

Now & Then

The Promise of Advent



Advent Devotional

December 2, 2023 - January 5, 2024

Saturday, December 2, 2023

Read Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37 in preparation for tomorrow's sermon. Think about how these two passages related to one another...and to the beginning of Advent.

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Advent begins!

Come worship with us.

Services are at 9 am (traditional) and 10:30 am (contemporary)

We livestream at [FPCAmbler.org](https://www.fpcambler.org), on Facebook, and YouTube

**This week's devotions were written by our missionary in Armenia,
Beth Hedges**

Monday, December 4, 2023

Read: Isaiah 64:1-3

Reflect: Have you ever experienced an earthquake? It is an odd feeling when the earth, which you have experienced as an unmovable object, begins to shake. Or maybe you have been high up in a building and realized that it is not as solid as you thought when it moves in the wind. Isaiah here is longing for an even stronger kind of shaking – the kind of trembling that will change us and the world.

Prayer: Lord there are many places where Your presence is needed - places that need to be shaken up and disturbed. There are ideas and assumptions about reality that need to be turned on their heads, both out there in the world and in here in me. Come that I might tremble. Come that awesome things would happen. Come to this place (name a place that needs to change). Amen

Song: Did you feel the mountains tremble

Did you feel the mountains tremble Delirious HD - lyrics

<https://youtu.be/ek26sskZERQ?si=9ajeqoWM1PQSxJCm>

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Read: Isaiah 64:3-5a

Reflect: There are many “gods” around the world but in Jesus we see and perceive who God truly is. Jesus is the “radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being” (Heb. 1:3). In Jesus we find a God who is like no other, rich in grace and never-ending love. Jesus is God with us who then suffers, dies, and rises again proving the Lord is a God who rescues and saves. No eye has seen any God besides You!

Prayer: Lord you alone are God, there is none like You. You created me in Your image, breathed Your breath in me and gave me life. When I put my whole life in Your hands, Your Spirit comes, and I have new life. When I wait for You, You act on my behalf. Help me wait for You, to do right gladly and remember Your ways. I am thankful that You are the God who is with me. Please be with me to the end. Amen

Song: You’ll Never Walk Alone by Aretha Franklin

Aretha Franklin-You'll Never Walk Alone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBO1hh3BtYo>

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Read: Isaiah 64:5b-7

Reflect: The bad news is that our rebellion and disobedience create a barrier in our relationship with God. All of our good deeds cannot make up for all the ways we fall short of the glory and holiness of God. Rebellion leads to more rebellion, leading to more distance in our relationship with God. It is important to recognize the seriousness of our rebellion, disobedience, self-direction, and self-reliance. How then can we be saved?

Prayer: God, you know and see all. You know and see my heart, my life, my secrets, my desires. So often they are far from You and what You call me to as Your child. I confess that my good deeds do not make up for all the ways that I do not love You and do not love my neighbor. Show me where my heart has grown hard. Show me my selfishness, self-direction, and self-reliance so I can turn and change my ways. Thank You for Your loving invitation to come and be washed by You. Please wash me and make me clean, Amen.

Song: Amazing Grace

Antrim Mennonite Choir - Amazing Grace [with lyrics]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdQs-x8H6Hg>

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Read: Isaiah 64:8-9

Reflect: That we can call God our Father, Abba/Daddy/Papa is amazing. Imagine! The Creator of all the stars and universe has us call Him Daddy and answers us by name. It is astounding that we flawed and limited humans are being shaped and formed by God for his own purposes. The reason we have these things is because of God's viewpoint, that God calls us His own. It is not anything we have done, but God's grace alone. Thanks be to God.

Prayer: Papa thank you for being my Papa. Show me more and more what that means in my life. Thank you for being our Papa. Help Your people live out the reality of our relationship with You. You are the One who shapes and forms my life. Help me to trust You and the work You are doing as the Potter. You are also shaping and molding Your people; form us as a community according to Your purposes for us. We are Yours, do what You wish. For Your name's sake, Amen.

