



NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP: PREPARING FOR 2024

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ Old and new make the warp and woof of every moment. There is no thread that is not a twist of these two strands. *- Ralph Waldo Emerson*
- ❖ I have an iPod, but I do still love CDs. There's something nice and tangible about a CD. I'm a mixture of old and new - I love my sewing machine, but I've also embraced new technology. The iPad is what did it for me - it's extraordinary. *- Twiggy*
- ❖ You always want to see people who are just like a little outside of the box. Maybe making mistakes sometimes. Not taking something that's straight off the runway, but mixing and matching things. Old and new. *- Jacob Hashimoto*

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: At the Door of the Year (music at end of bulletin)

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.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: *In a Lowly Manger Born, vs. 1 & 3*
(music at end of bulletin)

SCRIPTURE READING: *Matthew 13:52*

And Jesus said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

MEDITATION

SONG: *Wise Men Come Journeying – verse 1* *(music at end of bulletin)*

SCRIPTURE READING: *Mark 3:1-5*

Again Jesus entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Come forward.' Then he said to them, 'Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?' But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

MEDITATION

SONG: *Wise Men Come Journeying – verse 2* *(music at end of bulletin)*

SCRIPTURE READING: *2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

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! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through

Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

MEDITATION

SONG: Wise Men Come Journeying – verse 3 (music at end of bulletin)

SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 3:7-16

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

MEDITATION

SONG: Wise Men Come Journeying – verse 4 (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

LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

At the Door of the Year

1. At the door of the year when the past meets the
2. In the sun, in the snow, in each sea - son of
3. In the smile that we smile, in the hands held in

fu - ture, let the mo - ment be light for the
liv - ing, let the fac - es of peace show the
wel - come, in the catch - ing of joy like a

roads we will tread; when the clock seems too
world how it's done; when the li - on and
child's bright bal - loon; let the col - ors of

fast or goes slow - ly with - in us, let our
lamb both can lie down to geth - er, think of
peace spread as far as the rain - bow arch - ing

faith tell the time - there are good things a - head.
vi - o - lence gone, think a gift, not a gun:
o - ver an earth where we all sing in tune.

Wel - come in, this new year, wel - come in, hope - ful

peo - ple! (Make a vow that some - how

we will all cre - ate peace!) Sing tag last time.

ELW 718 to ELW 693 In a Lowly Manger Born v 1 & 3

1. In a low - ly man - ger born, hum - ble life be -
3. Then, to res - cue you and me, Je - sus died up -

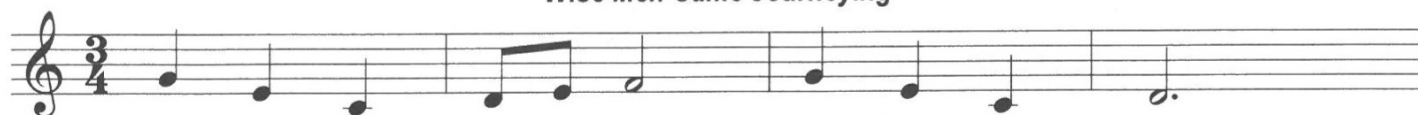
gun in scorn; un - der Jo - seph's watch - ful eye,
on the tree, See in him God's love re - vealed;

Je - sus grew as you and I, knew the suf - f'ring
by his pas - sion we are healed. Now he lives in

of the weak, knew the pa - tience of the meek,
glo - ry bright, lives a - gain in pow'r and might;

hun - gered as but poor folk can; this is he. Be - hold the man!
come and take the path he trod, son of Mar - y, Son of God.

Wise Men Came Journeying



1. Wise men came jour-ney-ing, once, long a-go,
2. Wise are the trav-el-ers led to move on
3. Wise are each one of us look-ing for change,
4. Wise ones keep jour-ney-ing all through their days,



cam-el hooves swirl-ing the sand dune and snow,
fol-low-ing signs where the Christ light has shone,
star-gaz-er peo-ple, re-spect-ing the strange,
bring-ing their gifts to the source of their praise,



gold in the sad-dle-bag, myrrh in the jar,
fac-ing the des-erts and cross-ing the lines,
in-ner and out-er worlds o-pen to light,
risk-ing the Prom-ise with all they hold dear,



in-cense to hon-or the Child of the star.
heed-ing no lim-its that cul-ture de-fines.
cen-tered on see-ing the real and the right.
seek-ing God's peace at the door of the year.

Bring in Your New World

1. Bring in your new world, child of the sun,
 2. Bring in your new world, child of the east,
 3. Bring in your new world, child of all time,
 4. Bring in your new world, child of our earth,

God's shin - ing pres - ence, bright in your es - sence,
 dan - ger - ous lead - er, born to your be - plead - er,
 peace with - out bor - der, peace in the new or - der,
 hold - ing cre - a - tion in your com - pas - sion,

Christ - mas be - gun; bring to our sad world
 proph - et and priest; come with your judg - ment,
 li - on with lamb; come in the heal - ing,
 wait - ing your birth; come lit - tle hu - man,

light and de - light, sing - ing and laugh - ter,
 voice for the poor, born to col - li - sion,
 shar - ing of bread, jus - tice and free - dom,
 cry your first breath, cry out God's kind - ness,

hope as our shel - ter, stars to our night.
 God's right - eous vi - sion here at our door.
 signs of the king - dom, ev - 'ry - one fed.
 light out of blind - ness, life out of death.

At the Door of the Year. Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Music: Jim Strathdee. Words © 2010 Hope Publishing Company. Music ©2010 Desert Flower Music. Used with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.

In a Lowly Manger Born. Text: Ko Yuki. Text © 1978 Luther Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved. Alternate tune music: George J. Elvey. *St. George's Windsor*. Public Domain.

Wise Men Came Journeying. Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Music: Rusty Edwards. Words and Music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company. Used with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.

Bring in Your New World. Words by Shirley Erena Murray. Music by Colin Gibson. ©2007 Hope Music Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.