

# I AM DOING A NEW THING!

ISAIAH 43:19



## 2<sup>nd</sup> 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