

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

May God make your year a happy one! Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain, but by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes; not by making your path easy, but by making you sturdy to travel any path; not by taking hardships from you, but by taking fear from your heart; not by granting you unbroken sunshine, but by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows; not by making your life always pleasant, but by showing you when people need you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help. God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

HYMN: 47 "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

SENDING OUT

The light that enlightens all people has come into the world!

As we enter a new year may the glory of Bethlehem not fade from our focus.

As we leave this place may we take the joy of Simeon and Anna.

Cradle in your arms the hope of the world.

Cradle His peace within you, that will help you face troubles with trust, patience and wisdom.

Cradle His joy in your family, making us more attentive to others and easier to live with.

Cradle His love in the people you meet, friends and strangers, work mates and neighbours.

And know God's everlasting arms cradles you.

God our Creator, Christ Jesus the Incarnate Word, and the Life-giving Holy Spirit who makes all things new, be with you now and always.

BLESSING

Go now, bringing the joy of God's love with you to all whom you meet. Remember that God is with you in all you do. Rejoice, dear people, for God's Light has come for the whole world. Go in peace and may God's glorious peace always go with you. **Amen.**

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Longueville - St. Andrew's Uniting Church



ORDER OF SERVICE

Last Sunday of the Year

27 December 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let all of Creation praise God.

Let the mountains and hills, fruit trees, and all cedars praise God.

Let the wild animals and cattle, creeping things and lying birds praise God.

Let all rulers and those in authority praise God.

Let the sun and moon, shining stars, and sparkling seas and all of creation praise God!

Let all people young and old, men and women and children say ‘Praise God!’

The whole universe echoes with songs of praise.

Praise God!

HYMN: 147 “To God Be the Glory”

THANKSGIVING TO GOD

(Gnostic prayer Mid-2nd Century)

We give thanks to You!

Every soul and heart is lifted up to You, undisturbed name, honoured with the name ‘God’ and praised with the name ‘Father’, for to everyone and everything comes the fatherly kindness and affection and love, and any teaching there may be that is sweet and plain, giving us mind, speech, and knowledge:

Mind, so that we may understand You, speech, so that we may expound You, knowledge, so that we may know You.

We rejoice because you have shown us yourself.

We rejoice because while we were in the body, You have made us through Your knowledge.

The thanksgiving of the person who attains to You is one thing: that we know You. We have known You, intellectual light.

Life of life, we have known You. Womb pregnant with the nature of the Father, we have known You. Eternal permanence of the begetting Father, thus have we worshipped Your goodness.

There is one petition that we ask:

We would be preserved in the knowledge. And there is one protection that we desire: that we not stumble in this kind of life.

THE LORD’S PRAYER –

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

God who sent Jesus into the world,

we live in times of easy communication when words and information leaps continents, yet we often fail to understand those close to us.

We become preoccupied with ourselves and fail to hear the angels sing.

Guide our feet to Your humble stable.

Open our ears to hear the cries of those longing for healing and justice. Go before us into places of brokenness, into hospital rooms, and amongst those feeling isolated and alone.

Where we find neglect and poverty, enlarge the scope of our care.

Where there is prejudice strengthen those working for equality and a just sharing of resources.

When life is a struggle, help us offer encouragement knowing that You are a God who lifts up the downtrodden, who is ever renewing the world by your love. Amen. *Amen.*

HYMN: 106(i) “Now Thank We All Our God”

CHRISTMAS BOWL - Video Clip

BIBLE READINGS -

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3 *(Pages 739-740)*

Galatians 4:4-7 *(Page 1153)*

Luke 2:22-40 *(Page 1015)*

MESSAGE: “God’s Promise, Fulfilled!”

Krikor Youmshajekian

SONG: “Great is the Lord”

OFFERING - DEDICATION OF OFFERING

Jesus, Holy child, we are called to love, protect, and make room for You.

You give us a vision of fullness of life for all Your children.

May the wonder of Your birth live in our hearts every day.

May we, with Simeon and Anna greet Your coming with joy and experience the mystery of Your renewing grace.

We dedicate ourselves and the gifts we bring to You. *Amen.*

HYMN: 324 “Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace”