

# New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1, 2023

## Welcome

## M&S Birthday/Anniversary Recognition

Happy birthday to you,  
to Jesus be true,  
May God's gracious blessings  
rest always with you.

## Centring Music: What Is This Lovely Fragrance?

*Traditional French Carol, arr. Paul Manz*

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rejoice, this is the day that God has made!

**This is a new day, a new year, a new beginning.**

We are blessed with this new time.

**May we worship together as new people and may our praise  
and music engage us in this new life in Christ.**

We light the Christ candle in the Spirit of newness that awakens  
our souls. Amen.

## Opening Hymn: Once in Royal David's City (Voices United 62)

*Words: Cecil Frances Alexander 1848, alt.*

*Music: Henry John Gauntlett 1849;*

*harm. Arthur Henry Mann; desc. David Willcocks 1970*

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1 Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven  
who, with God, is over all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall.  
There among the poor and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3 For he is our lifelong pattern;  
daily, when on earth he grew,  
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,  
tears and smiles like us he knew.  
Thus he feels for all our sadness,  
and he shares in all our gladness.

4 And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child who seemed so helpless  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

## Morning prayer

God of this and every season, we come with joy to thank you for  
Jesus and for all the ways in which your saving love affects your  
people. We gather this new year with hopes and dreams of  
peace and justice for all. We pray for all of our brothers and  
sisters around the world and seek to live as Christmas people  
bringing love and hope to the world. Bless our time together as  
we praise you through song, prayer and fellowship. Amen.

## Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:13-22

Reflection: "Thank God for Joseph"

## Hymn of the Day: A Light is Gleaming

(Voices United 82, vs. 2, 3 & 4)

Words and Music: Linnea Good 1992

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*Refrain* A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.

2 When night is round us and every shadow grows,  
a star is there to light our way.  
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:  
'God's light will ever stay.' *Refrain*

3 And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.  
He showed us things we hadn't seen.  
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,  
and this will be a sign: *Refrain*

4 So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,  
and let us rise to see the dawn.  
We trust that God is here a sparkle and ablaze,  
- warming all our days. *Refrain*

## Invitation to Offering

### Offering Prayer

**God of light and truth, as you have blessed us with the most perfect gift of gifts, so we ask you to bless the gifts we offer in this sacred season. May the compassion, the healing, the inspiration, and the love of Jesus be known in every situation where these gifts are put to work. Amen.**

### Prayers for Others and Ourselves

## The Lord's Prayer

### Special Music: Hymn of Freedom

Oscar Peterson

### A New Year's Blessing

*You are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

### Parting Hymn: What Child Is This (Voices United 74)

Words: William Chatterton Dix ca. 1865

Music: English melody, 16<sup>th</sup> century; harm. Attrib. John Stainer 1871

1 What child is this, who laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading. *Refrain*

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of Kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain*

### Benediction

**And now into this new year we move, confident in God's love for us, convinced of Christ's companionship with us, certain that the nudging, leading Spirit of Life will be our guide. Let us go in peace and in love to serve God in all the places life calls us to be. Amen.**

Postlude: In Dulci Jubilo

*J.S. Bach*

Worship Leaders – Pastor Beth Parsons and Pastor Nancy Walker

Music Leader: Sharon Prindle-Collins

Welcoming – Stephen Godfrey

Greeters – Grace and Ron Childs

Technical Support – Sam Boehner and Jayda Perry

Fellowship Time – Christine Smith and Friends