Song Change my heart O God

Change My Heart Oh God ~ Maranatha! Music ~ lyric video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IISmG-_eJTU

Friday, December 8, 2023

Read: Mark 13:24-37

Reflect: Jesus' second Advent (Arrival) will be very different than His first. He will come not come to the manger nor to the cross but in His full glory and power. Jesus will come and complete the final victory of God over death, sin, and the devil. Distress and darkness are clues that His return is near, but we do not know exactly when our Master will return. But we are to be ready to welcome Him, watching for His return with anticipation.

Prayer: Jesus thank you for your first coming, when you came as the baby in the manger and the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world. Help me to be ready for Your second advent when You will come with glory and power. Show me my assigned tasks in Your Kingdom and help me to do them with all my heart for the glory and praise of Your name. Come quickly Lord Jesus to make all things new.

Song: Soon and very soon

Soon and Very Soon (Andraé Crouch) (Lyrics)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaYrh9yamUA>

Saturday, December 9, 2023

Read Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8 in preparation for tomorrow's sermon. Can you find a link between the two passages? How do they relate to Advent?

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Come join us in worship on this second Sunday of Advent.

Our traditional service is at 9 am and contemporary at 10:30.

Under the weather? Hope you feel better...and as you recuperate listen to our livestream at FPCAmbler.org, on Facebook, or on YouTube.

This week's Devotions were written by Debra Lee

Monday, December 11, 2023

Read: Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

Reflect: Isaiah 40 addresses Israel, God's beleaguered people who are greatly suffering in exile in Babylon. With words of comfort, forgiveness, and hope for restoration, God is meeting them amid their suffering. On the other side of the cross, we are restored and forgiven through the sacrifice and atonement of Jesus. Many suffer, whether it be cancer, divorce, or simply because of the natural order of things in our fallen world. But in the book of Isaiah, the sufferings of the people of God were directly due to their rebellion against Him, displayed in their corruption and idolatry. Sin is serious and grievous in the eyes of the Lord. The deep riches and many layers of meaning of Isaiah's words are relevant to us today for our hope and consolation in the coming of Messiah.

Prayer: Father God, thank you for meeting me in suffering, for your forgiveness when I cause you grief by my sin, and for restoring me in relationship to you through Jesus.

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Read: Isaiah 40:3-5

Reflect: Here the people are called by a voice in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord. It's also a prophecy about John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Christ (Mark 1). John's method of preparing a straight and level road was to call the nation to ready themselves spiritually through repentance, for God was about to come and redeem them. The wilderness is a place of suffering, where God may seem absent. It is also a place of purification and hope. We should never be afraid of a wilderness experience. It is to be embraced, for there, the hand of God works in our lives to reveal His glory (v 5.) We know it is the coming of Messiah that has revealed the fullness of God!

Prayer: I know you are always with me, Lord, even when it seems you are not. Thank you for working in my life to reveal your glory.

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Read: Isaiah 40: 6-7

Reflect: Our short lives are compared to grass and our fragility to wildflowers. Our faithfulness cannot be relied on, our loyalty wavers, we break our promises, our kindness is sporadic. But our weakness need not trouble us, for our God is eternal, strong, faithful and completely dependable. We can trust confidently in His unfailing Word, which stands forever (v.8). Because of God's faithfulness, His people relied on His promise to deliver them out of Babylon. Where do you need to trust God for deliverance?

Prayer: Eternal God, thank you that we can rely on you and Trust in Your faithfulness to deliver us from evil whatever our circumstances.

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Read: Isaiah 40:9

Reflect: Isaiah 40:9 brings a jubilant message of Good Tidings to God's people, addressed as Zion and Jerusalem, with the good news that "*Here is your God!*" (v.9). Then we read descriptions of both God's power and His gentleness. "*His arm rules for Him*" (v.10) means that Yahweh has no need of any outside help to accomplish His purposes whether it is rescuing the exiles in Babylon or defeating Satan at the cross. There is no need to fear!!!! He is like a shepherd, strong to protect the flock and carry the lambs in His arms. We are in the everlasting arms of our eternal God, the arms of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

Prayer: To You, Lord God, mighty in your power and tender in your mercy, I bow before you in awe of your great love for me. To You be the Glory!

