

**Good Shepherd Church
New Year Service of Worship
January 2, 2022**

Responsive Call to Worship and God's Greeting

Congregation, what is your source of comfort and encouragement?

Our help comes from Yahweh, the maker of heaven and earth.

With joy receive these words of greeting from God: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. (Galatians 1:3,4)

Amen!

Praise, O children of Yahweh, praise the name of Yahweh.

We love you, Lord, for you hear our voices; you hear our cry for mercy.

How can we repay the Lord for all his goodness to us?

We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. We will fulfill our vows to the Lord, in the presence of all his people. (Psalm 116:13,14)

Reaffirmation of Faith

The Reading of Psalm 90:1,2

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

² Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Sing PsH 170:1,2

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

² Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure

The Reading of Psalm 90:3-6

You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.

Sing PsH 170:3,4

3 Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

The Reading of Psalm 90:13-17

Return, O LORD! How long?

Have pity on your servants!

¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.

¹⁶ Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

Sing PsH 170:5,6

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home!

We Are Renewed In God's Grace

The Call to Confession

Psalm 90:7-8, 12

For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.

⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

...

So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Our Spoken Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God and Father in heaven, you are faithful and just; you are willing to forgive our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness. Before you and our sisters and brothers, we confess that we have spoken many empty words and have at times broken even our most sacred vows. Our sins are an affront to you; they are a disgrace before the watching world, and they have caused us unspeakable pain. Through our Lord Jesus may we begin this new year with the joy of knowing we belong to you, with the freedom of being purified by your blood, and with the healing which your grace alone can bring. In the name of our blessed Savior we pray..

Assurance of Pardon

Yahweh is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. **Psalm 103:8-12**

GOD REAFFIRMS HIS PROMISES

Pardon from Sin – Forgiveness and Reconciliation with God in Christ Jesus

Scripture Reading: **1 John 2:1,2**

My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an ***advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the Righteous One.***

²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sharing the Lord's Supper

M: Beloved in the Lord Jesus, the meal which we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance, communion, and hope.

C: We come to remember that Jesus was sent into the world to assume our flesh and blood, to become God with us, that we might be redeemed.

As we come to the table as repentant sinners, Christ wants to assure us of his forgiveness. As we come with our struggles, Christ wants to assure us of his living presence. As we come with our doubts, Christ wants to touch us with the flesh and blood reality of his life.

And

At the Lord's Supper we look back, remembering the whole story of our salvation; we look around, seeing that we are together members of the body of Christ; we look forward to the great banquet in God's coming kingdom; and we look up to our ascended Lord, who promises to feed us with his body and blood by the Holy Spirit.

Prayers of Remembrance and Thanks

By worshippers extemporaneously

1Corinthians 11:23-26

Bread

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you.

Cup

Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

²⁶ For as often as WE eat this bread and drink the cup, WE proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Response: "**When Peace like a River**" vv. 1-3

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain

*It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. Refrain

3 My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Eternal Life – Begins now through faith in Jesus

Scripture Reading: **John 6:45-51**

⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— ⁴⁶ not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever believes has eternal life.** ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so **that one may eat of it and not die.** ⁵¹ **I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.** And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Through union with Christ by faith. Eternal life is current possession to be consummated at the resurrection when Jesus returns.

Catechism Response:

How does "the resurrection of the body" comfort you?

**Not only my soul
will be taken immediately after this life
to Christ its head,
but even my very flesh, raised by the power of Christ,
will be reunited with my soul
and made like Christ's glorious body.**

How does the article concerning "life everlasting" comfort you?

**Even as I already now experience in my heart
the beginning of eternal joy,
so after this life I will have
perfect blessedness such as
no eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no man has ever imagined:
a blessedness in which to praise God eternally.**

From Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 22

Prayer that is Heard – God Hears Our Prayers

Scripture Reading: **Matthew 7:7-12**

⁷“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

¹²“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Help in Temptations -

Scripture Reading: **Hebrews 4:14-16**

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Response: A Reading of Psalm 34:1-10
Lexham English Bible

Of David, when he pretended to be crazy in front of Abimelech so that he drove him out, and so he departed.

34 I will bless Yahweh at all times;
his praise *shall be* in my mouth continually.

² My soul makes its boast in Yahweh;
let the humble hear and be glad.

³ Magnify Yahweh with me,
and let us exalt his name together.

⁴ I sought Yahweh and he answered me,
and from all my terrors he delivered me.

⁵ They looked to him and were radiant,
and their faces shall not be ashamed.

⁶ This poor *man* called and Yahweh heard,
and saved him from all his troubles.

⁷ The angel of Yahweh encamps
around *those who* fear him,
and he rescues them.

⁸ Taste and see that Yahweh *is* good;
blessed *is* the man *who* takes refuge in him.

⁹ Fear Yahweh, *you* his saints,
for there is no lack for *those who* fear him.

¹⁰ *The* young lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek Yahweh will not lack for any good thing.

Protection in All Things /God's Presence and Love

Scripture Reading: **Romans 8:31-39**

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² 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? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Contentment – based on the Sovereignty of God

Scripture Reading: **Philippians 4:10-13**

¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Lamentations 3:24

“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

Psalm 16:5-6

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

Psalm 73:26

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Response:

**My only comfort in life and in death
is that I am not my own, but belong -
body and soul, in life and in death -
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.
He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven;
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.
Because I belong to him
Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for him.**

From Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 1, Q/A 1 (

WE GO OUT IN FAITH

Hymn- "If You But Trust in God to Guide You,"

If you but trust in God to guide you
and place your confidence in him,
you'll find him always there beside you
to give you hope and strength within;
for those who trust God's changeless love
build on the rock that will not move.

2 Only be still and wait his pleasure
in cheerful hope with heart content.
He fills your needs to fullest measure
with what discerning love has sent;
doubt not our inmost wants are known
to him who chose us for his own.

3 Sing, pray, and keep his ways unswerving,
offer your service faithfully,
and trust his word; though undeserving,
you'll find his promise true to be.
God never will forsake in need
the soul that trusts in him indeed.

Our Commitment to Holy Living: The Third Use of the Law

Since God has given us his great promises, how shall we live in relationship to Him who walks with us?

We will have no other gods before Him; we will not make for ourselves any substitute gods; we will not abuse the name of the Lord but speak it only in reverence and love; we will honor the Lord's day through worship, witness and fellowship with his people.

How shall we live in relationship to others?

We will honor our parents and hold the family in high esteem; we will not abuse, hate or injure our friends or neighbors by word, gesture or deed; we will not commit adultery, but live holy disciplined lives; we will not steal; we will not lie; we will not grasp for what we do not have, nor reject others for having it.

How does Jesus summarize these commandments?

He says that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves, and by God's grace, we will do it!

New Year Wish

May the God who gave us this year
and the Saviour who walked at our side each day
and the Spirit who filled us with life abundant,
bless the coming year with peace and hope and joy, Amen.

***Benediction**

Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. ([Heb. 13:20-21](#))

