

**Worship Service
Sunday January 1, 2017
New Years Day**

Theme: "Beginning Anew with Glorious possibilities in God's hands"

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Gathering Songs: "**Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You**" v. 1,2 BoP#410

"He Came Down"

He came down that we may have joy. (3x)
Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace. (3x)
Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have hope. (3x)
Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have love. (3x)
Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have life. (3x)
Hallelujah forevermore.

Words and music: Cameroon Traditional

Welcome and Sharing of the peace
(We greet each other saying, "**The Peace of Christ be with you**")

Call to Worship (inspired by Jeremiah 3: 22-25 and Psalm 118: 24):

This is the day that the Lord has made.

We will be glad and rejoice in it.

This is the year that the Lord has begun.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

A new day has dawned, a new year begun

O Lord, call us so we may hear Your voice

The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future

O Lord, keep us in Your ways and on Your path

We enter this new year with hope and excitement
O Lord, remind us that You lead us
O Lord, guide us as look to You, and worship You.
Amen.

Song: **“O God, You Are my God (Step by Step)”**

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you. (2x)
I will seek you in the morning,
and I will learn to walk in your ways.
And step by step you'll lead me,
and I will follow you all of my days.

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Prayer for the New Year:

Pastor: Loving God maker of heaven and earth
We join together this morning to praise you
We enter your gates with thanksgiving
And into your courts with praise

Reader 1: You are eternal with no beginning or end
You made us, and you are working your purposes out
in our world and our lives.

We praise you in this New Year
We praise you that whatever the future holds
we know that it is held in your hands.

Reader 2: We look back at this past year
We see that you have been with us,
provided for us and lead us in your ways
We are your people
and the flock for which you provide

All: **We praise you for Jesus Christ**

We have celebrated at Christmas that you became one of us,
you pitched your tent in our neighborhood;
That you live amongst us
and showed us your great love and mercy,
that you gave your life for ours
paying the price for all we have done wrong,
and in being raised to life again
have given us fresh beginnings and new life in you

We look forwards this New Year
Unable to see beyond the next bend or over the horizon
Yet we prepared to follow you our times are in your hands
The steadfast love of the lord endures forever
His faithfulness to all generations

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

The Call to Confession

Our Spoken Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God and Father in heaven, you are faithful and just; you are willing to forgive our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness. Before you and our sisters and brothers, we confess that we have spoken many empty words and have at times broken even our most sacred vows. Our sins are an affront to you; they are a disgrace before the watching world, and they have caused us unspeakable pain. Through our Lord Jesus may we begin this new year with the joy of knowing we belong to you, with the freedom of being purified by your blood, and with the healing which your grace alone can bring. In the name of our blessed Savior we pray...

Our Sung Prayer of Confession: **"Give Us Clean Hands"**

We bow our hearts we bend our knees
Oh Spirit come make us humble
We turn our eyes from evil things
Oh Lord we cast down our idols

Give us clean hands give us pure hearts

Let us not lift our souls to another
Give us clean hands give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another

O God let us be a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face oh God of Jacob
O God let us be a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face oh God of Jacob

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The Assurance of God's Pardon

Youth message: "That Settles It"

Youth Hymn: "**That Boy-Child of Mary**" v. 2,4,5,6 BoP#155

GOD SPEAKS TO US FROM HIS WORD

Song for Understanding: "**Lord Speak to me that I may speak**"

Bop # 767

The Reading of Scripture:

Psalm 8
Galatians 4:4-7

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "A New Way"

Deuteronomy 2: 1-3

Then we turned back and set out toward the wilderness along the route to the Red Sea, as the LORD had directed me. For a long time we made our way around the hill country of Seir.

2Then the LORD said to me, **3**“You have made your way around this hill country long enough; now turn north. **4**Give the people these orders: ‘You are about to pass through the territory of your relatives the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. They will be afraid of you, but be very careful. **5**Do not provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land, not even enough to put your foot on. I have given Esau the hill country of Seir as his own. **6**You are to pay them in silver for the food you eat and the water you drink.’ ”

Galatians 4: 4-7

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **5** in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. **6** And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our[b] hearts, crying, “Abba![c] Father!” **7** So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.[d]

The Children of Israel had suffered so much in Egypt

They were stripped of their culture and religious faith

They were forced to adopt every practice and way of life of the Egyptians

They were slaves who were being brutally slaughtered by cruel task masters, in fact many died under bricks and columns that fell on them while they were being beaten and forced to build vast buildings.

The Lord saw their plight and rescued them.

Led them out of Egypt, took them across the Red Sea.

According to scholars:

Their journey from Egypt to Sinai took 1 year, 1 month and 1 week exactly

They left Sinai and made about 20 stops along the way until they arrived at Kadesh Barnea. This journey took them 11 months exactly.

They arrived at Kadesh 24 months after leaving Egypt and to mark their arrival at Kadesh they celebrated their 3rd Passover. (Numbers 20:1)

They spend 38 continuous years at Kadesh Barnea (they do not leave and come back), then depart for the Jordan in the 40th year.

On their way to Canaan, they spent 38 years in one place

1. At some point they had to move on, they had to move towards their goal as they could not stay in the same place for any longer.
 - They had a God directed destination and it was time to move toward it.
 - Why was God giving them this new command at this time in their lives?
 - They had spent enough time at a place where they had become complacent and somehow lost their focus.

What is God's message to us on this first Sunday of the year and how do we interpret God's command to Israel as they camped on the periphery of the promised land.

- They had wandered long enough and had waited long enough at Kadesh and now their time had come to move into the great promised that was awaiting them.
- It was a command that was so clear that they knew their time had come.
- It was time for deliverance just as it was in the days when Jesus made his entry into our lives.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. 6 And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into

our[b] hearts, crying, “Abba![c] Father!” 7 So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.[d]

2. They were given a direct command by God to move and they could only obey because they trusted God
 - When we trust God we know that his command will only bring us to a better place in our lives.
 - When we trust God we give ourselves in entirety to him knowing that our all is in God's hands
 - As we begin this new year we will make plans and have aspirations where we will have to trust God for direction.
3. They were instructed not to get distracted with fights and opposition to those along the way.

4-7 “You are about to pass through the territory of your brethren, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. Therefore watch yourselves carefully. Do not meddle with them, for I will not give you any of their land, no, not so much as one footstep, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession

9 Then the Lord said to me, “Do not harass the Moabites or provoke them to war, for I will not give you any part of their land. I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession.”

- Too often on our way forward we get side tracked by things that cause us to lose focus.
- We are going to come in contact with people on our journey where we must quickly discern what they are about and how we must keep moving in spite of our contact with them.
- Sometimes the distractions are our own doing as we have too many questions about the way that God has already made.

Lets go forward with God as it is God's plan for our lives that will bear fruit on our northward journey. Trust in God is very critical to our progress because we are going to hear so many negative things as we live our lives. There are so many points of view that will sound very

informed but are in no way spiritual. It is critical that we understand how God's will unfolds and how our obedience enables God's will to unfold before us.

The wise man King Solomon says in Proverbs 3:5-6"

***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths."***

Amen.

Hymn of Response: **"Saviour Like a Shepherd"** BoP#485

Prayers of God's People, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

WE BRING OUR GIFTS

Work and Witness of our Church

A Time of Giving

Sung Response: **"Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow"** BoP#79

WE LEAVE WITH CHRIST'S PEACE

The Benediction

Recessional Hymn: **"My Friends, May you Grow in Grace"**

My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour.
My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the love of Jesus Christ.
To God be the glory,
Now and forever, now and forever, amen.
To God be the glory,
Now and forever, now and forever, amen.

