
SERMON All Beginnings are Hard

HYMN 55 In the bleak midwinter *Cranham*

OPENING HEARTS

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

LORD'S PRAYER *p. 914*

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

ANTHEM The Shepherds' Farewell *Hector Berlioz*

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare, babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share. Loving father, loving mother, shelter thee with tender care! Blessed Jesus, we implore thee with humble love and holy fear, in the land that lies before thee, forget not us who linger here! May the shepherd's lowly calling ever to thy heart be dear! Blest are ye beyond all measure, thou happy father, mother mild! Guard ye well your heavenly treasure, the Prince of Peace, the holy child! God go with you, God protect you, guide you safely through the wild!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 45 Joy is now in every place *Resonet in Laudibus*

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE Fantasia on "In Dulci Jubilo" *J.S. Bach*

The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Marc Le Roux and Aileen Le Roux
by André Le Roux and family.

Participating in today's service: Doug McWhirter (coordinating greeter); Megan Konzelman, Mary Ann Borden, Ann Barrett (greeters); Joyce Deyong (reader); Don Parsons (worship leader); Judi Healy (sound); Peter Merrick and the Choir. Connie Capes-Leslie and Deborah Hart are enjoying a Sunday off.

January 3, 2010

Sing a new world into being.
Sound a bold and hopeful theme.
Find a tune for silent yearnings.
Lend your voice and dare to dream:
 dream a church where all who worship
 find their lives and loves belong.
Sing a new world into being.
Sing as Christ inspires your song!

Sing a new world into being
where each gender, class, and race
brings its rainbow gifts and colours
to God's limitless embrace;
 where the lines that once divided
 form instead the ties that bind.
Sing a new world into being:
risk transforming heart and mind!

Sing a new world into being
where the homeless find a home,
where no children ever hunger
but are filled in God's shalom;
 where all people work for justice,
 where all hate and vengeance cease.
Sing a new world into being:
raise the harmonies of peace.

Mary Louise Bringle

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH

January 3, 2010 10:30 a.m.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

*The congregation is invited to join in responses which are **bold**.*

OPENING DOORS

PRELUDE The old year now has passed away *J.S. Bach*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING *(The congregation stands as able.)*

“I said to the one who stood at the gate of the year,
‘Give me a light that I may tread softly into the unknown.’

And he replied:

**‘Go forth into the darkness,
and put your hand into the hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light,
and safer than the known way.’**

So I went forth, and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

**And God led me towards the hills,
and the breaking of day in the lone east.”**

Friends, with courage and hope, let us now worship God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 35 Good Christian friends, rejoice *In Dulci Jubilo*

OPENING PRAYER

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray: *(The congregation is seated.)*

Holy God, as we enter this new year,
we thank you for your presence with us
in all the seasons of our lives.

**We have known celebration and sorrow,
accomplishment and failure,
affirmation and rejection,
and through it all, you have been with us -
the companion of all our journeys.**

Because much of life is fleeting

we thank you for things that endure:

**the love of faithful friends,
wisdom gained from experience,
the beauty of creation,
and your steadfast love.**

Thank you for the possibility and promise
of this new year which opens now before us.

**We place our trust in you,
grateful that we are not alone,
that you are with us always.** *(silent personal reflection and prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

RESPONSE GLORIA 37 *(sung once in unison and then twice in a four-part round)*

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(The congregation is invited to share signs of Peace with their neighbours.)

LEARNING TOGETHER TIME

CHILDREN'S HYMN 71 ‘Twas in the moon of wintertime *Jesous Abatonhia*
(The children will go to Church School.)

OPENING MINDS

HEBREW SCRIPTURES Jeremiah 31: 7-14

This is the witness of God's people.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM 84 *p. 800*

GOSPEL John 1: 1-18

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANTHEM A New Year Carol *Benjamin Britten*

*Here we bring new water from the well so clear, for to worship God with, this happy New Year.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine; the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that
do shine!*