

praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.

Collect

LEADER Oh, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds, that we may pass into the new year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

PEOPLE **Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.**

LEADER Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping,

PEOPLE **that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep rest in his peace.**

*Benediction

Philippians 4:7

LEADER The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always. Amen.

*Parting Song

"My Friends, May You Grow in Grace" LUYH 938

Pass the peace to those around you as you leave.

New Year's Eve Vespers

A service of evening prayer at Covenant CRC



A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new.
You bring hope alive in our hearts
and cause our spirits to be born again.
Thank you for this new year—
for all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us a mighty flame
so that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
and live forever to praise Your glorious name.

First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Luke 2:10-11

LEADER But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Silence

Song

"Silent Night! Holy Night"

LUYH 85:1,3,4

*Greeting

LEADER Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

*Opening Sentences

LEADER Our help is in the name of the Lord;

PEOPLE **the maker of heaven and earth.**

LEADER Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

PEOPLE **the light no darkness can overcome.**

LEADER Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening

PEOPLE **and the day is almost over.**

LEADER Let your light scatter the darkness

PEOPLE **and illumine your church.**

*Song

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

LUYH 105:1-3

Prayer of Confession

Silence

united nation; for the good of the people and for the peace of the world. In Christ's name. Amen.

Song

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

LUYH 903

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER The Lord be with you,

PEOPLE **and also with you.**

LEADER Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE **We lift them up to the Lord.**

LEADER Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE **It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

The Institution

The Memorial Acclamation

LEADER Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

PEOPLE **Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Prayer of Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

PEOPLE **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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

The Communion

"Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"

LUYH 746

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Psalms 103:1-4

PEOPLE **Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being,**

**the work of your fingers,
 the moon and the stars,
 which you have set in place,
 4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
 human beings that you care for them
 5 You have made them a little lower than the angels
 and crowned them with glory and honor.
 6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
 you put everything under their feet:
 7 all flocks and herds,
 and the animals of the wild,
 8 the birds in the sky,
 and the fish in the sea,
 all that swim the paths of the seas.
 9 Lord, our Lord,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!
 though lofty, he sees them from afar.**

Silence

Prayer

LEADER Creator God, heavenly father, You alone know why you love your people, and in you alone we can love one another. By your Spirit, help us to find our true worth, not in other created things, but in you. Keep us faithful in our care for your world and in our compassion for your people. We pray this in the name of Jesus, creation's Redeemer. Amen.

The New Testament Reading

Revelation 21:1-6

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.
 PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Silence

Prayer

LEADER Gracious God, you have promised to make all things new: restore peace where there has been hatred, reduce tension where there has been anger, rekindle friendship where there has been enmity, relieve suffering where there has been violence and recreate a

LEADER Most merciful God,
 PEOPLE **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Assurance

Galatians 4:4-7

LEADER But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Celebration of Faithfulness

You are invited to share stories of God's faithfulness to you and your family over the past year and also testify to ways you see God's ongoing work in your life, in our community and in the world.

The Year in Review

Song

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" *LUYH 521*

The Psalm

Psalms 8

**1 Lord, our Lord,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!
 You have set your glory in the heavens.
 2 Through the praise of children and infants
 you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
 to silence the foe and the avenger.
 3 When I consider your heavens,**