

JANUARY 1, 2021
NEW YEAR'S EVE,
NEW YEAR'S DAY



A time for new beginnings.

NEW YEAR'S BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your New Year's celebration.

Thursday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 Psalm 8	A time for everything Divine majesty and human dignity
Friday	Revelation 21:1-6a Matthew 25:31-46	A new heaven and earth Parable of final judgment

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR NEW YEAR'S

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the New Year:

God of our future, give us peace and joy as we anticipate the new year ahead with faith, hope, and love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you for this food, a gift of your love that we may take pleasure in all we do. Amen. (Ecclesiastes 3:13)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus Christ, the Alpha and the Omega give you joy as you serve your neighbor in love. (Revelation 21:6a and Matthew 25:34-40)



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HYMN FOR NEW YEAR'S 
Canticle of the Turning



NEW YEAR'S MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What are some of your mountain highs and valley lows from 2020?
- What are some of your hopes and dreams for 2021?
- Our future is in God's hands. How does this affect your thoughts about the future?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Revelation 21:1-6a.

The new year is a time for reflection. It can also be a time of panic, both personal and global. Remember the potential chaos around the year 2000 A.D. and Y2K, the fear that computers around the globe would stop working on December 31, 1999? Concerns about personal health, relationships, and lifestyle as well as global concerns lead to those deeper reflections. The Book of Revelation was written at a time of grave concerns about the hostilities of the Roman government toward Christians as an expression of Satan's control of the earth. Instead of a message of escape from this earth, John the Seer, the author, gives us a vision of God's future that promises a new heaven and a new earth. God will not abandon God's creation but renew it, however Satan will not. God wins by making a home with us. God will dwell with us. It will be a time when suffering, grief, and worries will be no more. Therefore, be of good courage. Our future is well established and in God's hands. Yes, even as you begin 2021! How does faith in Christ, the Lamb who was slain and begins his reign, give you comfort today?

Pray: **God of the ages, through Christ Jesus our Lord you promise a future filled with light and life; give us a vision of your presence in our lives as we move into a new year. Amen.**

SERVICE

Choose an organization or a charity that helps and serves those in need. How will you support them during the coming year? Discuss ways in which you can set aside or raise money to support the cause. What plan of action will you take?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Write on a piece of paper one experience of joy from 2020, one of sadness, and one worry you may have for 2021. Make a cross out of two sticks or use a cross from your home and tape your paper on the cross. Then pray the following prayer.

Pray: **Almighty God, you who promise a new heaven and a new earth filled with your holy presence, bless us as we enter this new year. As we place our trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, free us from the sadness of the past and worries for the future. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org