

JANUARY 1, 2020
NEW YEAR'S EVE,
NEW YEAR'S DAY



Christ makes all things new.

NEW YEAR'S BIBLE READINGS

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

Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	For everything there is a season
	Revelation 21:1-6a	New heaven and earth
Wednesday	Psalms 8	Divine majesty and human dignity
	Matthew 25:31-46	The great judgment

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR NEW YEAR'S

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also, he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." **Revelation 21:5 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the New Year:

Almighty and merciful God, give us faith to trust in your goodness, and hearts and hands filled with loving deeds, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, feed you, clothe you and be present to you with love and forgiveness, now and always.



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HYMN FOR NEW YEAR'S

*O God, Our Help in
Ages Past*



NEW YEAR'S MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What are your highlights of the past year? What have you learned from these experiences?
- What thoughts do you have about the coming year? Joys? Concerns?
- The future is God's and it is filled with promise. How does knowing this strengthen you to begin each day with faith and hope?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 25:31-46.

No one likes to be judged. The thought of divine judgment is even more distressing. However, the judgment of God has a cleansing effect. God's judgment means that sin and death pass away. They are judged and condemned. Hope, faith, and love are what remain. In the parable of the great judgment Jesus points out what remains: compassion that lives in loving deeds done for others. People are fed, given something to drink, clothed, cared for during a time of illness, and visited when imprisoned. These are truly loving deeds, not just loving thoughts. What is most amazing is that those who do such things don't realize they have done them to the Son of Man (vv. 37-40). Loving deeds are motivated by a life filled with love, not the need for personal rewards. As you think about 2020, wonder how the love of God can rule in your heart and shape the work of your hands, feet, and voice. Who can be blessed by your loving deeds this year?

Pray: **Dear God, with this new year, give me a heart of gladness that cares for others in ways that show how you care for us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

It is a New Year's tradition to make resolutions for the coming year. Resolutions generally are about bettering ourselves by losing weight, exercising more, and cleaning our home. Consider a new spin on resolutions this year by thinking of others. There are many who do not have enough food to eat and are without a home. In what ways can you commit to helping the hungry, homeless, and lonely this coming year?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

A New Year's tradition in Spain is to eat twelve grapes to count down the new year. It is thought to bring luck for each month in the coming year. To put a Christian twist on this tradition, place twelve grapes in a bowl and prior to midnight write a list of twelve ways you or others you know need God's help in the coming year. Just before the clock strikes twelve, eat the grapes. After midnight take a moment to complete this prayer and read your list as you

begin the new year. Dear God, help me to Close with, "Lord, hear our prayers for the new year. In the name of Jesus, Amen."



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