Friday, December 15, 2023

Read: Isaiah 40:1-11.

Reflect: The Lord who tends His flock like a shepherd in Isaiah 40 foreshadows Jesus, who lays down His life for the sheep as we read in the Gospel of John. Verse 10 tells us that the Sovereign Lord is going to be rewarded for the years of misery that He endured while His wayward people rebelled and suffered their punishment. Seeing His people's joy and to protect, care for, and love his flock, is His reward. Like the father of the prodigal son in Jesus' parable, God considers our restoration to Him a cause for tremendous celebration. Let us resolve to bring Him joy by walking closely with our Shepherd.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, it is my delight to hear your Word and walk closely with my Good Shepherd Jesus, and my comfort to trust in your protection and care.

Saturday, December 16, 2023

Read Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 and Luke 1:46b-55.

Consider God's love and care for the needy in these verses. Imagine ways to serve others during the Christmas holidays and beyond. Help us to bring the Good News with hand and heart this season.

Sunday, December 17, 2023

You are invited to worship with us today. A 9:00 am traditional service or the 10:30 am contemporary service awaits your presence. Live streaming is available for both services via FPCAmbler.org, Facebook, or YouTube. Celebrate joy as we light the third Advent candle this morning.

This week's devotions were written by Leslie Wise

Monday, December 18, 2023

Read: Psalm 18:28, Isaiah 50:11

Reflect: The third Advent candle was lit last Sunday. This candle is known as the Shepherds candle or the candle of joy. Our own candles may be “a dimly burning wick”. The flame may have been extinguished long ago. The dark, cold wick is a reminder of all that has been lost. Will the flame ever return? We often try to find the light again in places of our own making. Isaiah 50:11 gives us a sober warning. ‘But instead, some of you want to light our own fires and make your own light. So, go, walk in the light of your fires and trust your own light to guide you. But this is what you will receive from me, you will lie down in a place of pain.’ How many of us have found ourselves in that place? Waiting in the darkness of an Advent season can be painful and desperately lonely. We may end up taking a grievous path to alleviate the sorrow. God promises in Psalm 18 to “light our candle and enlighten our darkness”. Is this promise enough? The shepherds saw the star on a dark night and rejoiced. The light broke through. The star danced with fire and life. How do we wait for joy again?

Prayer: Please restore to us the joy of our salvation. Our own candles may be a cold reminder of past hopes and happiness. Replace our old candles with those of purpose, promise, and hope. Light our way home with a flame fragrant with the tidings of Your comfort and joy.

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Read: Luke 1:46-55

Reflect: Most of us are familiar with this prayer of Mary, also known as the Magnificat or Song of Mary. Mary begins her prayer with exalting God and acknowledging her humble status as God's bondservant. The second part of the prayer expresses God's concern with those of low degree. The proud are scattered; rulers are brought down from their thrones. The rich are sent away empty handed. Dietrich Bonhoeffer called the Magnificat "the most passionate, the wildest, one might even say the most revolutionary hymn ever sung." The Magnificat is still banned by oppressive governments due to its "revolutionary rhetoric and subversive hope". Mary may not have been the meek and mild Madonna that she is often depicted as! The Magnificat is a model for our own prayers; first praising God for His mighty arm and deeds, acknowledging our humility before him, then praying for the weak and outcast. While Mary's prayer may not have overturned governments, she knew her Child could overturn hearts. We can join Elizabeth's babe and leap for joy.

Prayer: Thank you for Mary's radical trust and obedience to you. Help us not to shrink back in fear or turn away when You call us. Enable our prayers to be wild in hope and praise. Let them be as incense to You and the world.



Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Read: Isaiah 61:1-4, 1 Peter 4: 12,13

Reflect: In the NASB version of the Bible, Isaiah 61 is titled the *Exultation of the Afflicted*. Compare the words of this passage with those of the Magnificat. Read of God's continuing care regarding the brokenhearted, the afflicted, captives and prisoners. Mourners will be comforted. He will walk the ancient ruins and former devastation with us, leaving restoration in His wake. Isaiah wrote these words approximately 700 years before the Magnificat. The hope and promise of the Messiah are a golden thread woven throughout the Bible. But He was not coming as a pompous King, buoyed up with worldly power. The people of Israel were expecting a conquering Messiah. But Jesus was born of a virgin, birthed in a manger and died on a cross. He suffered humility on our behalf. Our afflictions are well known to God. Our tender Shepherd champions our weaknesses. Knowing this, we can keep on "rejoicing with exultation" along with Mary and Isaiah.

