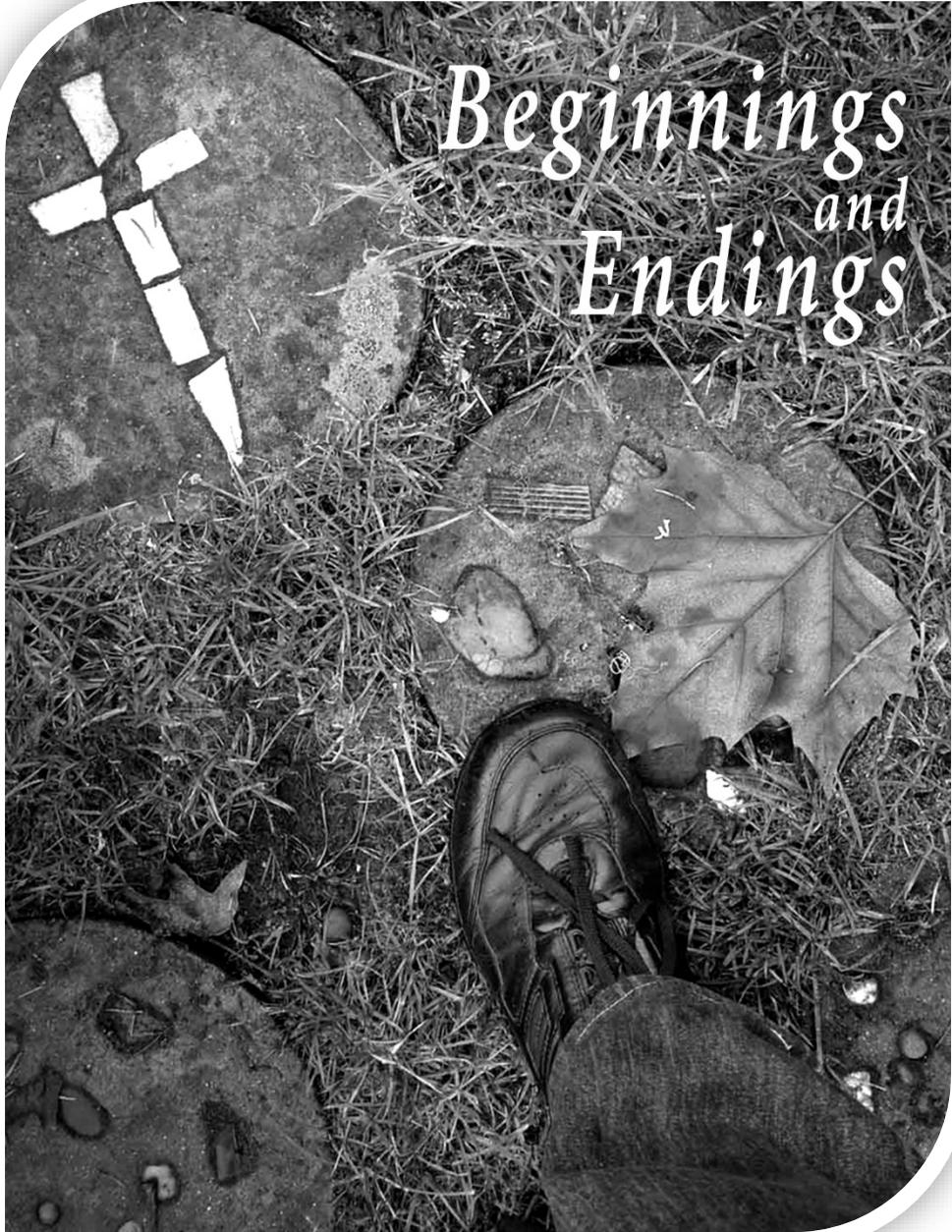


*Beginnings
and
Endings*



BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS - New Year's Eve 2016 @ 4 p.m.

St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, Kamloops BC

We extend a warm greeting to all who have gathered to share this service of light and hope for the New Year.

Music is played as we enter.

