

*New Year's Eve  
Candlelight Communion Service*

**Sunday, December 31, 2023  
6:00 PM**

The Prelude:  
“Pastorale”  
“There Is No Shadow...”

Raymond H. Haan  
Brenda Portman

The Chiming of the Hour

\*The Call to Worship:  
In Christ, the God of heaven made his home on earth.  
**In Jesus, God entered time and is one with us.**  
Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.  
**He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.**  
All who hunger and thirst for righteousness—  
**Come and be filled.**  
All who search for wisdom and look for hope—  
**Come! For God is our light  
and he is with us now and in the life to come.**

\*The Opening Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 579  
“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

\*The Greeting

\*The People's Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome

The Bible Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

The Time of Remembering:

Births in 2023

Deaths in 2023

*concluded with sung response:*

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed,  
thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord  
unto me!**

\*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 404  
“God of Our Life”

The Prayer for 2024  
*see insert*

The Hymn of Response: “Take, O Take Me as I Am”

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Take, O Take Me as I Am". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;". The second system has the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are: "set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.". Above the first system, the chords are: D, G/D, Em/D A/D, D, G/B, Asus, A. Above the second system, the chords are: G, A/G, D, Bm, Em, D, Asus, A.

Words and Music (TAKE ME AS I AM 7.7.7.4): John L. Bell (b. 1949) © 1995 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent

LUYH 741. Used with permission under OneLicense #707908

The Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-20

The Sermon: **“REDEEMING THE TIME”**

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

\*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 351:1,2,4  
“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

*The Sacrament of Holy Communion*

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

With joy we praise you, gracious God, for in your great love, out of nothing, you created heaven and earth and everything in them. You made us in your image and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin. **We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.**

We thank you, Jesus, for “re-membering” us at this table—forgiving our sins, renewing our hearts, feeding our faith, and giving us abundant life now and forever. **We thank you for giving us food that endures to eternal life.**

Therefore, we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name:

**All Sing:**

**Holy Father, Holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, three we name you,  
though in essence only one;  
undivided God, we claim you,  
and, adoring, bend the knee  
while we own the mystery.**

LUYH 540:4

The Prayer of Consecration

Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love. Gather your whole church, O Lord, into the glory of your kingdom. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever, Amen.**

The Communion

*(see insert for songs to be sung during communion)*

The Words of Institution for the Bread

The Words of Institution for the Wine

\*The Song of Response: *Worship & Rejoice 425:2-4*  
“Christ Beside Me”

\*The Benediction

\*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

\*The Organ Amen

\*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

\*The Postlude:  
“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” Benjamin M. Culli

*(The Thank-Offering is for the Benevolence Fund. Offering  
plates are located at the Sanctuary exits.)*

Rev. Kristy Manion – minister

Rev. Peter Jonker – liturgist

Norma de Waal Malefyt – organist

Livestreaming worship is available at [lagrave.org](http://lagrave.org).