

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MASSILLON, OHIO

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Happy New Year! We are so happy to have you with us this morning as we begin this new year praising our Lord together! We will be celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper this morning. Please have your elements of bread and cup ready to break and pour at the proper time in the service. Now, enjoy worship!

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

The Prelude

“The Old Year Has Passed”

Bach

Call to Worship

Leader: Friends in the Lord, we are gathered as the people of God, ready to accept the gift of another year of life.

People: The open future is both exciting and frightening.

Leader: We will celebrate God's gift of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

People: His presence leads us forward in our journey.

Leader: His act of salvation is our only hope!

People: His is our beginning and our end.

Leader: Let us celebrate the gift of divine love and life!

People: We worship in the name of Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega, Savior and Lord. Amen.

Hymn #63

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

**As with gladness men of old, did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before him whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.**

**Holy Jesus, everyday keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.**

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, source of salvation, we come to your table in need of forgiveness and renewal. The hymns and prayers of Christmas remain strong in our memories, the gospel of Your gracious coming in Jesus Christ stands firm as the foundation of our hopes. But as the weeks pass, we feel the pull of habits and attractions that speak more our will than Yours, of old ways more than new life. Hold us fast, O God, lest we slip backwards. May this table be a place of strength and renewal, as we confess in the name of Jesus the Christ...

Silent Prayer**Amen**

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: O God, we have not been all that we could be or all that You hope for us.

People: But we listen to Your words of promise: “Behold, I make all things new...The old has gone, the new has come.” In the resurrected Jesus the Christ, we are forgiven!

Response: “Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Chancel Choir

1st New Testament Lesson: Revelation 3:20-22

2nd New Testament Lesson: John 1:35-46

Sermon: “An Epiphany Invitation” Rev. Larry Lalama

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

The Invitation and the Institution
The Partaking of the Loaf and Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Almighty God, in this new year, may we broaden our spiritual horizons, and deepen our relationship with You through Jesus Christ. Our hearts overflow with gratitude for the sacred meal we have received from Your gracious hand.

Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit to grow in our sacrificial service to others in the year ahead, and in our devotion to the high call of Your gospel. Send us forth, fed, filled, and empowered, in the name of Jesus, our most gracious Host. Amen.

Call to Giving and Prayer of Dedication

The Doxology

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

Hymn #275

“God of Our Life”

**God of our life, through all the circling year, we trust in Thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.**

**God of the past, our times are in Thy hand, with us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope’s true promised land; be Thou our guide.
With Thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
And faith’s fair vision changes into sight.**

**God of the coming years, through paths unknown we follow Thee;
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone; our refuge be.
Be Thou for us in life our daily bread,
Our heart’s true home when all our years have sped.**

Benediction

Postlude

“Grand Choeur”

Dubois

It is our hope and prayer that you have found strength and comfort through this morning’s worship. Thank you for blessing us with your attendance. Know that you are always welcome at Central Presbyterian Church of Massillon. See you next week

Much gratitude to this morning’s worship team; Byron Lash, Leigh Conti, Doug Beery, Kathy Bachtel, Kylie Collmar, Brady Zink, Daryl Robinson, Roger Sibert, Stephanie Beltz, Nancy McEwen, Julie Hamilton, Denny Printz, Craig Aguon, David Rankl, Logan Rankl, Pastor Larry Lalama