

The Synod of the Covenant
New Year's Eve Worship Service
2023

...And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."

Revelation 21:5



The Synod of the Covenant

New Year's Eve Service

December 31, 2023

Prelude

Ring Out, Wild Bells

Musicians: Ann Woods
Bells and Choir
First Church of Escanaba
Mackinac Presbytery

(verse 1)

Good Christian friends rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ was born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ was born today!
Christ was born today!

Welcome Chip Hardwick
Synod Executive

(verse 2)

Good Christian friends rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
And we are blessed forever ore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Call to Worship

Matthew Skolnik
General Presbyter

Muskingum Valley Presbytery

One: Sing to the Lord a new song

***Many: God's compassions never fail!
They are new every morning. Great is
God's faithfulness.***

One: God promises to give us a new
heart and put a new spirit within us.

***Many: God puts a new song in our
mouths, a song of praise to the Lord.***

One: The Spirit says, "Behold! I am
doing a new thing, now it springs
forth!"

***Many: We can see it! You are making a
way in the wilderness and streams in
the wasteland!***

All: Let us worship God!

(verse 2)

Good Christian friends rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Carol: *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*
Kwabena Boamah-Acheampong
Ramseyer Presbyterian Church
Scioto Valley Presbytery

Reading 1: The Hebrew Year
Exodus 23:10-16; 20-21

Kathy Nice
Transitional General Presbyter
Scioto Valley Presbytery

Reading 2: A Season for All Things

Ecclesiastes 3:1-5

Barry Chance
General Presbyter and
Stated Clerk
Eastminster Presbytery

Reading 3: The Acceptable Time

2 Corinthians 5:17-6:2

Judy Mitchell
Stated Clerk
*Presbytery of the Western
Reserve*

**Reading 4: The Firstborn Over All
Creation**

Colossians 1:15-23

Erwin Geodicke
Stated Clerk
Cincinnati Presbytery

**Reading 5: New Heavens and New
Earth**

Revelation 21:1-14; 22-24

Terry Kukuk
Executive Presbyter
Miami Valley Presbytery

Reflection

Chip Hardwick

Communion

Melissa Allison
Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Detroit
Ted McCulloch
Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Lake Huron

Carol: People Look East!

Musicians: Worship Band
First Church Maumee
Maumee Valley Presbytery

People look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year
Make your house fair as you are able;
Trim the hearth and set the table.

Furrows be glad, Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there
Give up your strength the seed to
nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish

Birds, though you long have ceased to
build

Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is
dim

One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, that Christ is coming.

Benediction

Chip Hardwick

Postlude

Go With Us Lord
Bryce Wiebe
Associate for Vital
Congregations
Eastminster Presbytery

Many Thanks to All Who Contributed Behind the Scenes:

Ann Wood
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Terry Kukuk
Melissa Allison
Ted McCulloch
Kristen Woodard

And especially...

Heather Johnston, Synod Office Manager
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*At our synod we'll try anything to equip leaders who attend to God's
creative, emerging future.*