



Welcome to Worship

Thursday December 31, 2020

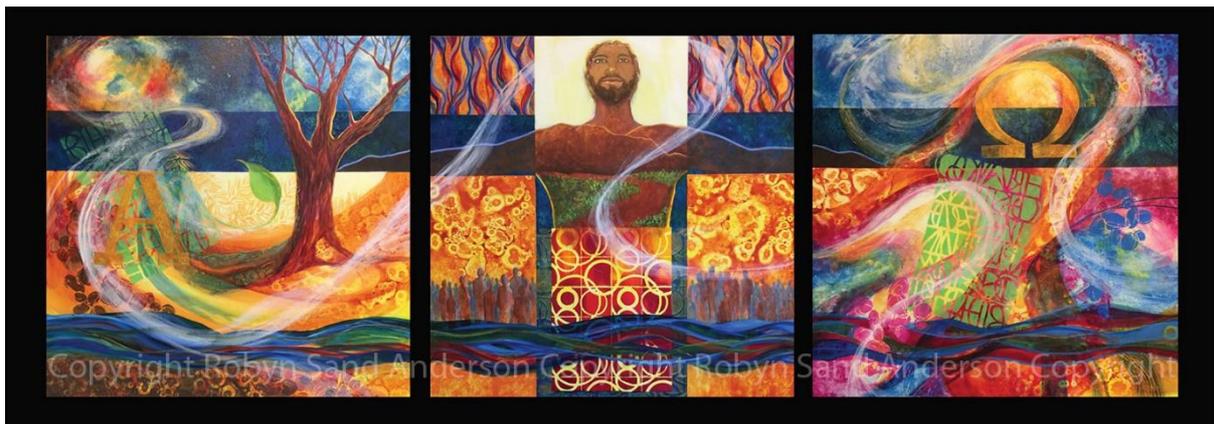
8:00 pm.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

In church (to be confirmed)

Online: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736>



Jesus Christ the Same, Yesterday, Today and Forever

Introit: “It came upon midnight clear” (Chris Tomlin)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4tGVUX3YqI>

Call to worship:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:1-5)

A candle is lit

A Season of Psalms:

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations
Before the mountains were brought forth
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. (Psalm 90)

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals^[a] that you care for them? (Psalm 8).

You turn us^[b] back to dust,
and say, “Turn back, you mortals.”
For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.

A Word of Wisdom: (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

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.

Hymn: **O God, our help in ages past**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKP_XxCBDZY

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 our shelter from the stormy blast,
 and our eternal home:

- 2 Beneath the shadow of your throne
 your people lived secure;
 sufficient is your arm alone,
 and our defence is sure.

- 3 Before the hills in order stood,
 or earth from darkness came,
 from everlasting you are God,
 to endless years the same.

- 4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone;
short is the watch that ends the night,
before the rising sun.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
will bear us all away;
we pass forgotten, as a dream
dies with the dawning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come:
be our defence while life shall last,
and our eternal home!

A New Year Litany:

Behold! I stand at the door, knocking;
if you hear my voice and open the door,
I will come in to you and eat with you,
and you with me. (Rev. 3:20).

God of all time, creator God,

In the past year

We have been tested and tried.

We have known smoke **and poor quality air;**

We have worn masks **and kept our distance;**

We have not hugged one another

And we have not shaken hands.

We have learned how to use QR codes

And we have lived on-line

We have not been ourselves.

In this past year

Some have lost jobs;

Some have struggled to make ends meet;

Some have been on job-seeker, others job-keeper

We have not been allowed to travel

We have been cut off from friends and family.

In this past year
The home has not been a safe place for some;
For some it has been a renewal of family life.
Some have been saddened by the loss of a loved one
And we have not been able to pay our respects and mourn
The way we would have wished.
We have not been ourselves.

Help us to leave behind the year that was
And greet the year that is to come
Knowing that your steadfast love never ceases.

Amen

Hymn: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnOFh9WFe6k>

Prayer of Confession:

God of all time, creator of night and day:
It has been a strange year, a difficult year
Your nature is to one of steadfast love;
**We look ahead to the year that is to come:
Some things we know will happen;
Much we do not yet know.**
Create within us a right heart:
Let your Word dwell within us
And between us.

**Forgive us for those times when
We have not loved you with all our heart,
Mind, soul and strength.
Forgive us those for those times when
We did not love our neighbour as ourselves.**

(Silence).

Words of Assurance:

You are the God in whom we live,
And move and have our being.
We are restless until we find
Our rest in you.

Song: 'Behold (behold), I make all things new'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Xgmsynls3k>

**Behold (behold), behold (behold),
I make all things new,
Beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold (behold), behold (behold),
I make all things new,
My promise is true, I am Christ the way.**

So, if anyone is in Christ.
There is a new creation:
Everything old has passed away;
Behold, the new has come.
Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:
Your sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

Learning Together:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow (Hebrews 13:8)

What do you see?



