

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

12-31-2015

THEME: Our God promises to abide with us in the future.

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

OPEN HYMN SING

TIME FOR REFLECTION

P: Before we can turn the page and move to 2016, it is important that we look upon our lives this past year and years before and recognize those times that we have fallen short. God's word says that without the forgiveness of our sins, there is simply no way to move forward in life. During this time of silence we think about our shortcomings and sin knowing that by confessing them we will receive forgiveness

(time of reflection)

P: We confess.....

C: Lord, we confess our shortcomings. We know that what you desire from us is perfect obedience. Our past has caught up with us as we see that it is full of our failures due to sin and a lacking of faith in You. Lord, forgive us. Accept us as we are, unworthy for the task, yet gifted for Your purposes. Give us Your gift of Faith and Your Son's perfection.

P: The Bible teaches that God's forgiveness is great. As far as the east is from the west, that is how far the Lord removes our sins from us (Psalm 112). As we turn the page to 2016, know that we can do so with supreme confidence. Receive God's rich mercy for 2016. As a called and ordained servant of Jesus, I forgive you all of your sins—in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

TIME FOR PRAYER

P: As we turn to a New Year, let us do so by asking God to guide us, enlighten us, and strengthen us for what lies ahead. Let us pray....

P: God—Your mercy and forgiveness are great. Knowing that truth, we place all that we have thought, said and done that is harmful from last year into your hands. But, we also know that you are a God of the future. We ask that you would stay with us during the difficult times of this next year. We implore you to guide us as we make decisions. And we also thank you for all of the great opportunities that you have already prepared to come our way. Help us to recognize your work in our lives—through Jesus Christ, our Lord

C: Amen.

TIME FOR GOD'S WORD

[Ephesians 4:22-32 "Put off the old self.....be renewed!"](#)

to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

[Romans 8:31-39 "All things work together for good for those who love the Lord"](#)

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died--more than that, who was raised--who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[CHOIR ANTHEM](#)

[Silent Is the Night](#)

[By Jay Althouse](#)

[MESSAGE](#)

[Holy Habits](#)

[OPEN HYMN SING](#)

[AFFIRMATION OF FAITH](#)

C: I have faith in God, in response to overwhelming love.....I believe that God created me and all that I have,.....and has given to me gifts beyond measure.....I have faith in Jesus, who emptied Himself out of His love for me.....I believe that Christ died on a cross for my sin, conquered death and the power of evil, and was raised to life on the third day. His death is mine, His resurrection is mine, new life is mine because of Jesus' words and works.....I believe in the Holy Spirit in response to overwhelming love.....I believe that the Holy Spirit continues to call people by the Gospel, and creates and builds the church of Christ. Through the power of the Spirit I have power to stand in strength and against all adversity.....I believe that Jesus is preparing a place for me and will come again to take each of us to be with Him. Amen.

[PRAYERS FOR A NEW YEAR](#)

TIME FOR STRENGTH

P: God who supplies our every need has given us this meal to share.

C: Lord, we thank You for the bread of eternal life.

P: We come to the table, knowing that we need the strength that comes from body and blood of Jesus.

C: Lord, we thank You for the bread of eternal life.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

TIME FOR A BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN (Green Book 551)

Joyful, Joyful

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!

Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, Praising thee, their sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,

Stars and angels sing around thee, Center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,

Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,

Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest!

Thou our Father, Christ our brother, All who live in love are thine;

Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine!