

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE  
DECEMBER 31, 2022  
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA

*Note: Pastor White will ask for prayer requests at the start of this evening's service. Worshipers are also invited to add their own prayers during Prayers of the People.*

Video – “The New Year”

Gathering hymn - "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" – Chris Tomlin

Gathering Words

For everything there is a season:

**And a time for every matter under heaven:**

A time to be born and a time to die.

**A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.**

A time to break down, and a time to build up.

**A time to weep and a time to laugh.**

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

**A time to be silent and a time to speak.**

A time to love and a time to hate.

**A time for war and a time for peace.**

God has made everything suitable for its time.

**God has put a sense of past and future into our minds.**

God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.

**Whatever God does endures forever.**

ASK FOR PRAYER REQUESTS HERE.

Gathering prayer

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: **Holy God, in this New Year, we seek you as we have always sought you. We need you as we have always needed you. We hunger for your presence, your peace, your justice and your love. Open our hearts afresh and anew. Open our minds that we may know you. Open our hands that we may care for you. Open our ears and eyes that we may hear and see you in our neighbor, in the foreigner, in the refugee, even in our enemy, and, perhaps especially, in ourselves. That we may know in the deepest part of**

**ourselves that you call us and that we are capable of seeing and naming, doing and being your love, your peace, your hope and your justice in this your world. Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Godsightings

Where have you seen God at work in your life?

The Word (Revelations 21: 1-5)

A reading from Revelations: **21** Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”<sup>[a]</sup> for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.<sup>4</sup> ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’<sup>[b]</sup> or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

The message – Pastor Cindy White

Special music– Pastor Cindy White

Offering

Let us pray: **Mighty God, as we bring you our offerings, heal the brokenness we feel inside. Turn our upturned gaze back to the earth— toward your needy children, toward the faces of those who hunger, toward the sick and imprisoned. Turn our inward focus onto those in need— toward the lonely shut-in, toward the addict looking to get clean, toward the runaway hoping to return home, toward everyone society has left behind. Only then may we truly see the face of Jesus. Only then may we help heal our broken world. Amen.**

## The Meal - Invitation

Through this meal God is making all things new. When Jesus shares the meal with his friends, it is a defining moment, for he includes everyone, those he can trust and those he cannot trust. He declares no one unworthy. Today we, his modern disciples and friends, are welcome, no matter how worthy or unworthy we feel. For Jesus makes everything new, holds no prejudice, condemns no one, includes each of us as we are. No one is excluded from this meal.

## The Meal - Preparation

On the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with twelve of his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.'

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I tell you, I will never again drink the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'

Following Jesus' example, we take simple bread and wine, these ordinary things of life which Jesus will make special. And as he said a prayer of thanksgiving before sharing, let us do so too.

## The Meal: A Prayer of Thanks

Let us pray: **God of new beginnings, for this time together, on the cusp of a new year, we give you thanks. As we celebrate around the table, we give thanks for the power of this meal, this simple bread and wine, to strengthen us for the days ahead as the Body of Christ. Amen.**

## The Meal: Bread and Wine

Jesus is the Bread of Life. Like bread, Jesus nourishes and strengthens us so that we can know right and wrong and not be confused. When we eat the bread together at this communion meal, we are strengthened as a community to remember Jesus and to follow him, to live as he would live.

The fruit of the vine reminds us that we are all part of a special agreement with God, a covenant sealed through the gift Jesus gave of his life. Through the sharing of the cup, we renew God's covenant of love with God and with one another.

The Meal: Distribution

The Meal: Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pray with me. **God of this new day and this new year, thank you for your presence in our lives, today and each day. Thank you for renewing us through this meal, and strengthening us each step we take into this new year. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Jesus calls on us to follow him. Let us call on Jesus for the needs, concerns, and hopes of all peoples ...

Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

**Prayer for the New Year**

Quietly the New Year slips in. Let us pray: **Eternal Father, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in this new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever -- the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Benediction song – “Auld Lang Syne” (Times Gone By) – Home Free

Should *auld* acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind?  
Should *auld* acquaintance be forgot, And days o' *lang syne*!  
For *auld lang syne*, my Dear, For *auld lang syne*,  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, For *auld lang syne*.

And here's a hand, my trusty friend, That gives a hand to thine;  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, For *auld lang syne*.  
For *auld lang syne*, my Dear, For *auld lang syne*,  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, For *auld lang syne*.

Should *auld* acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind?  
Should *auld* acquaintance be forgot, And days of *auld lang syne*!

The Benediction

And all God's people say ... **Thanks be to God!**