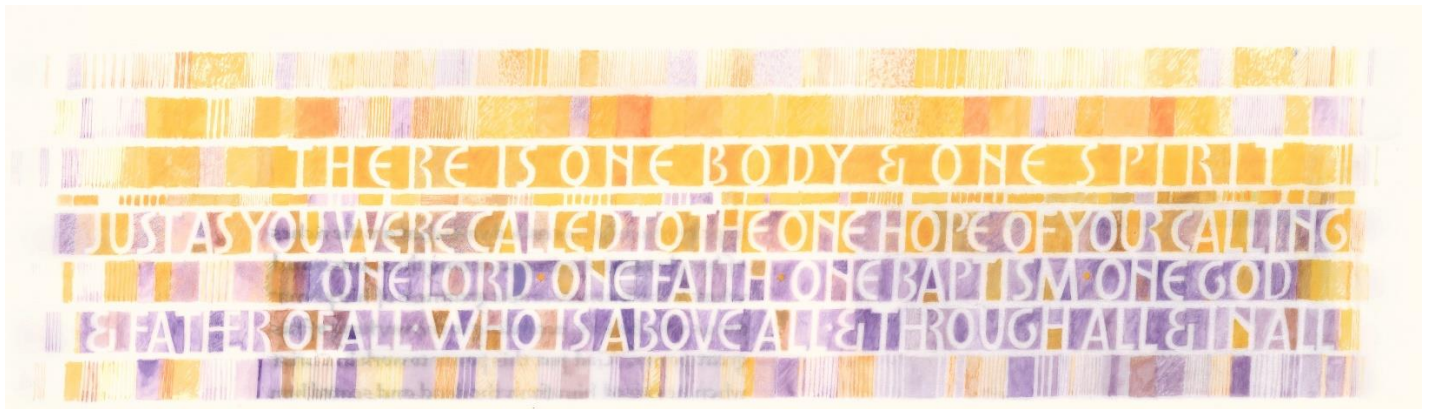




Service for a New Year
December 31, 2023
10:00 AM

We are glad you have chosen to join us today as we worship God together. Thank you for silencing your cell phone and wearing a name tag. Single-use name tags are available on the welcome table in the Gathering Space, along with name tag request forms. If this is your first time visiting, you have a prayer request, or you would like to get more connected, please fill out a pew card and place it in the offertory plate or the black box on the welcome table in the Gathering Space. Our Nursery, located on the lower level, is open from 9:45 AM to 11:30 AM this morning for children five and under. (Normal schedule resumes on Sunday January 7, 2024 from 7:45 AM - 12:00 PM) *The Bible we are using to proclaim the Gospel is The Saint John's Bible, Heritage Edition, and you can learn more about the Bible at stmikeschurch.com/bible.* We hope you have a blessed day and week ahead.



Welcome

Opening Scripture:

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Galatians (5:16-25)

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Opening Hymn

“The fruit of the Spirit is love for our sharing”

Ash Grove

The fruit of the Spirit is love for our sharing,
It's joy in the gospel that we have from you.
It's peace that we live out with courage and daring;
It's patience, for we know that we have sinned, too.
It's kindness in all things and generous giving;
It's faithfulness seeking to follow your way.
It's gentleness, Lord, and it's self-controlled living;
Now make us more fruitful in these things, we pray.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

People **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day (First Sunday after Christmas)

BCP 213

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading about Love from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (13:1-8)

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

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. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A Collect for Love

(Please stand)

The Rev. Vicki Hesse

Clergy Let us pray.

Beloved God, you are patient, kind, and truthful, bearing all things and enduring until the end of the age, grant us such love to believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things. Move us to share your love with wild abandon, because it will last until the end of the age, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading about Joy from Paul's Letter to the Philippians (4:1, 4-8)

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Reader The Word of the Lord.**People** Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn

"I come with joy to meet my Lord"

Hymn 304, v. 1-4

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| <p>1. I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved, and free,
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me.</p> | <p>3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
That love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.</p> |
| <p>2. I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.</p> | <p>4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
His presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known:
we see, and praise him here.</p> |

A Collect for Joy

(Please stand)

Owen Copps

Clergy Let us pray.