Silent reflection

Leader: God is eternal, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

People: **We stand at the doorway of a new year, remembering the year now past, and bringing our hopes and fears, our joys and sorrows to the God of all ages.**

Leader: God is our hope, re-creating every day, every month, every year anew.

People: **We look forward to many things, both happy and sad, in the coming year. We seek God's guidance for ourselves and our community.**

Leader: God is our Savior.

People: **As the new year dawns, we pray for a renewed sense of good news.**

We sing together:

**Behold behold I make all things new
Beginning with you
And starting from today
Behold behold I make all things new
My promise is true
For I am Christ the Way**

Leader: We now attend to the timeless voice of scripture.

Reading 1 Psalm 90:1-6

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust,
and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.'
For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

Lighting a candle for the hope of the ages - Silent Reflection

Reading 2 John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Lighting a candle for the promise of peace - Silent Reflection

Reading 3 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice

with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Lighting a candle for the reality of joy - Silent Reflection

Reading 4 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

Lighting a candle for the presence of love – Silent Reflection

Reading 5 John 3:16-21

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

Lighting a candle for Christ our Redeemer – Silent Reflection

A poem, by W. H Auden (*inspired by an article in Scientific American, January, 1969*)

A New Year Greeting
On this day tradition allots
to taking stock of our lives,

my greetings to all of you, Yeasts,
Bacteria, Viruses,
Aerobics and Anaerobics:
A Very Happy New Year
to all for whom my ectoderm
is as Middle-Earth to me.

For creatures your size I offer
a free choice of habitat,
so settle yourselves in the zone
that suits you best, in the pools
of my pores or the tropical
forests of arm-pit and crotch,
in the deserts of my fore-arms,
or the cool woods of my scalp.

Build colonies: I will supply
adequate warmth and moisture,
the sebum and lipids you need,
on condition you never
do me annoy with your presence,
but behave as good guests should,
not rioting into acne
or athlete's-foot or a boil.

Does my inner weather affect
the surfaces where you live?
Do unpredictable changes
record my rocketing plunge
from fairs when the mind is in tift
and relevant thoughts occur
to fouls when nothing will happen
and no one calls and it rains.

I should like to think that I make
a not impossible world,

but an Eden it cannot be:
my games, my purposive acts,
may turn to catastrophes there.
If you were religious folk,
how would your dramas justify
unmerited suffering?

By what myths would your priests account
for the hurricanes that come
twice every twenty-four hours,
each time I dress or undress,
when, clinging to keratin rafts,
whole cities are swept away
to perish in space, or the Flood
that scalds to death when I bathe?

Then, sooner or later, will dawn
a Day of Apocalypse,
when my mantle suddenly turns
too cold, too rancid, for you,
appetising to predators
of a fiercer sort, and I
am stripped of excuse and nimbus,
a Past, subject to Judgement.

Silent Reflection

Looking Back: The sharing of concerns and memories

Looking Forward: The sharing of hopes, dreams, or anxieties

A prayer for the present moment:

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;**

**where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

Prayers

**Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise
for all you have done for us.**

**We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation,
for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life,
and for the mystery of love.**

**We thank you for the blessing of family and friends,
and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.**

**We thank you for setting us tasks which demand our best efforts,
and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.**

**We thank you also for those disappointments and failures
that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.**

**Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ;
for the truth of his word and the example of his life;**

for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation;

for his dying, through which he overcame death;

for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

**Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known;
and through him, at all times and in all places,
may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.**

In the spirit of the Lord's prayer, we say:

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God in whom is heaven.
The hallowing of your name
Echo through the universe.**

**The way of your justice be followed
By the peoples of the world.
Your heavenly will be done
By all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
Sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, Amen.

A new year blessing:

Eternal God
To whom a thousand years are no more than a moment
Renew us in your Holy Spirit
So that we may serve you with courage
While we have life and breath;
Through the grace of your Son, Jesus, Risen, ascended and glorified
Bless our endeavors
In community and in creation
Now and always, **Amen.**

Pipes out, courtesy of D.J. Clarke