

JANUARY 1, 2018
NEW YEAR'S EVE,
NEW YEAR'S DAY



A time to reflect on the seasons of one's life.

NEW YEAR'S BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your New Year's celebrations.

Sunday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 Matthew 25:31-46	For everything there is a season The great judgment
Monday	Psalm 8 Revelation 21:1-6a	God-given dignity to humans New heaven and earth

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE NEW YEAR

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. **Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the New Year:

Lord God, give us thankful hearts and joyful hope as we begin this new year. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, for a year of many meals we give you praise; in the year to come please bless our days. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord God, the Alpha and the Omega dwell with you, wipe away all your tears, and give you great joy as you begin a new year. (Revelation 21:1-6a)



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HYMN FOR THE NEW YEAR

Soon and Very Soon



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- What were some of your joys and disappointments in 2017?
- What are your hopes and concerns for the coming year?
- How did you experience God's love and care in the past year?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Revelation 21:1-6a.

The anticipation of a new year can be a reminder of how God promises to make all things new one day. Every tear will be wiped away. Every bit of sadness and even death itself will be no more. This promise is filled with great love like "a bride adorned for her husband" (v.2). As you reflect on the year past and the year ahead, take time to recall the good news of Jesus Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, who is "making all things new" (v. 5) and who fills us with hope, love, and life. Count your blessings by making a list of all the things you can think of to give thanks to God for this past year. Then use the following prayer.

Pray: **Dear God, you who are the beginning and the end, you who promise to make all things new, we give you thanks for how you care for us now and always. Amen.**

Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE



In Matthew 25:31-48, the Gospel of Matthew emphasizes discipleship that produces acts of loving kindness, especially for those who are in greatest need. Consider some ways of committing to the needs of others this year including the hungry, the poor, the lonely, and the imprisoned.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Take time to reflect on the past year with family and friends. Talk about your memories. Consider using the following questions:

- What were some good things that happened this past year? Challenges you faced?
- What are your hopes and concerns for the coming year?
- What commitments would you like to make for reading the Bible and praying in 2018?

Finish this time of conversation with prayer, asking God to bless and care for one another, the church, and world in the coming year.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org