

I AM DOING A NEW THING!

ISAIAH 43:19



2nd Sunday of Christmastide

January 3, 2020

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Eternal God, a thousand years in your sight are like a watch in the night. As you have led us in days past, so guide us now and always, that our hearts may learn to choose your will, and new resolves be strengthened; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Leader: As people formed by God, we give praise to God:

People: *Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert,
Christ among us – God is doing a new thing!*

Leader: As people restored by God, we give praise to God:

People: *Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert,
Christ among us – God is doing a new thing!*

Leader: As people pressing on in faith, we give praise to God:

People: *Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert,
Christ among us – God is doing a new thing!*

Leader: We give praise to God.

People: *Let us worship God!*

PRELUDE

Flourish on ADESTE FIDELES

by Mitchell

Dr. Terry McRoberts

TO PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

If we ask God to restore us to the way we have been, then we have not asked for as much as God intends to give. God is not content simply to return or restore us to former things. Instead, God seeks to give the gift of resurrection – a new and abundant life. With confidence in God's generosity, we confess our sins and seek the new life offered in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Purifying God, we grow comfortable with the way things are in our lives, in the church, and in the world. We do not always welcome the new life you offer in Christ, for you overturn our notions of power and protocol. Sure of our own righteousness, we are critical of others. Wanting to control our assets, we hoard the gifts you give us. Forgive us, we pray, for seeking our gain at the expense of others. Help us bend our lives toward your (continued)

own life of self-giving and sacrifice. Fill us, our homes and churches, the whole world, with the abundant love of Christ until all are made new. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Leader: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

People: *Thanks be to God. Amen.*

THE WORD

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Stacey McAdams

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Courtney Bowen

MUSIC

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go
Dr. Terry McRoberts, organ | Helen Redding, piano

arr. by Sprunger

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 43:16-21
(Page 672 in the pew Bible)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

SERMON

"The Former Things"

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from "The Confession of 1967" (inclusive)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace...

Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ. Amen.

MUSIC

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
Dr. Terry McRoberts, organ | Helen Redding, piano

Bach / Sprunger

OFFERING

*Doxology (Tune: 591)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Dedicatory Prayer

Rev. Courtney Bowen

OLD HUNDREDTH

Rev. Courtney Bowen

SENDING

*CHARGE

Rev. Courtney Bowen

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

*POSTLUDE

O Hail This Brightest Day of Days
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Bach