

New year...new beginnings

Open Table Worship New Year's Day Service Order of Service

Coffee & Chat

Look at the items in the centre of your table: salt, coal, bread & coins.
Do you know what these symbols represent at the New Year?

- What do you enjoy the most about New Year's celebrations?
- What New Year's traditions did you grow up with?
- What New Year's traditions will you practice this year?

Gathering –

All: We are here. We are who we are.

'I am here in this New Year.' or 'I am who I am in this New Year.'

Singing

Readings

Prayer for the New Year, by Revd Sandy Messick, Seattle USA

Prayer for the New Year, by Revd Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, USA

Conversations following readings:

- What are the 'possibilities and challenges, joys and concerns' you see spread before you/us in the year ahead?
- How does your heart 'grieve'?
- Are you feeling more fearful? Careful? Tired? Why?
- How do you relate to the idea of 'hungering for God'?

Looking into the Bible

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Conversations: going deeper

- Likening the New Year to a new season in our lives, how might you grow and mature in this new season?
- What is 'the time' that lays before us/you in the New Year? Complete this sentence: 2018/9 is a time to...
- What is one thing in yourself that you would like to work on improving/changing in the year ahead?
- What one thing will you do in the year ahead to make the world a better place?
- What one thing will you do this week to improve your relationship with God?

Reading scripture *Revelation 21*

Sharing & Caring – Bringing light into our world

Lord's Prayer -- a version by Stephen Best, UK

Great Love; the root and sap of our evolving fullness,
Nudge us forward in our creative potential
So we may flourish for the common good.
In each mindful moment, help us recognise that
We free ourselves from the ghosts of our past
In the release we grant those who have harmed us.
Keep us focused on what is right
Make us thirsty for what is just.
For it is love, that knows the way,
Shows the way, becomes the way,
To the fulfilment of our eternal call. Amen

Service of Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**God of this new day and this new year,
thank you for your presence in our lives, today and each
day. Thank you for renewing us through this meal,
and strengthening us each step we take into this new year.
Amen.**

Blessing *New Year blessing*, by Cara Heafey, UK

Let us look for Christ wherever we go
Let us never stop seeking
Believing that there is a light that shines in the darkness
Which the darkness shall not overcome
And may the love of the Creator
The joy of the Spirit
And the peace of the Christ-child
Be with you this New Year, and evermore

Singing *Auld lang syne*

Robert Burns, 1788

Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, my jo, For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet, For auld lang syne