



**Anglican Church of Freiburg
The Second Sunday of Christmas
All Age Service
Sunday the 2nd January 2022**

Silent Preparation

Please take time to remember where you are,
and why you are here.
Give thanks and become still
in the presence of God

The Prelude

The Opening Words

See what love the Father has given us
that we should be called the children of God.
You are my sons and daughters:
this day I have begotten you.
See what love the Father has given us.
As many as received him,
to them he gave power to become the children of
God.
See what love the Father has given us.
Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
See what love the Father has given us
that we should be called the children of God.

Opening Hymn: SoF 42 Be Thou My Vision (Slane)

1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.
2. Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true Word,
be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;

be Thou my great Father, thy child let me be;
Thou in me dwelling, and I one with Thee.

4. Riches I scorn and the world's empty praise:
be Thou my inheritance now and always;
be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart:
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art!

CCLI Song # 30639
Eleanor Henrietta Hull | Mary Elizabeth Byrne
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Prayer At the Dawn of a New Year

At the dawn of a new year,
we come to welcome hope for a new world.

Let the darkness lift,
to welcome a dawn of equality,
with enough for everyone
and people ready to share.

Let the day begin,
with new energy for the vision
to protect our children
and to care for the vulnerable.

Let the light shine,
to open a path to safety
for all who are seeking home
and longing for life.

Let the sun rise
on new talks and new resolve
to end terror and sway of pandemics
and to find solutions that will last.

At the dawn of a new year
we come to declare our hope
and to welcome a new world.

(~ adapted from the writing by Susan Durber, and posted on the Monthly Prayers page of the **Christian Aid** website. <http://www.christianaidth.org.uk/>)

Confession and Renewal of Covenant

Invitation to Confession

As we come to the Lord at the start of this New Year, let us seek his grace to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

The Renewal of the Covenant

God made a covenant with the people of Israel, calling them to be a holy nation, chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love by finding delight in the law.

The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord, in his life, work, death and resurrection. In him all people may be set free from sin and its power, and united in love and obedience.

In this covenant God promises us new life in Christ. For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God.

We meet, therefore, as generations have met before us, to renew the covenant which bound them and binds us to God.

Let us then seek forgiveness for the sin by which we have denied God's claim upon us.

Let us pray.

God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sins.

For the sin that has made us slow to learn from Christ, reluctant to follow him and afraid to bear the cross:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has caused the poverty of our worship, the formality and selfishness of our prayers, our neglect of fellowship and the means of grace, and our hesitating witness for Christ:

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has led us to misuse your gifts,
 evade our responsibilities
 and fail to be good stewards of your creation:
 Lord, have mercy.
Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has made us unwilling to overcome
 evil with good,
 tolerant of injustice,
 quick to condemn
 and selfish in sharing your love with others:
 Lord, have mercy.
Lord, forgive.

Silence is kept.

**Have mercy on me, O God, in your great
 goodness;
 according to the abundance of your compassion
 blot out my offences.
 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
 and cleanse me from my sin.
 Make in me a clean heart, O God,
 and renew a right spirit within me.
 Give me again the joy of your salvation
 and sustain me with your gracious spirit.
 Psalm 51.1, 2, 11, 13**

The presiding minister says
 If we confess our sins,
 God is faithful and just,
 and will forgive our sins
 and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 May the God of all healing and forgiveness
 draw *us* to himself,
 and cleanse *us* from all our sins
 that *we* may behold the glory of his Son,
 the Word made flesh,
 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Covenant Prayer

Eternal God,
in your faithful and enduring love
you call us to share in your gracious covenant in
Jesus Christ.
In obedience we hear and accept your commands;
in love we seek to do your perfect will;
with joy we offer ourselves anew to you.
We are no longer our own but yours.
I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me and when there is none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.
Your will be done
when I am valued and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
when I have all things and when I have nothing.
I willingly offer all that I have and am
to serve you, as and where you choose.
Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
May it be so for ever.
Let this covenant now made on earth
be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate
Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever

Canticle/Psalm

Psalm 147:13-21

Refrain: *Great is our Lord and mighty in power.*

13 Sing praise to the Lord, O Jerusalem; ♦
praise your God, O Zion;

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates ♦
and has blest your children within you.

