

# FOR WORSHIP AT HOME

New Year's Day 1st Sun. After Christmas

**JANUARY 1, 2023** 

## REFLECTIONS

"The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective. Unless a man starts on the strange assumption that he has never existed before, it is quite certain that he will never exist afterward. Unless a man be born again, he shall by no means enter into the Kingdom of Heaven."

G.K. CHESTERTON | FROM "ON JANUARY ONE"

" "I cannot transform myself or anyone else for that matter. What I can do is create the conditions in which spiritual transformation can take place, by developing and maintaining a rhythm of spiritual practices that keep me open and available to God."

RUTH HALEY BARTON | SACRED RHYTHMS

The following service takes about 15-20 minutes. Simple by nature, it is easily adapted for individuals, groups or families.

We find ourselves at an interesting intersection of times and seasons. It's still Christmas and will be until the Epiphany (Three Kings Day) on 1/6. At the same time, the world is celebrating the passing of 2022 and the start of 2023. The following liturgy reflects this mixing of time.

Standing in this intersection of seasons, many of us have a deep hope for new beginnings. Others of us may feel weary, jaded, or ambivalent. Whatever you carry, may our God meet you in this time of worship and speak the words of life you need to hear today.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

# Call to Worship

Leader God makes the sun rise and set,

the summers and winters come and go.

He is faithful from generation to generation. All Leader God helps plants grow and flowers bloom. He is faithful from generation to generation. All

Leader God gives us food to eat, places to live, and people to love us.

He is faithful from generation to generation. All God is always with us and keeps his promises. Leader All He is faithful from generation to generation.

Let us praise our faithful Go!

# **Prayer for the New Year**

**Together** 

God of all time, who makes all things new, we bring before you the year now ending. For life full and good, for opportunities recognized and taken, for love known and shared, we thank you. Where we have fallen short, forgive us. When we worry over what is past, free us.

As we begin again and take our first few steps into the future, where nothing is safe and certain, except you, we ask for the courage of the Magi, who simply went and followed a star. We ask for their wisdom in choosing to pursue the deepest truth, not knowing where they would be led.

In the year to come, God of all time, be our help and company. Hold our hands as we journey onward, and may your promise of shalom, where all will be at peace, be our guiding star.

Amen.

# **Christmas Hymn - Angels We Have Heard on High**

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled! Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With th'angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die. Born to raise the sons of earth,

#### **REFRAIN**

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

2. Christ, by highest Heav'n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord; Late in time, behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity, Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, lesus our Emmanuel.

3. Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Born to give them second birth.

#### **Psalm 148**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

<sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord!

For he commanded and they were created.

<sup>6</sup> And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

<sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,

<sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!

<sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

<sup>10</sup> Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

<sup>12</sup> Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the Lord!

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God!

### Reflection

Take a few moments to sit with the words from Psalm 148. What do they stir in you? How does the Psalm help you look back on 2022 and look forward to 2023? What invitations from the Holy Spirit do you sense? Take some time to share or to journal.

# **Hymn of Response:** Be Thou My Vision

1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night; Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my Light.

2. Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word: I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, I Thy true Son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

3. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise; Thou mine inheritance, now and always: Thou and Thou only, first in my heart; High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.

4. High King of Heaven, my victory won, May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

# Prayer of Thanksgiving.

Leader In the light of Christmas and the New Year ahead, let us give

thanks to God for his goodness in the past, present and future:

**Together** Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

we, your unworthy servants, give you humble thanks

for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation,

and all the blessings of this life,

but above all for your immeasurable love

in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,

for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,

not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service,

and by walking before you

in holiness and righteousness all our days,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,

be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

# Final Hymn - AARON'S BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you

May the Lord bless you and keep you

May the Lord make His face to shine on you

May the Lord make His face to shine on you

And be gracious to you

And be gracious to you

May the Lord lift His countenance on you

May He keep you in perfect peace

May He keep you in perfect peace

# The Nunc Dimitis - The Song of Simeon

**Together** Lord, you now 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. Amen

### **The Christmas Benediction**

Together

The joy of the angels,

the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the Magi, the obedience of Joseph and Mary,

and the peace of the Christ child be ours this Christmas.

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us always. **Amen!** 

<sup>\*</sup> Corporate Sunday worship resumes on January 8, 2023 at 10am.

