

New Year's Eve

December 31, 2021



Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Jenni Breems, Len & Lee Rhoda ♦ Organ/Piano: William Breems, Beth Vanden Berg
Sound: Jeff Ploegstra ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

Hearing Assistance

A telecoil hearing-loop system sends a signal into the sanctuary. If your hearing aid is t-coil equipped, try switching to the t-coil receiver. An FM hearing assistance system is also available for ears without hearing aids. Consult the sound operator for assistance.



Prayer for the New Year

At the beginning of this new year,
we implore God's blessing upon our work
and pray for the needs of this new year of grace.
Throughout all time you have blessed your people, O God,
and dwelt among them.
On the eve of this new year, inspire and guide us,
that all we do may find in you its beginning and fulfillment. Amen.

Gathering

Welcome

*Song: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LUYH 88

*Opening Prayer

God's Faithfulness in the Past

Scripture: Isaiah 63:7-9

I'll make a list of God's gracious dealings,
 all the things God has done that need praising,
 All the generous bounties of God,
 his great goodness to the family of Israel—
 Compassion lavished,
 love extravagant.
 He said, "Without question these are my people,
 children who would never betray me."
 So he became their Savior.
 In all their troubles,
 he was troubled, too.
 He didn't send someone else to help them.
 He did it himself, in person.
 Out of his own love and pity
 he redeemed them.
 He rescued them and carried them along
 for a long, long time.

The Year in Review

*Song of Praise: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

LUYH 348

Our Fears

Scripture: Psalm 74

You walked off and left us, and never looked back.
 God, how could you do that?
 We're your very own sheep;
 how can you stomp off in anger?
 Refresh your memory of us—you bought us a long time ago.

We pray in hope for our children and grandchildren and generations to come.
 We remember that their futures, and ours, are in your hands. *(silence)*
 We pray in hope for physical health in a variety of situations that come to mind.
 We remember that you are the Great Physician. *(silence)*
 We pray in hope against all threats of violence and threats of war.
 We remember that you are a God of peace. *(silence)*
 We pray in hope that we may speak the truth in love. *(silence)*
 Lord, come to us in our hopes. Show us your faithfulness.
 In the name of Jesus, through the power of the Spirit. Amen

Song: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

LUYH 405:12,3,6

God's Sure Promise for the Future

Scripture: Isaiah 45:2-6

"I'll go ahead of you,
 clearing and paving the road.
 I'll break down bronze city gates,
 smash padlocks, kick down barred entrances.
 I'll lead you to buried treasures,
 secret caches of valuables—
 Confirmations that it is, in fact, I, God,
 the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.
 It's because of my dear servant Jacob,
 Israel my chosen,
 That I've singled you out, called you by name,
 and given you this privileged work.
 And you don't even know me!
 I am God, the only God there is.
 Besides me there are no real gods.
 I'm the one who armed you for this work,
 though you don't even know me,
 So that everyone, from east to west, will know
 that I have no god-rivals.
 I am God, the only God there is.

*Parting Words: Romans 15:13

*Song: "Canto de Esperanza/Song of Hope"

LUYH 941

stand up for yourself!
 Do you hear what they're saying about you,
 all the vile obscenities?
 Don't tune out their malicious filth,
 the brawling invective that never lets up.

Prayer

Lord, we confess that we are a fearful people.
 We look around instead of looking to your faithfulness.
 Yet, at Christmas, your angels came with a message of good news
 and the command, "Do not be afraid."
 We are afraid of broken or changing relationships. *(silence)*
 We are afraid of a culture that highlights division of class and race. *(silence)*
 We are afraid of the future that our children and grandchildren will face.
(silence)
 We are afraid for our health and the health of those we love. *(silence)*
 We are afraid of threats of violence and war. *(silence)*
 We are afraid to speak when others might disapprove. *(silence)*
 Lord, come to us in our fear. Show us your faithfulness.
 In the name of Jesus, through the power of the Spirit. Amen.

Song: "Don't Be Afraid"

LUYH 429

Our Hopes

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11-14

This is God's Word on the subject: "As soon as Babylon's seventy years are up
 and not a day before, I'll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring
 you back home. I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take
 care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.
 "When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen.
 "When you come looking for me, you'll find me.
 "Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything
 else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed." God's Decree.
 "I'll turn things around for you. I'll bring you back from all the countries into
 which I drove you"—God's Decree—"bring you home to the place from which I
 sent you off into exile. You can count on it.

Prayer

We pray in hope for healing and forgiveness in broken relationships.
 We remember that you are a God of restoration. *(silence)*
 We pray in hope for the dignity of all people, regardless of class or race.
 We remember that all fellow human beings are made in your image. *(silence)*

Your most precious tribe—you paid a good price for us!
 Your very own Mount Zion—you actually lived here once!
 Come and visit the site of disaster,
 see how they've wrecked the sanctuary.
 While your people were at worship, your enemies barged in,
 brawling and scrawling graffiti.
 They set fire to the porch;
 axes swinging, they chopped up the woodwork,
 Beat down the doors with sledgehammers,
 then split them into kindling.
 They burned your holy place to the ground,
 violated the place of worship.
 They said to themselves, "We'll wipe them all out,"
 and burned down all the places of worship.
 There's not a sign or symbol of God in sight,
 nor anyone to speak in his name,
 no one who knows what's going on.
 How long, God, will barbarians blaspheme,
 enemies curse and get by with it?
 Why don't you do something? How long are you going
 to sit there with your hands folded in your lap?
 God is my King from the very start;
 he works salvation in the womb of the earth.
 With one blow you split the sea in two,
 you made mincemeat of the dragon Tannin.
 You lopped off the heads of Leviathan,
 then served them up in a stew for the animals.
 With your finger you opened up springs and creeks,
 and dried up the wild floodwaters.
 You own the day, you own the night;
 you put stars and sun in place.
 You laid out the four corners of earth,
 shaped the seasons of summer and winter.
 Mark and remember, God, all the enemy
 taunts, each idiot desecration.
 Don't throw your lambs to the wolves;
 after all we've been through, don't forget us.
 Remember your promises;
 the city is in darkness, the countryside violent.
 Don't leave the victims to rot in the street;
 make them a choir that sings your praises.
 On your feet, O God—