



## **NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP: PREPARING FOR 2021**

### **THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:**

- ❖ *God gives us all a free trip around the sun each year. Enjoy the ride.*
- ❖ *"I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're Doing Something.*  
*So that's my wish for you, and all of us, and my wish for myself. Make New Mistakes. Make glorious, amazing mistakes. Make mistakes nobody's ever made before. Don't freeze, don't stop, don't worry that it isn't good enough, or it isn't perfect, whatever it is: art, or love, or work or family or life.*  
*Whatever it is you're scared of doing, Do it. Make your mistakes, next year and forever."* - Neil Gaiman, Author
- ❖ *"There are better things ahead than any we leave behind."* - C.S. Lewis, Author

### **THE LIGHT OF A NEW YEAR**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: We have come from everywhere to prepare for a New Year.

**People: We have come seeking rest and renewal as we enter the New Year.**

Leader: We have come with burdens, and questions, and failures from the year past.

**People: We have come seeking a new start.**

Leader: We have come seeking peace in a world of strife and conflict.

**People: We hope for something new in the time ahead.**

Leader: Mostly we have come to ask You Lord to travel with us into this New Year.

**People: May we enter this New Year in faith.**

#### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING SONG:    *Those Who Dream***

**OUR CONFESSION:**

**All: Divine Companion, from the beginning of life to its ending, we rest in your loving embrace, though we do not always recognize your presence. Our eyes are blind, and our calendars are too full to notice your presence. We narrowly define how you work in our lives and often miss your surprises.**

**Sometimes we cling to the way it used to be. Other times we fling ourselves at anything new and lose the gifts of past tradition.**

**Remind us, loving God, that you are more than our past experiences and future hopes. You are always working for good and often in surprising, unexpected ways. Keep our eyes open to see. In the name of Jesus. Amen.**

(Silence to reflect on what we need to let go of and what we need to embrace as we enter a new year.)

**HYMN:    O God of Mercy, God of Light (verse 1) (*music at end of bulletin*)**

**SCRIPTURE READING:    2 Corinthians 5:16-17**

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

**MEDITATION**

**HYMN:    O God of Mercy, God of Light (verse 2) (*music at end of bulletin*)**

**SCRIPTURE READING:    Ephesians 2:14-22 (The Message)**

<sup>14-15</sup> The Messiah has made things up between us so that we're now together on this, both non-Jewish outsiders and Jewish insiders. He tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance. He repealed the law code that had become so clogged with fine print and footnotes that it hindered more than it helped. Then he started over. Instead of continuing with two groups of people separated by centuries of animosity and suspicion, he created a new kind of human being, a fresh start for everybody.

<sup>16-18</sup> Christ brought us together through his death on the cross. The Cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility. Christ came and preached peace to you outsiders and peace to us insiders. He treated us as equals, and so made us equals. Through him we both share the same Spirit and have equal access to the Father.

<sup>19-22</sup> That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You *belong*

here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

### **MEDITATION**

**HYMN: O God of Mercy, God of Light (verse 4) *(music at end of bulletin)***

**SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 25:31-40**

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

### **MEDITATION**

**HYMN: O God of Mercy, God of Light (verse 5) *(music at end of bulletin)***

**SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 12:1-2**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

### **MEDITATION**

**HYMN: O God of Mercy, God of Light (verse 6) *(music at end of bulletin)***

**P: In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.**

**C: But now in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.**

## ***THE PRAYERS***

### ***THE LORD'S PRAYER:***

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### ***THE SENDING OUT :***

**Leader:** Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untraveled, through challenges unknown. Give us faith to go out into this New Year with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:     Amen!**

***THE SENDING SONG:   Canticle of the Turning (music at end of bulletin)***

### ***THE DISMISSAL:***

**Leader:**    Go into the New Year in peace and serve the Lord.

**People:**   **Thanks be to God.**

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*Canticle of the Turning*

My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
From the hall of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast. God's mer - cy must de -

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You  
depth of the past to the end of the age to be. Your  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne. The  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This

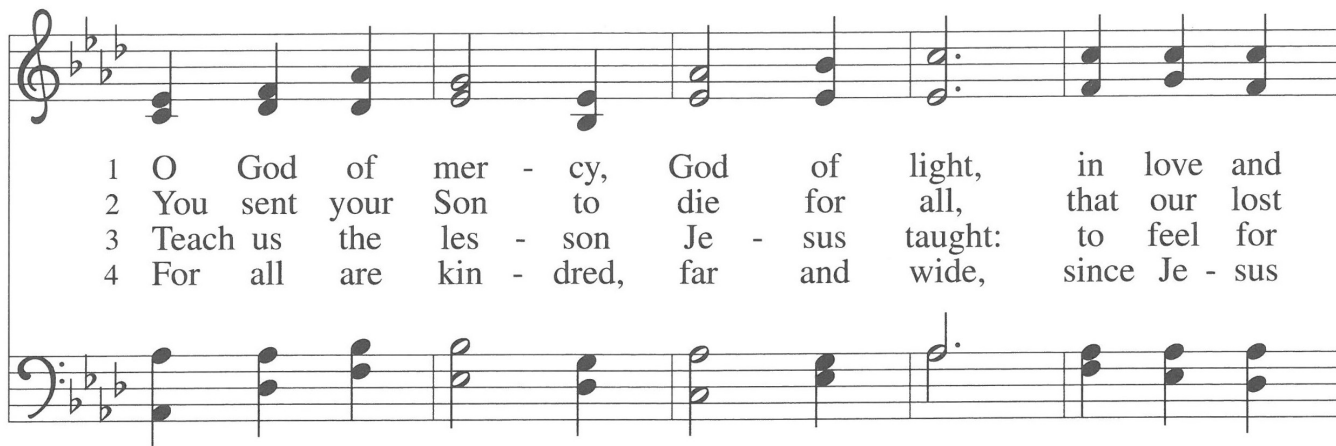
fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

