

## NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP

December 31, 2020

### BELLS AND WELCOME

### OPENING HYMN

### Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year



1 Now greet the swift - ly chang - ing year With  
 2 Re - mem - ber now the Son of God And  
 3 This Je - sus came to end sin's war; This  
 4 His love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds The  
 5 With him as Lord to lead our way In



joy and pen - i - tence sin - cere. Re -  
 how he shed his in - fant blood. Re -  
 name of names for us he bore. Re -  
 vol - ume of a whole year's needs. Re -  
 haz - ard and pros - per - i - ty, What



joyce! Re - joyce! With thanks em - brace An -  
 joyce! Re - joyce! With thanks em - brace An -  
 joyce! Re - joyce! With thanks em - brace An -  
 joyce! Re - joyce! With thanks em - brace An -  
 need we fear in earth or space In



oth - er year of grace.  
 oth - er year of grace.  
 oth - er year of grace.  
 oth - er year of grace.  
 this new year of grace?

## INVOCATION

M In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.



M With the closing of another year, we are compelled to look back upon it in reflective contemplation and to carry forward its joys and blessings into the new year.

**C Thank you, Lord, for the goodness you have shown to us in the past year. You have blessed us in ways too numerous to count. You have sustained us in times of trouble in ways we cannot ever fully appreciate.**

M Having come to the close of another year, we are compelled to look back upon it with humble mediation and to unburden ourselves before God of the sin that destroys our happiness as well as our relationships with God and others.

**C Merciful Father, this past year has been another year of sin for us. We have grieved your heart with our sins of thought, word, and deed. Even though we bear the name "Christian," we have failed to lead lives worthy of that calling. We have not done the good things you require of us in your commandments. We ask your forgiveness in the name of Jesus, your only Son, who died for our sins. We ask your Holy Spirit, in the year now beginning, to help us more faithfully reflect the image of Christ.**

M God has heard your confession. His love, mercy, and grace are everlasting. Therefore, hear with believing hearts the words of St. Paul recorded in the letter to the Romans: *"If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all---how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies."* Therefore, as a called servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

M As we begin a new year, forgiven by God, we are reminded that we are his redeemed saints. We forge ahead in this new year, not in bondage, but in freedom; no longer in futility, but persevering in hope that does not disappoint us. God bless us and keep us in the coming year.

**C Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

M Let us pray.

God of all time and eternity, the Alpha and Omega, we commit to you the year now completed and commend to your kindness and love the year now at hand. Throughout the coming days, weeks, and months encourage us by your Spirit to make wise use of your Word and Sacraments that we may be thoroughly strengthened in our faith, and grounded in the love, grace, and mercy of Christ, our Lord, in whose wondrous name we commence this new year.

**C: Amen.**

**+ WORD +**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Isaiah 51:1-6**

*God promises his people eternal love that exceeds the limits of time.*

“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness  
and who seek the LORD:

Look to the rock from which you were cut  
and to the quarry from which you were hewn;

<sup>2</sup>look to Abraham, your father,  
and to Sarah, who gave you birth.

When I called him he was only one man,  
and I blessed him and made him many.

<sup>3</sup>The LORD will surely comfort Zion  
and will look with compassion on all her ruins;  
he will make her deserts like Eden,  
her wastelands like the garden of the LORD.

Joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

<sup>4</sup>“Listen to me, my people;  
hear me, my nation:

Instruction will go out from me;  
my justice will become a light to the nations.

<sup>5</sup>My righteousness draws near speedily,  
my salvation is on the way,  
and my arm will bring justice to the nations.

The islands will look to me  
and wait in hope for my arm.

<sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
look at the earth beneath;  
the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment  
and its inhabitants die like flies.

But my salvation will last forever,  
my righteousness will never fail.

HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home,

Under the shadow of your throne  
Your saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Still be our guard while troubles last  
And our eternal home!

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 8:31-39

*Nothing can or will ever separate us from God's love for us.*

<sup>31</sup>What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

HYMN

Children of the Heavenly Father

Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in his bosom gather;  
Nestling bird or star in heaven  
Such a refuge ne'er was given.

**Though he giveth or he taketh,  
God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.**

## GOSPEL

**Luke 12:22-34**

*Don't be afraid, little flock... God's got you!*

<sup>2</sup>Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. <sup>24</sup>Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! <sup>25</sup>Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life<sup>[b]</sup>? <sup>26</sup>Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

<sup>27</sup>"Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>28</sup>If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! <sup>29</sup>And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. <sup>30</sup>For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup>But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

<sup>32</sup>"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing**

**Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing;  
A cheerful trust maintain,  
For God, the source of ev'rything,  
Your treasure shall remain.**

Why spend the day in blank despair,  
In restless thought the night?  
On your Creator cast your care;  
He makes your burdens light.

Did not his love and truth and pow'r  
Guard ev'ry childhood day?  
And did he not in threat'ning hour  
Turn dreaded ills away?

Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,  
And trust his guiding love;  
Then like a rock your peace shall stand  
Here and in heav'n above.