Prayer: Help us to consider the many ways You humbled Yourself that we may live. Thank you that You care so deeply for our human estate and that You do not despise us for it. May we be of the same mind when regarding others.

Thursday, December 21, 2023

Read: Isaiah 61:3 10-11

Reflect: How often have you looked through your closet bemoaning the fact that “I have nothing to wear”? Consider choosing these adornments from God: a garland, the oil of gladness, the mantle of praise or the robe of righteousness. Wear what you will but adorn yourself with these. What perfume could ever match the oil of gladness? Imagine wearing a wreath of fragrant flowers or greens over your mantle of praise. Fashion houses are no match for God’s apparel line! Take a moment after dressing. Put a touch of the oil of gladness behind your ear, adjust the garland over your cloak of praise. For those at home, enjoy the robe of righteousness! These are the garments of salvation. How do you see yourself when wearing these garments? Share them with others and watch righteousness and praise spring up before the nations.

Prayer: God, we faint and mourn. We are covered with the ashes of this life. Help us to dust off the residue that can cover us just by living. Enable to us to bring the fragrance of life to others.

Friday, December 22, 2023

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:15

Reflect: Yes, I admit it. I do peruse the obituaries! I was reading about the life of Julius M. Steiner in the Philadelphia Inquirer on 10.31. 2023. One paragraph very much caught my eye. These words were written by his wife, Heather. “He dropped everything to take care of me. Jules’s love brought me back and gave me purpose. He came around like a warm season. I was in hell, and I was freezing. He walked me into the light. He was the greatest gift of my life.” Isn’t this what we yearn for? To be walked into the light in a warm season? Take a moment and imagine those words. What would the warmth and light feel like to you? I don’t know the deceased or his wife’s faith. I hope I would be forgiven for using these special words in a Christian devotion. In a few days, the darkness of Advent will be over. We can cast off our cold, mourning shrouds and rejoice. Soon, the days will be longer, and light will return with the warmth of Spring. Let’s walk with each other into the light with purpose and love.

Prayer: God, we may unwrap many presents under the tree this Christmas. But You are the greatest gift we could ever receive. Thank You for the “indescribable gift” of Your Son. Help us to share this gift with others in the best way we are able.

Saturday, December 23, 2024

Read Luke 1:26-38 in preparation for tomorrow's sermon.

Read it again, slowly. What words or phrases stand out to you?
What might God be saying?

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Join us to sing carols as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!
Today we will have ONE morning service at 10 am.

It will be livestreamed at FPCAmbler.org, Facebook, and YouTube.



This week's devotions were written by Bill Brams

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, 2023

Read: Luke 1: 26-27

Reflect: Gabriel makes a second appearance, this time to Mary to give her wonderful news. The location is Nazareth, an unremarkable place that was never mentioned in the Old Testament. Mary was betrothed to Joseph, which at this time was a serious promise that even before their marriage required a divorce to break the obligation.

It is clearly stated that Mary is a virgin. This stunning news continues to amaze us even to this day. Trusting the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish this is one of the tests of our faith.

Angels appear often in the Bible and are rarely named. Gabriel is named and makes two significant appearances. Can any of us relate to a visit by an angel? To be startled and forever changed would state the obvious.

Prayer: Gracious God, those of us with faith are blessed by the words of the scriptures. My faith has been tested and although I have not been blessed by an angelic visitor, I have been inspired and blessed by the Holy Spirit. I pray that I continue to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as my guide to live in the manner that Jesus demands of me.

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

Read: Luke 1: 28-29

Reflect: Gabriel's words to Mary were positive. "Greetings, you are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Could Gabriel have been more thoughtful with his calming words? I think not and yet Mary was troubled by Gabriel's greeting. I guess this was Mary's humility being expressed after these gracious words to her.