I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last,
the beginning and the end
(Revelation 22:13)

'This little light of mine'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKkbIZtqhyQ>

Sharing:

Your memories of New Year's Eve

What do you give thanks for?
What do you hope for?

Prayer: (Reinhold Niebuhr)

**God, grant me the serenity to accept the things
I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can,
and wisdom to know the difference.**

Sere: A Fijian hymn for the new year (to be arranged).

Reading: **Revelation 21:1-6a**

21 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”^[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2** I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4** ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

6 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 without cost from the spring of the water of life.

Reflection: In the company of Mark Mk 1:1.

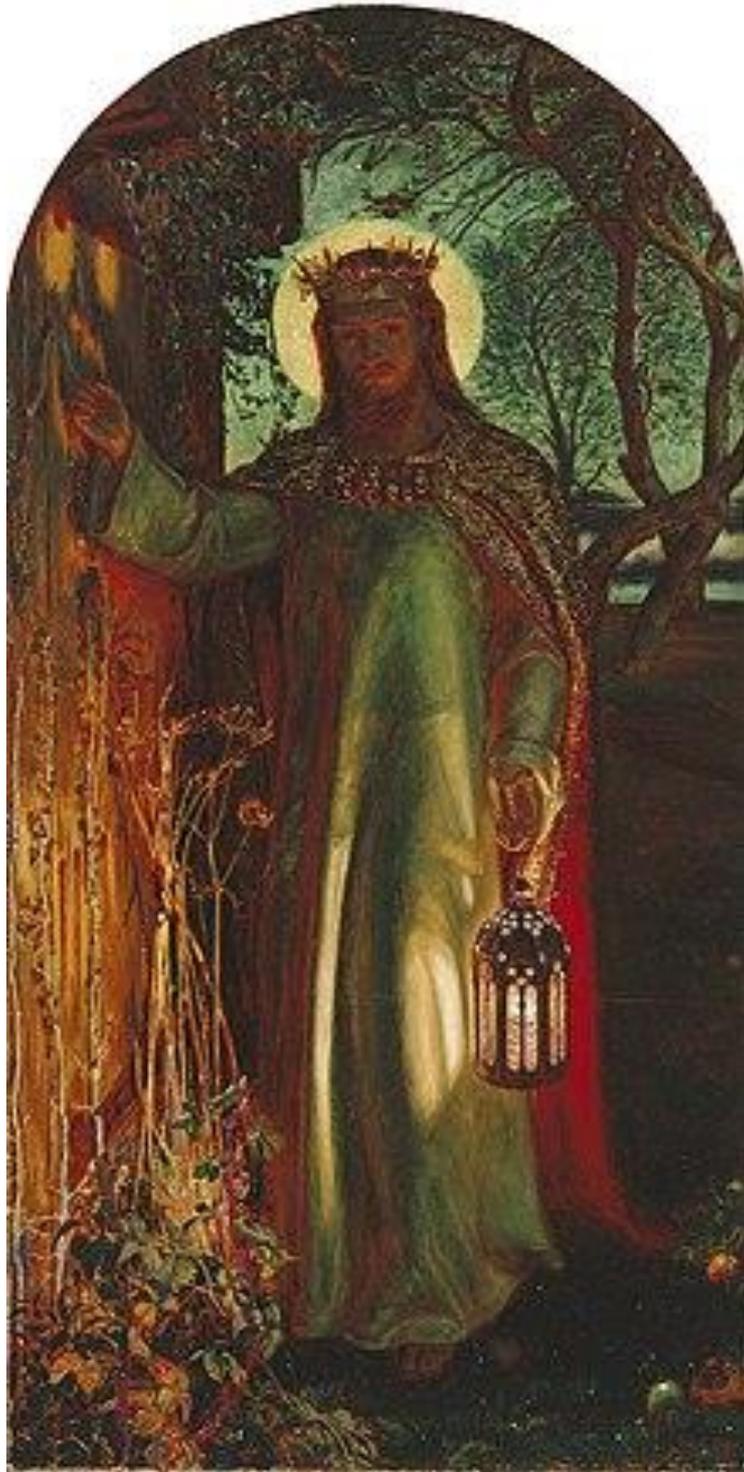
Hymn: A Fijian hymn for the New Year (to be arranged)

Prayer for Others

Let us create this prayer together:
who, where, what do you wish us to pray for

Commissioning and Blessing:

⁷“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. (Matthew)



The Light of the World (Manchester version)

Hymn: Let us build a house where love can dwell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKJgcv8SdnQ>

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive;
built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

***All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.***

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and
true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: