemu

Liturgist: Ellory Glenn

Acolyte: Anna Zvirgzdins

Organist & Accompanist: Ryan Meyer