Are we not also highly favored and blessed by the Lord? Is not the Lord with us as well? Although we could wish to have an angel visit us, we are actually on a par with Mary in so many ways. Yes, we are highly favored! Yes, the Lord is with us! Yes, we need to count our blessings!

Prayer: Gracious God, we yearn to be with you and to speak to you directly. I am thankful for the scriptures that speak to me. I am thankful for the teachings and sacrifice of your son Jesus. I am thankful for the Holy Spirit that is in me and speaks to me as well. Yes, yes, yes, I am blessed, and you are with me and do speak to me.

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

Read: Luke 1: 30-33

Reflect: Such news for Mary to hear. Again, “you have found favor with God” but then the stunning news. You will conceive a son and name him Jesus. He will be great and is the Messiah. Yes, he is your son but also the Son of God.

Jesus is indeed great in so many ways. His perfect life, his obedience to the end, his miracles, his teachings and on and on. The supreme mentor to you and me. Our savior and redeemer.

The birth of Jesus gives us much to celebrate. It is only the beginning and we have so much more to look forward to and to hear again and again. Am I listening? Am I taking action? This time of year is one of renewal for me. A time to refocus and take next steps in my Christian journey. What will they be?

Prayer: Gracious God, I am thankful for your servant Mary, who was blessed to be the mother of your son Jesus. We are excited each year as we celebrate his birth. However, we know what is coming and the ultimate sacrifice Jesus will make for us. Help me focus on my Christian journey that honors to the fullest the gift I have been given. I ask this in the name of your son Jesus.

Thursday, December 28, 2023

Read: Luke 1: 34-37

Reflect: Mary, like Zacharias and Elizabeth earlier, is confounded that she could be pregnant. Gabriel's explanation is explained by the Holy Spirit coming upon her and that the "Power of the Highest will overshadow you." So, Mary has a virginal conception through the power of God. Gabriel gives further evidence of God's power by letting Mary know that Elizabeth had also become pregnant in her old age.

The concept of the Holy Spirit and the power of God overshadowing us is comforting to me. To be enveloped by the Holy Spirit of God is a feeling of becoming more complete in such a moment. I guess I mean closer to God. We all yearn to attain such an intimacy with our creator. Have I achieved such an intimacy? I think yes, in some fleeting moments. Don't we all yearn and strive for even more?

Prayer: Gracious God, the mystery and miracle of the Holy Spirit is in my mind often. I yearn to be blessed by an intimacy with You. Help me feel a spiritual overshadowing with you. Help me be empowered by such intimacy to anchor my faith and be motivated daily to further your kingdom.

Friday, December 29, 2023

Read: Luke 1:38

Reflect: In this passage Mary acquiesces in service to our Lord. A spiritual cloud overshadows her in verse 35 and a cloud of suspicion regarding her fidelity will put a shadow over her going forward. Mary exhibited great faith and trust in the Lord. "Then the angel left her." This verse was a short and simple end to the revelation of Mary's virginity.

Mary's faithful obedience is stunning. It raises a question for me about my faith. What challenges do I have that remotely rise to that of Mary's? The answer is none. That is not to say that we can all have moments that challenge our faith. We can look to Mary as one mentor in the faith for each of us.

Prayer: Gracious God, Mary's matter of fact trust in You is a shining light on the faith journey for each of us. A spiritual cloud enveloped her and lived within her. I pray that the Holy Spirit lives in me and inspires me each day to further your kingdom. I say this in service to your son, Jesus.

Saturday, December 30, 2023

Read Philippians 3:1-16

Reflect on this passage as one year ends and another begins.

What does the Holy Spirit say to you?

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Worship with us as we close out one year and prepare to welcome another.

We will have ONE service this morning at 10 am. Let's worship together!