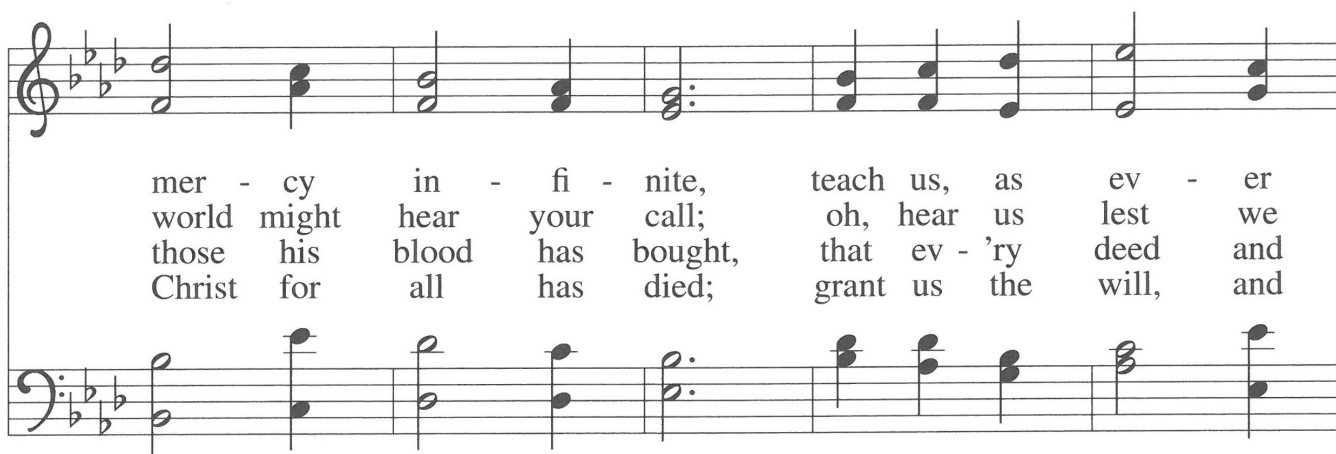
name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn? V.2  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn. My  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn. V.4  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round. My

heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a -  
way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.


## O God of Mercy, God of Light



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and  
 2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost  
 3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for  
 4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er  
 world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we  
 those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and  
 Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.  
 stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.  
 word and thought may work a work for you.  
 grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,  
 may we each other's burdens share;  
 may we, where help is needed, there  
 give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move  
 all those who live to live in love,  
 till you receive in heav'n above  
 all those who live in you.



# OUR *Welcome* IS WIDE OPEN

Skeptic. Cynic. Certain. Believer. Confident. Fearful. Doubter. Seeker. Questioner.  
Latino. Black. Asian. White. Indigenous. Immigrant. Any combination of ethnic or  
racial identities. Female. Male. Straight. Gay. Bisexual. Transgender. Questioning.  
Rich. Poor. Middle-class. Barely making it. Able bodied. Specially abled. Disabled.  
Young. Old. In-between. Married. Single. Divorced. Awaiting trial. Served time.  
On probation. Tired. Worn. Hopeful. Employed. Unemployed. Workaholic. Slacker.  
Anxious. Depressed. Confused. Centered. Inked. Pierced. Both. Life long follower  
of Jesus. Regular attendee. Occasional attendee. Curious onlooker. Don't quite fit the box.  
Need a prayer right now. **Trinity is a faith community where we believe  
in God's love, grace and mercy—illustrated most clearly through Jesus  
Christ. We believe we are all children of God, created in God's image  
and equal in God's sight. We believe God loves us just as we are and  
way too much to let us stay this way. We are called to live in God's light  
and be transformed, not through judgment but through unconditional love.  
We believe God's love is all-inclusive and is stronger than the pressure  
to be perfect regardless of whatever labels we carry. Saint. Sinner. Democrat.  
Republican. Independent. Libertarian. Green. Socialist. Apolitical. Addicted. Recovering.  
We don't care what religion or denomination you are. We are all Human. We are all Flawed.  
We are all Beloved. —You are welcome here.**

## COME *as you are.*



TRINITY CONGREGATION WELCOME STATEMENT | MARCH 2017