Living God, who brings the greatest of joys into the darkest of places, help in us to touch the depths of our pains and our sorrows. Remind us that joy and pain are not enemies, but dancers who rely on each other's movements to exist. Awaken us to the understanding that alongside the greatest joys in our lives come the greatest sorrows: when the beloved child leaves home; when the cherished grandparent passes away; when the best friend moves to another state or country. And still, teach us that if we want to avoid these sorrows, we will never experience these great joys. So God, help us to dwell in this swirling pattern of joy and sorrow, joy and sorrow, joy and sorrow. In the name of God, who Creates, Redeems, and Sustains all things. **Amen.**

A Reading about Compassion from Paul’s letter to the Philippians (2:1-11)

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Hymn “Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion” Hymn 472, v. 1-4

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| <p>1. Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion,
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.
Save us, thy people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.</p> <p>2. Hope of the world, God’s gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
still let thy Spirit unto us be given
to heal earth’s wounds and end her bitter strife.</p> | <p>3. Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light,
walk thou beside us lest the tempting byways
lure us away from thee to endless night.</p> <p>4. Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt,
we render back the love thy mercy gave us;
take thou our lives, and use them as thou wilt.</p> |
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A Collect for Compassion *(Please stand)* Jennie Wandfluh

Clergy Let us pray.

Loving God, in whom we put our trust, help us to be gentle towards the people we encounter this day. Open our eyes, that we might recognize the difficulties of others. Lord, we pray that they will see you in their lives. Open our ears to hear the cries of those who are in need. Fill us with a spirit of forgiveness and generosity. At the end of each day, open our hearts to reflect on those for whom we have shown compassion. Renew in us your spirit, that we may share your unfailing compassion with all people, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

A Reading about Goodness from Paul’s letter to the Galatians (6:6-10)

Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher. Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation “The Goodness of God” Bethel Music

Clergy Let us pray.

Gracious and generous God, we affirm your goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong. With all creation we celebrate the miracle and wonder of life, the unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world. We are grateful for the kindness and generosity you show us in ways seen and unseen. Help us to see those around us the same way you see us. Shape our hearts to be as yours, and guide our hands by your Spirit with goodness, showing kindness and generosity toward all those on this path of life with us. For the sake of your unbounding love and mercy we pray, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. **Amen.**

Psalm about Faithfulness – Psalm 25:7-13

BCP 614

**Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**

**He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.**

**All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

**For your Name's sake, O LORD, *
forgive my sin, for it is great.**

**Who are they who fear the LORD? *
he will teach them the way that they should choose.**

**They shall dwell in prosperity, *
and their offspring shall inherit the land.**

**The LORD is a friend to those who fear him *
and will show them his covenant.**

Congregational Hymn

“Great is thy faithfulness”

LEVAS 189

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| <p>1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not,
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.</p> | <p>2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|---|--|

Refrain:
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!

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| <p>3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|--|

A Collect for Faithfulness

(Please stand)

The Rev. Deacon Gary Darress

Clergy Let us pray.

God, you are always loyal and steadfast in your relationship with us. Help us in our relationship with you and our faith in you when we have lost our faith; help us in those times when we cry out to you, “I believe, help me overcome my unbelief,” in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

A Reading about Gentleness from The Letter of James (3:13-18)

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation

“Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God”

Getty Music

A Collect for Gentleness

(Please stand)

Jan McLaughlin

Clergy Let us pray.

God of Gentleness, you who are the calm presence in our busy world. Be with us in this new year. Give us your gentle spirit, so that we can, in turn, be gentle with those in our lives who may need a kind word, a warm smile, a loving touch, or a helping hand. Grant that your gentleness shines brightly in each of us, blessing the world with your loving kindness. We pray this in the name of our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Sustainer, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Reading about Self-Control from The Letter of Paul to Titus (3:13-18)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one look down on you.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A Collect for Self-Control

(Please stand)

Owen Copps

Clergy Let us pray.

God of all things, who is with us in stillness and in chaos, allow us to recognize you in deep breaths, in the pauses, and in the moments in which we say to ourselves, “let me count to 10 before I lose it.” Strengthen us to slow down, to consult with you, and to call upon our reason, our

experiences, our emotions, and our intuition before we make a decision. Grant us that fruit of self-control that is not so much our reliance on our own facilities, but rather, an acknowledgement that in all things we do, you are there participating in it with us. Allow our understanding of self-control to be expanded to a reliance on you, and your love, your patience, your goodness, your kindness, and all that you have created and empowered us to be. In the name of Jesus Christ, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. **Amen.**

Prayers for Love

Daily Prayer for All Seasons, 32

Clergy Beloved, we are called to love those in need:
People **Let us love in truth and action.**

Clergy Beloved, we are called to be people of peace:
People **Let us love one another.**

Clergy Beloved, we are called to be people of healing:
People **Let us love not only God, but our siblings, also.**

Here, the people may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.

Clergy May we abide in God's love:
People **May God's love abide in us.**

Final Blessing

Closing Hymn

"It is well with my soul"

LEVAS 188

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| <p>1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like seabillows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
<i>It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.</i></p> | <p>3 My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! <i>Refrain</i></p> |
| <p>2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed His own blood for my soul. <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>4 And, Lord, hast the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
"Even so" it is well with my soul. <i>Refrain</i></p> |

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

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