Online at [FPCAmbler.org](https://www.fpcambler.org), Facebook, and YouTube

New Year's Day, Monday, January 1, 2024

Read: Philippians 3:1 Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

Reflect: Last night, there was merry-making all over the world. Many celebrated with expensive, alcohol fueled parties...and launched the new year with a headache and fatigue. We can rejoice in the Lord with no fear of hangover and no matter our circumstances. Why? Because rejoicing in the Lord means remembering that we are chosen by God and dearly loved, that Jesus understands both our joys and our pains, and is Emmanuel, God with us. Rejoicing in the Lord means acknowledging that he paid an entrance fee we could never cover and that we need not, indeed *cannot*, earn our way into salvation. Rejoicing in the Lord means bowing to his sovereignty, even in the brokenness of the world, trusting that in the end, all will be well. Let's begin this new year rejoicing!

Prayer: Lord, help us to remember to give you thanks when things are going well and to rest in your presence during the hard times you carry us through. We are grateful that you are Lord of all, that you will redeem all things, and that your love never fails. We rejoice in you!

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Read: Philippians 3:2-7

Reflect: I have some bad news. You can read the Bible every day, volunteer in soup kitchens and shelters, sell your home and live among the poor, and not be “good enough” to enter God’s kingdom. I have some great news. You are invited into God’s kingdom based on faith in Jesus and his sacrifice that paid for all your sins. His merit, not yours. When you stand before our holy God, you can say, “I’m with him,” and point to your Savior, Jesus Christ. You need not cite your pedigree, provide a list of good works, or display your dissertation. Scripture tells us our best works are “dirty rags” to him. But oh! The thanksgiving we have in response to this good news! This is our motivation to love others with a sacrificial love, to serve with joy, and to make disciples, sharing the good news with others.

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for inviting us into your kingdom. Help us to live lives worthy of our holy calling, loving you, loving your people, rejoicing always.

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Read: Philippians 3:7-11

Reflect: Here Paul stacks up all his shining achievements and counts them as nothing compared to knowing Christ. I have read this so many times and feel convicted. I confess...I am an achievement junkie. God help me. Paul gave up his social status and the security of his home to share the good news with gentiles, those despised by his Jewish brethren. He endured shipwrecks, hostile crowds, and imprisonment and still pursued God with all his heart. Paul cries out, "I want to know Christ- yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead." What might God be calling us to give up for his sake? What might "participation in his sufferings" look like? What keeps us from adopting the values and priorities Paul writes about here? Lord, please give us more faith.

Prayer: Lord, you call us to love you with our whole hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Simple words. Challenging words. Help us to pursue knowing you and living out your love above all. May our only boast be in you and your sacrificial love for flawed people. Yes, even for me.

Thursday, January 4, 2024

Read: Philippians 3:12-14

Reflect: Paul worked hard to fulfill the great commission, to make disciples. As he expressed how he “presses on” and “strains toward what is ahead,” he also recognized that his efforts began with Jesus taking hold of him. Jesus initiated and Paul responded by giving Jesus his all. He shares that he remains a work in process, continuing to strive for a perfection that will not be realized this side of heaven. But glory to God, the prize is already his in Christ Jesus. God called him heavenward. Have you heard the call? Received the gift of faith? How then shall we live?

Prayer: Jesus, you are the pearl of great price, the treasure in the field, the prize for which we strive. Help us to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus has taken hold of us. And thank you that you will never let us go!

Friday, January 5, 2024

Read: Philippians 3:16, Philippians 4:2-3

Reflect: Paul charges the Philippian church---and us! --- to live up to what we have already attained. What have we attained? Salvation. Eternity in heaven. Paul exhorts believers to stand firm in the Lord, to follow his example of living as citizens of heaven, and yes to agree with one another in the Lord. In these days of deep division among Christians, we are called to be peacemakers, to focus on what really matters under the banner of Christ's love, and to help those in disagreements to forgive, overlook offenses, and have a wider lens for the sake of the gospel. God, help us all!

Prayer: Lord, as we begin this new year, help us to keep our eyes on you. May we let go of all that is not of you and hold fast to what truly matters. May we be eternity minded, and with this perspective, be willing to give up our right to be right and our desire to point out perceived wrongs of others. Forgive us for holding grudges and sowing division and help us to be peacemakers. All for love's sake. Amen.



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and we live out our faith together.

