



ST NICHOLAS CHURCH,  
SIGHTHILL

Sunday Service -  
2 JANUARY 2022

NEW YEAR - FIRST  
SUNDAY AFTER ADVENT

**OPENING PRAYER**

God of wisdom and truth, at the beginning of this new year we look back and we look forward. In the year that has passed we experienced joy and we

experienced sorrow; we felt blessed and we felt challenged. Some things went by much too fast, and some things lingered for far too long. We are reminded that you are present through it all. We are reminded that we are never alone. We are reminded that nothing can separate us from your love.

So at the beginning of this new year, we pause to reflect on the year that has passed. We remember the things from this past year that we are most thankful for. We recall the moments we were the happiest. We consider the times we felt most alive. We recognize the times we gave and received the most love. We are grateful, God, that you were present in those times. We also remember the things from this past year that we are least thankful for. We recall the moments we were the least happy. We consider the times we felt life draining from us. We recognize the times we gave and received the least love. We are grateful, God, that you were present in those times too.

Gracious God, at the beginning of this new year, we also look forward to the year to come. We are confident that you will be with us still, when we are thankful and when we are not; when we are happy and when we are sad; when we feel alive and when we feel drained; when we give and receive love and when we do not.

God, the world we live in is messy and challenging, it is the world of King Herod; a world of pain, a world of doubt, a world of fear, a world of jealousy, a world of violence, a world of domination, a world of injustice, a world of human failings. Yet, God, you are with us always. So give us grace and give us courage to live faithfully in this imperfect world. Remind us always of the promise of your kingdom, emerging around us and through us.

(John W. Vest)

**THE LORD'S PRAYER...**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**ALL: Holy One, a New Year begins  
so we gather this day to greet the New Year,  
to remember your promises fulfilled, and to  
give thanks for all that the future brings, that  
we may live and worship you in 2022.**

**HYMN: ALL MY HOPE ON GOD IS FOUNDED**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3LCGh02Vew&t=29s>

1. All my hope on God is founded  
All my trust He shall renew  
He my guide through changing order  
Only good and only true

**Chorus: God unknown, He alone  
Calls my heart to be His own**

2. Pride of man and earthly glory  
Sword and crown betray His trust  
All that human toil can fashion  
Tower and temple fall to dust  
But God's power, hour by hour  
Is my temple and my tower

3. Day by day our mighty giver  
Grants to us His gifts of love  
In His will our souls find pleasure  
Leading to our home above  
Love shall stand, at His hand  
Joy shall wait for His command

4. Still from man to God eternal  
Sacrifice of praise be done  
High above all praises praising  
For the gift of Christ His Son  
Hear Christ's call, one and all  
We who follow shall not fall

## BIBLE READINGS AND BRIEF REFLECTION

*This is the confidence that we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. (1 John 5:14)*

After another year of uncertainty and restrictions, as we continue to recover from Covid-19, let's press into the new year with prayer and thanksgiving. Together, we look to God to bring more blessings and opportunities to serve him in 2022. We can ask anything according to his will. And we can approach his throne with confidence, seeking justice and mercy in the name of Jesus.

The turning of the year is a time to give thanks for God's provision and to pray for breakthroughs in the year to come. We can also call on our mighty Father about issues that are holding our brothers and sisters back: global poverty and the climate crisis. Because our God is sovereign over all the earth!

*Tear Fund*

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION:

Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future. We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us-but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love. In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need. In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost. And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: "Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end" (Psalm 119:33).

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be and assure them of Your love and concern for them. Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

**All:** As we look back over this past year, we thank You for Your goodness to us-far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and centre of our lives this year. And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This we ask in the name of our Lord and Saviour, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come. *Billy Graham*

**CLOSING HYMN (ZOOM): 'While Shepherds Watched their flocks...'** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7\\_hM1h0aYU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7_hM1h0aYU)

**SECOND/ LIVE SERVICE: 'Our God, we are a church reformed. Tune: Winchester Old' ("While Shepherds watched their flocks")**

1. Our God, we are a church reformed,  
a church reforming still:  
we long to grow in your true Word,  
and follow more your will.
2. How awesome is your sovereign rule;  
You reign from heav'n above.  
yet you knelt down in Jesus Christ,  
in sacrificial love.
3. In love, you bring your people here,  
and call your church to you,  
that we may know salvation's joy  
and serve in all we do.
4. You call us to community;  
by faith our hearts are stirred.  
in church, we seek an ordered life,  
according to your Word.
5. As faithful stewards we find joy;  
We need no rich display.  
Lord, teach us all to use with care,  
he gifts you give each day.

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## BENEDICTION AND AMEN

