

A Quiet Service for a New Year

It would be useful to have two stones and a candle nearby

Opening Responses

Lord you have been our dwelling place

In all generations

Before the mountains were brought forth

Or ever you had formed the earth and the world

From everlasting to everlasting you are God

For a thousand years in your sight

Are like yesterday when it is past

Or like a watch in the night (*Psalm 90*)



Reading

Reflection

During this time think through the events of the past year, all that has happened in your life. Focus on the ups and on the downs. Ask yourself '*what has given me life*' and '*what has drained me*'.

When you are ready, place one of your stones by your candle, remembering that stones often mark our journey. This stone represents the joys and the sorrows of the past year. As you place it, say quietly to God '*I offer you the whole of me, because you love the whole of me*'

Prayers of Recognition

We bring to God our anxieties, our worries, our fears,

All that has clouded our hearts and minds, and we let them go

Silence

When the cares of my heart are many

your consolations cheer my soul

We bring to God all that has drained us, our anger, resentment and bitterness, our guilt, shame and regret, and we let them go

Silence

When the cares of my heart are many

your consolations cheer my soul

We bring to God all the times we have been hurt, our wounds, vulnerabilities and loss, our arguments, disagreements and conflict, and we let them go

Silence

When the cares of my heart are many **your consolations cheer my soul**

God of every matter under heaven,
we offer you the events and experiences of the year that has gone.
In thankfulness for your presence with us through thick and thin,
we offer the whole of ourselves because you love the whole of ourselves.
Give us grace to leave these memories here, safe in your arms of love. **Amen.**

Reading

Reflection

During this time think about your hopes and yearnings for this year. Maybe they have formed some of your New Year's resolutions. What will you do to draw closer to God? How might you grow what gives you life and lay down what drains you?

When you are ready, place your remaining stone down, remembering that stones often mark our journey. This stone represents your hopes for 2022. As you place it, say quietly to God *'I offer you the whole of me, because you love the whole of me'*

A Covenant Prayer

We are people of the covenant: We live in the light of God's unconditional love for us, knowing that there is nothing we can do to make God love us any more, nothing we can do to make God love us any less than God does already. For the coming year we recommit ourselves to the covenant love of God

I am a child of God, made in your image and likeness.
I am included in the heart of your love - you know me completely
My faults and my weaknesses, my gifts and my strengths
You call me to live in the fullness of your love,
abundantly, generously, inclusively.
You call me to empty myself, to serve as Jesus served,
willingly, humbly, selflessly.
You call me to bear witness to your presence,
boldly, courageously, gently.
You are the potter, I am the clay.
Shape me, reshape me.

**Give me purpose and meaning, energy and vision,
open me up as a channel of your grace.
May your covenant be written on my heart.
May my life reflect your promises.
What is true in heaven, may it be seen in me,
Within the dance of the Trinity of Love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of Recognition

We bring to God all that has opened us to life, our sense of connectedness, meaning and purpose, our experience of beauty, wonder and deep peace, and we offer them

Silence

Seek first God's kingdom **and all shall be given to you**

We bring to God all that has opened us to hope, our imagination, our dreams, our creativity, the gifts and abilities that have stretched our horizons, and we offer them

Silence

Seek first God's kingdom **and all shall be given to you**

We bring to God all that has opened us to love, whether from family, friends, home or community, our sense of belonging, of being loved, and we offer them

Silence

Seek first God's kingdom **and all shall be given to you**

Intercessions

I will make a way in the wilderness **and rivers in the desert**

We pray for peace and reconciliation,
that the coming year may be a year of grace.

Silence

I will make a way in the wilderness **and rivers in the desert**

We pray for nurturing and growing, in our community and church
that the coming year may be a year of grace.

Silence

I will make a way in the wilderness **and rivers in the desert**

We pray for creativity and plenty, in our working lives
that the coming year may be a year of grace.

Silence

I will make a way in the wilderness **and rivers in the desert**

We pray for health and wholeness, for all who struggle
that the coming year may be a year of grace.

Silence

I will make a way in the wilderness **and rivers in the desert**

We pray for resurrection, for all who face death
that the coming year may be a year of grace.

Silence

I will make a way in the wilderness **and rivers in the desert**

We look to the coming year, its fears and challenges, its hopes and possibilities.
We open our hearts to all that the year ahead will contain, and from that place of
openness we name one hope for the year in our hearts.

Silence

I will make a way in the wilderness **and rivers in the desert**

The Lord's Prayer & Blessing

God KNOWS by Minnie Louise Haskins

*This service has been adapted from St Bartholomew, Tong 'A Service at the Turning of the Year'
and incorporates material from Chris Thorpe (2017) 'Dreamers and Stargazers'*