SERMON

John 20:19-22  
Pastor Wayne Shevey

### Go in Peace

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

C **Every day I will praise you and extol your name.**

M It is fitting, O Lord, at the beginning of a new year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

C **You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.**

M You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

C **You know what we need, and you give us all good things.**

M Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself—all these come to us from your generous hand.

C **We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.**

M We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

C **Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

C **We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## +THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION+

### PREFACE

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M It is right and fitting that we should give thanks to you, gracious Lord. You are the source of our life and the ruler of time. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

*Please see Communion note on page 10.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Father, Let Me Dedicate

Father, let me dedicate All this year to you,  
In whate'er my earthly state, In whate'er I do.  
Not from sorrow, pain, or care Freedom dare I claim;  
This alone shall be my prayer: Glorify your name.

Can a child presume to choose Where or how to live?  
Can a father's love refuse All the best to give?  
More you give me ev'ry day Than the best can claim;  
Help me trust you that I may Glorify your name.

If in mercy you prolong Joys that now are mine,  
If on life serene and fair Brighter rays may shine,  
Let my glad heart, while it sings, You in all proclaim  
And, whate'er the future brings, Glorify your name.

If you have for me a cross And its shadow come,  
Turning all my gain to loss, Shrouding heart and home,  
Let me think how your dear Son To his glory came  
And in deepest woe pray on: "Glorify your name."

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M Lord, we thank you that once again you have been with us as we have gathered in your house and at your table. We thank you that, of your mercy, you have strengthened us with your heavenly feast and with the very body and blood of your only Son for the forgiveness of our sin. Bless our lives with your abiding presence and bring us at last to your eternal kingdom. We ask this for Jesus' sake.

C **Amen.**

## BLESSING

M The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COMMUNION PROCEDURE

*The church will be split in half. The two sections in front of the pulpit will receive Communion using the table in front of the pulpit. The two sections in front of the lectern will receive Communion using the table in front of the lectern.*

*Ushers will dismiss communicants from their pew; **however, no one will be dismissed to the center aisle.***

- *The **pulpit side** will go to their **left** and use the aisle to the left of their pew to walk forward.*
- *The **lectern side** will dismiss to their **right** and use the aisle to the right of their pew to walk forward.*

*Communicants will wait in the aisle, socially distanced as indicated by the carpet circles. They will approach the individual distributing the bread, receiving the bread in cupped hands. They will then move toward the center of the church to the wine trays, pick up their wine and drink it as the distributor speaks. All will return to their pew using the center aisle. Following the distribution, the pastor will pronounce the general blessing on the communicants.*

*Copies of the Personal Preparation for Holy Communion pages from the hymnal are at the Welcome Center in the lobby.*



Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.

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## THE INTENTIONAL LIFE

Join us, beginning January 10 for a new message series *The Intentional Life*.

In the days of the old sailing ships, the greatest danger sailors faced was not piracy or storms at sea, but simply being “becalmed” hundreds of miles from land.

The word “becalmed” sounds peaceful, but with no wind, a sailing ship could drift aimlessly for days or weeks until the sailors perished from lack of food and water.

In our lives, our most dangerous enemy may be not some sudden temptation, demonic assault, or even the personal “storms” of life, but the danger of simply drifting. The author of the Book of Hebrews warned, “We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away” (Hebrews 2:1).

### Are you drifting?

As we begin the new year, we pray that the Holy Spirit (in both Hebrew and Greek the word for “spirit” and “wind” is the same) fill the sails of our lives so that we live with purpose and intention.



Join us as we seek *The Intentional Life of Love*.

January 10	Love Uncomfortably	1 Corinthians 9:22
January 17	Love in Action	Galatians 6:2
January 24	Love among Friends	1 Thessalonians 5:11
January 31	Love within Families	Joshua 25:15
February 7	Love Generously	Matthew 6:21
February 14	Love to God's Glory	1 Corinthians 10:31

## FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BIBLE CLASS BEGINS JANUARY 12

Twelve Tuesdays in a row with the option to miss a class and catch up on YouTube! This *online-only* class is offered from 7:00-8:15 pm and covers the main teachings of the Bible. Review or discover the *heart* of your Creator in the work of his Son Jesus. Jesus entered the world to save us from sin and bring us safely home to heaven. He lived perfectly in our place, died the death we deserve, and rose from the dead proving that *heaven is ours* through faith in him. A path to membership if you like or just touching base with the God of the Bible to hear what he has to say! Join Pastor Nate beginning in January.

## ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Traditional Service

Our Sunday, 9:15 am, traditional service is livestreamed every Sunday. A video archive full-service replays are available on each platform below.



@ [www.StPaulMuskego.org/online-worship](http://www.StPaulMuskego.org/online-worship)



@ St. Paul's Muskego



@ St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Muskego, Wisconsin

### The Bridge Casual Contemporary Service

The Bridge is livestreamed every Sunday at 10:15 am on each of the following platforms. You can find an archive of full-service replays on each platform.



@ [www.StPaulMuskego.org/online-worship](http://www.StPaulMuskego.org/online-worship)



@ The Bridge Church Muskego



@ The Bridge at St. Paul's

### ST. PAUL'S MINISTERIAL STAFF *Office (414) 422-0320*

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