



*“A Lighthouse Guiding
People to Christ”*



Therefore if any
man be in Christ,
he is a new creature:



old things are
passed away;



behold, all things
are become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17



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PRELUDE / COUNTDOWN
 WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS
 WELCOMING OF GUESTS
 PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor
 Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP / CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER
 (Inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

Liturgist

Liturgist: Reconciling Christ, bless our efforts to bring about reconciliation. Give us the strength to persevere without counting the hurts, and to find within ourselves the capacity to keep on loving.

Congregation: Give us the grace to be able to stand in the middle of situations, and to be a conduit for the deep listening which can lead to healing and forgiveness.

Liturgist: Help us to conduct ourselves with dignity, giving and expecting respect, moving from prayer to action, and from action back again into prayer.

Congregation: Grant that we may be so grounded in your love, that our security is not threatened if we change our minds or begin to see a better way to act.

Liturgist: Bless those who are called to reconcile on a large-scale: Politicians, world leaders, leaders of business, and those who stand in the midst of bitter conflict.

Congregation: Reconciling Christ, bless us and bless all who engage in the sacred work of envisioning new wholeness, and bringing people and nations together.

All: AMEN

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (v. 1-3)

MH #127

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Affirmation for the New Year

Liturgist

God is the eternal rock / From year's beginning to its end / God is faithful / In each day
 God is present / In each action God comes close / Through all eternity / God is
 trustworthy / Yesterday, today and forever / Sustaining, enlivening, making all things
 new / God is the eternal rock.

*GLORIA PATRI

See screen

**Please stand as you are able*

NEW TESTAMENT READING (2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NKJV) Liturgist

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

CHILDREN'S SERMON Pastor

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, help us to live this year in a way that will be pleasing to you by speaking kind and encouraging words, using our hands to help others, and thinking of ways that we can show love because we are loved by You through Your Gift of Jesus. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING (Philippians 3:13-14 NKJV) Liturgist

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

PRESENTATION OF PRAYERS AND PRAISE Pastor

PASTORAL PRAYER Pastor

*HYMN OF PREPARATION *Be Thou My Vision* (v. 1-3) MH #451

SERMON ANTHEM

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
(T. Dorsey, Arr. J. Schrader)

Choir

SERMON

Pastor

Title: Looking Ahead

Theme: New Year's Sunday

Main Idea: A Christ-follower is oriented toward the future, not the past. God is always standing in the future, calling us forward in hope, never backward in regret.

HOLY COMMUNION

see insert

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND SACRIFICES

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Father, call us into your future as we stand on the threshold of this new year. Fill us with hope and expectation for the good things you have planned for us. May this offering help us and this church to look far ahead toward the marvelous future you have prepared for those who love you.

PASSING THE PLATE

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings

MH #94

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION

This Is a Day of New Beginnings (v. 1-5)

MH #383

*COMMISION / BENEDICTION

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

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Love and Fellowship

See screen

POSTLUDE