

Vasa Lutheran Church

Closing of the Old Year and Prayers for the New

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Anne Anderson pianist

Sunday, December 31, 2023

New Year's Eve

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

DIALOGUE

L: The light shines in the darkness,

C: and the darkness has not overcome it.

L: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have beheld Christ's glory.

L: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Let us pray: Eternal God, **you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever—the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

HYMN OF LIGHT: JOYOUS LIGHT OF HEAVENLY GLORY

ELW 561

COMMITMENT PRAYER: THROUGHOUT THE COMING YEAR by P.F. Freeman

PSALMODY

LET MY PRAYER RISE UP

ELW 232

Psalm 141 From Holden Evening Prayer

Following a time of silence:

L: Let us pray together: **Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O God, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with purified hearts we may sing your praises with the church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify you forever and ever. Amen.**

Psalm 8:1-9

L: O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

C: You have set your glory above the heavens.

L: Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark

C: because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

L: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

C: the moon and the stars that you have established;

L: what are human beings that you are mindful of them,

C: mortals that you care for them?

L: Yet you have made them a little lower than God,

C: and crowned them with glory and honor.

L: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

C: you have put all things under their feet,

L: all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

C: the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,

L: whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

C: O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Following a time of silence:

God of majesty, **amid the grandeur of your creation you sought us out, and by the coming of your Son you adorned us with glory and honor, giving us dominion over your works. Enable us so to care for the earth that all creation may radiate the splendor of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

HYMN

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

ELW 295

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Revelation 21:1-6 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; 4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." 5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

Matthew 25:31-46 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

READING THE COBBLER AND HIS GUEST by Anne McCollum Boyles

Following a time of silence:

DIALOGUE

L: Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

C: Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness.

READING FILL US WITH LOVE by Clarence Hawkes

GOSPEL CANTICLE: THE MAGNIFICAT (Holden Evening Prayer) Insert

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

**PRAYERS CONCLUSION: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrudged, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN

O CHRIST THE SAME

ELW 760

BLESSING and DISMISSAL

L: God is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.
God grant you grace and peace at the dawn of this new year.

C: Amen.

L: All flesh is grass, but the word of God remains forever.
God who is eternal keep you in hope of the resurrection.

C: Amen.

L: The past, the present, and the future rest in God's hands.
God guard your coming in and your going forth,
this new year and forevermore.

C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

L: Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God.



Irene Carpenter, Paul
Mikaelsen, Jay Mikaelsen, Scott
Sorenson, Max Tilderquist,
Anne Rathman, Wendy
Anderson, and Geri Lindholm

SAVE THESE DATES!

- Jan 3 5:45pm @ Lutheran Center
7th/8th Confirmation Classes
resume
- Jan. 10th 5:30pm
Vasa Family Night
- Jan. 18-19 Vasa Blood Drive
(see VOICE for details)

Parish Pulse:

Dec. 20/24

Participating in Worship: 178

+8 live-streams

Total Offerings:

\$11,960.78