

A Service for New Year's Eve, 2020



Welcome

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

We come together, not with large, public celebrations of years past, but with whispered rumours of hope and anticipation of all that the year ahead may bring.

A candle is lit

We come together united by prayer and the love of Christ that has been woven through our beings and holds us tightly forever.

A candle is lit

We come together to remember all that has grieved us, all that has brought us joy and to pray for the year ahead. **Amen.**

A candle is lit

Opening Prayer

The light dwindles
into the darkness of winter.
It seems so fragile;
but the dark gathers it,
keeps it safe,
helps it to shine.

The life dwindles
into the darkness of earth.
It seems to be lost;
but the dark treasures it,
keeps it rooted,
helps it to rebirth.

The divine dwindles
into the darkness of the womb.
It seems impossible;
but the dark nurtures it,
and the Christ is born
in each of us.

Silence is kept

When the dark threatens us,
when the light dazzles us,
when life overwhelms us,
**we remember God is with us
in the gentleness of the dark,
the inspiration of the light
and the courage to be who we are.**

Hymn – O God our help in ages past

Psalm 90

O Lord my God, in you I take refuge.

Lord, you have been our refuge 
from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the earth and the world were formed, 
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust and say: 
'Turn back, O children of earth.'

For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday, 
which passes like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away like a dream; 
they fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green and flourishes; ♦
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

For we consume away in your displeasure; ♦
we are afraid at your wrathful indignation.

You have set our misdeeds before you ♦
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

When you are angry, all our days are gone; ♦
our years come to an end like a sigh.

The days of our life are three score years and ten,
or if our strength endures, even four score; ♦
yet the sum of them is but labour and sorrow,
for they soon pass away and we are gone.

Who regards the power of your wrath ♦
and your indignation like those who fear you?

So teach us to number our days ♦
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Turn again, O Lord; how long will you delay? ♦
Have compassion on your servants.

Satisfy us with your loving-kindness in the morning; ♦
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Give us gladness for the days you have afflicted us, ♦
and for the years in which we have seen adversity.

Show your servants your works, ♦
and let your glory be over their children.

May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us; ♦
prosper our handiwork; O prosper the work of our hands.

O Lord my God, in you I take refuge.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Colossians 3: 12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Short Reflection

Intercessions

Lord of all hopefulness, we bring to you the needs of our world as one year ends and a new year begins. We pray for the people of this parish, that all may know your comforting presence among us.

Lord of new beginnings, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in our community who help and care for others, for the schools, medical centres and care homes, that they may be sustained over the next few months as they look after all who have been entrusted to them.

Lord of new beginnings, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of all hopefulness, we pray for all who are starting this new year out of work and who are seeking a new start or a fresh chance. We pray for our economy and for all those whose needs have not yet been met.

Lord of new beginnings, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your heart of justice and equality to be realised in this coming year, in the opportunities we have to change those systems which are not working in people's best interest.

Lord of new beginnings, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of all hopefulness, we pray for our environment and climate as we end a year where climate change has brought out of control fires, storms and drought, and yet a change in human behaviour has seen lower carbon emissions and a flourishing of wildlife.

Lord of new beginnings, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for a sense of urgency in us, and a desire to deny those habits which have seen us harm your creation, and for the energy to see through changes that are beneficial to all life.

Lord of new beginnings, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of all hopefulness, we bring before you all who are lonely, sick or overwhelmed, and we give thanks for all who have worked to provide, test and administer the vaccines that have given us hope. We pray for all our healthcare and essential workers and give thanks for all their hard work in looking after those in their care.

Lord of new beginnings, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves, for all our hopes and dreams, for all our cares and worries, for the ability to love ourselves as you do.

Lord of new beginnings, **hear our prayer.**

Gathering our prayers as one, we pray the Lord's Prayer together:

**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.**

Lord of all hopefulness and of new beginnings,
you chose to dwell among us,
in our messy and broken lives.

Help us to know your presence among us still,
to enable us to reflect your light
into every part of our community,
that we may be strengthened by your love
and filled with your hope and perseverance
at the start of this New Year.

Amen.

Ring Out, Wild Bells – Lord Alfred Tennyson

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.

Blessing

As we start this new year,
may you know the comforting faithfulness of God the father,
may you feel the constant companionship of Christ our Lord,
and may you hear the encouragement of the Holy Spirit,
and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, rest among you and all those for
whom you pray, at the end of this year and into the next.

Amen.

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