

Order of service for January 3, 2021 Lakeview United Church
The Second Sunday after Christmas

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsive – words on the screen)

Behold the new year of 2021! As we begin today's service of worship, we recognize that we have come to an ending and a new beginning.

We have come to the end of 2020 and we are about to embark into 2021.

God who is both alpha and omega is with us from A to Z; at all beginnings and at all endings;

Beginnings and endings of each day, beginnings and endings of each relationship and at the beginning and ending of life itself. So today at the beginning of 2021, God is with us and God invites us to serve and to worship. That's God's call to us today.

Let us begin our worship in prayer together.

Prayer of Approach (Unison – words on screen)

God, you who are the very symbol of new beginnings, wrap us we pray in your acceptance as we come to this time of worship. Open us to the wonders of your loving kindness. At this start of a new year, we know that 2021, like every new year, is a year of uncertainty. We are aware that it will probably contain some great joys and some great sadness. It will probably be filled with some success and with some disappointments. Whatever the future holds for us, Holy One, we pray that we will always know your presence and rely on your Spirit as we seek to live as you would have us live in 2021.

Opening hymn:

Prayer for the New Year (Responsive – words on the screen)

Timeless God, We thank you for helping us to make it through 2020. It has been a difficult year. Thank you that you've carried us through uncertainty, danger and sadness, through the stresses of Covid-19 and through the pain of difficult losses and lockdowns. We are constantly aware of how much we need you, your grace and strength, especially during difficult times like these.

Help us to keep our focus on you in this new year. Forgive us for giving too much time and attention to other things, for looking to other people before coming to you first. Help us to reflect again on you.

Thank you that by coming in Jesus, you brought us gifts of new life and peace, new joy and hope. Help us to remember that the gifts of Jesus are gifts not just for Christmas but for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit throughout 2021. Keep our hearts and minds directed towards you.

Thank you for reminding us that in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you are still with us, for you never leave us. Thank you for your daily powerful presence in our lives so we can be assured your heart is towards us, your eyes watch over us, your ears are open to our prayers and your arms enfold us and surround us with kindness and comfort. We know we are safe in your care.

Forgive us for the times we have worked hard to be self-sufficient, forgetting our need for you. Forgive us for the times when we have let fear and worry control our minds. Forgive us for the times when we haven't followed your ways and when we have distanced ourselves from you.

We confess our need for you...fresh...new...again. We ask that you make all things new, in our hearts, in our minds, in our lives, for this coming year.

~ Silent reflection ~

Words of Assurance

We can be sure that God loves us unconditionally. Through God's loving kindness, our mistakes, our faults and imperfections are all forgiven. Thanks be to God for loving us just as we are.

Hymn –

Introduction to the Scriptures

Prayer for illumination (Unison on screen)

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that we may hear with joy what you have to say to us this day. Amen.

Scripture

- Isaiah 60:1-6
- John 1:1-18

Music for Reflection

Reflection

Hymn

Prayer of Dedication of the Offering (Unison – words on the screen)

God, it is a mystery to us how you can use the finances that we offer to participate in your holy work, and yet we do continue to give our offerings, trusting that you will use them and use us to share your love and your light in Regina and throughout the world. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves to your service. Amen.

Offering Music

Minute for Mission - Deb Anderson-Pratt

Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

Closing hymn:

Commissioning and Benediction (Responsive – words on the screen)

May God make our new year a happy one, not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,

But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making our path easy,

But by making us sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from us,

But by taking fear from our heart;

Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,

But by keeping our faces bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making our life always pleasant,

But by showing us when people need us most and making us anxious to be there to help.

And now let us receive God's grace and be open to God's vision for us for this new year. May the love of God, the power of the Holy Spirit and the presence of Jesus be with us all.

Amen

Benediction Response

Postlude