

JANUARY 1, 2019  
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 celebrations.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Ecclesiastes 3:1-13</b>	<b>For everything there is a season</b>
	<b>Revelation 21:1-6a</b>	<b>New heaven and earth</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Psalms 8</b>	<b>God-given dignity to humans</b>
	<b>Matthew 25:31-46</b>	<b>The great judgment</b>

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR NEW YEAR'S

I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

**Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### **A Prayer for New Year's:**

Dear God, as we look back to a year that is completed and to a year that is to begin, may the promise of your presence sustain us each and every day through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear Jesus, for this food we give you thanks and praise, help us to be loving all of our days. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord Jesus Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, fill your days and your deeds in his peace.



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## HYMN FOR NEW YEAR'S

*Just a Closer Walk  
with Thee*



## CARING CONVERSATIONS



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

- What are some special memories from 2018?
- How did you serve the needs of others this past year?
- A new year offers hopes for new beginnings. What are your hopes for this next year? How is God part of those hopes?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13.*

Ecclesiastes looks at the world around us, and with an honest gaze, tells simple and important truths. For one, human existence has limits. There is a time to be born and there is a time to die. Death is a reality that influences how we live. Each day has value and is precious as we give thanks to God who created the day, redeems us from sin and death, and sustains us with grace, mercy, and peace each day. It leads to a life that cares for real needs of others (see Matthew 25:31-46). It also takes simple pleasure on our journey of life: "I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil." As you look forward to 2019, how can you live with compassion for others and take pleasure in all that you do?

*Pray: Dear God, you created us in love that we may love all that you have created. Give us joy each day in your presence and in the presence of all that is around us. We pray for safety in our toil, contentment in our eating and drinking, and gladness in the relationships we have with family, friends, and those we meet along the way. In Jesus' name, amen.*

## SERVICE



In Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus speaks about the need to care for those who are hungry, thirsty, lonely, needing clothing, sick, or in prison. Make a list of places and ways you can care for those in need in the coming year as part of a New Year's resolution.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



There are many rituals done around the world and many traditional foods eaten at the beginning of a new year with an intent to bring good luck or invite a fresh start. What are some of your traditions for the New Year? Where is God present in those traditions? Begin a new tradition of establishing a few moments of silence before the New Year. Then pray for others and a time for new beginnings. Finish with the Lord's Prayer.



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