15 He has established peace in your borders ♦
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

Refrain: *Great is our Lord and mighty in power.*

16 He sends forth his command to the earth ♦
and his word runs very swiftly.

17 He gives snow like wool ♦
and scatters the hoarfrost like ashes.

18 He casts down his hailstones like morsels of
bread; ♦

who can endure his frost?

Refrain: *Great is our Lord and mighty in power.*

19 He sends forth his word and melts them; ♦
he blows with his wind and the waters flow.

20 He declares his word to Jacob, ♦
his statutes and judgements to Israel.

21 He has not dealt so with any other nation; ♦
they do not know his laws.

Alleluia.

Refrain: *Great is our Lord and mighty in power.*

*Compassionate God,
as you know each star you have created,
so you know the secrets of every heart;
in your loving mercy bring to your table
all who are fearful and broken,
all who are wounded and needy,
that our hungers may be satisfied
in the city of your peace;
through Christ who is our peace.*

The reading is taken from Ephesians 1:3-14

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God

Our hearts and our minds are open

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: ACF 63 In the darkness of the still night

1. In the darkness of the still night,
in the dawning of the daylight,
in the myst'ry of creation,
creator God, you are there.
In the breath of ev'ry being,
in the birthing and the growing,
in the earth and all its fullness,
creator God, you are there.

3. In our hearts and in our thinking,
in the longing and the dreaming,
in the yearning of our heartbeat,
creator God, you are there.
In the love for one another,
in the sharing of our being,
in receiving and forgiving,
creator God, you are there.

4. In our joys, our hopes, our healing,
in awak'ning to revealing,
in your call and our responding,
creator God, you are ther.
In our pray'r and in our service,
in our praise and in our worship,
in your love that is eternal,
creator God, you are there.

Words and music: © Margaret Rizza

The reading is taken from John 1:10-18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
John

Glory to you, O Lord

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become

children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

Hymn: ACF 61 In Christ Alone

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied -
for every sin on Him was laid;

here in the death of Christ I live.

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Intercessions (by Daphne)

Holy God, you sent a star to guide the Wise Men to worship your Son Jesus, send your Holy Spirit to guide our Church as we begin a New Year in our Christian life together. Inspire our Church leaders. Thank you for sending a new minister to lead our church. Be with him as he and his family build their new home here in Germany.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Creator God, as we face the unknown in the coming year at a difficult and painful time for the world which has been suffering the Pandemic for almost 2 years. Let the star of your justice always shine in the hearts of the world's Governments as they make difficult decisions to cope with problems at home and abroad.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Almighty God, we pray for all who are suffering the effects of the Pandemic here in Germany and all of our home countries. As we go out into this New Year we ask for the loving presence of Jesus Christ our Lord to be with us and to share in life's joys and to strengthen us in all of its sorrows,

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Loving God, we pray for all those whom we love who suffer in body, mind or spirit. May their pain be eased and may they find the strength to endure. Comfort them with your presence and help them to hold on to the knowledge that your son understood the truth of human suffering.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Merciful God, we pray for all who are coming to the end of their journey here on earth and pray that they may

enter into your presence and kingdom. We pray for all those who have already died and live again with you in the fullness of life eternal. We pray also for all of those who have lost loved ones this past year.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Gracious God, as we begin a New Year, remind us of the things that are truly important and worthwhile. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

Merciful father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

In the language of our hearts, let us pray as our Saviour taught us

Closing Hymn: ACF 130 We Worship God In Harmony

1. We worship God in harmony
with hearts in full accord;
we share one Spirit, hope and faith,
one Father and one Lord:

2. We're children now of God by grace –
our new life has begun,
where male and female, Greek and Jew,
both bound and free are one.

*In Jesus Christ our Lord and King,
in Jesus Christ our Lord,
the Spirit makes us all as one
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

3. We live as those whom Christ has called
to love with Christ-like mind
that looks towards each other's needs,
forbearing, patient, kind.

4. One day we'll see Him face to face,
to Him we'll bow the knee;
We'll never say goodbye again –
the best is yet to be.

*In Jesus Christ our Lord and King,
in Jesus Christ our Lord,
the Spirit makes us all as one
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

CCLI Song # 244504
Michael Alfred Baughen
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Blessing

May God the Father keep you in all your days.
May God the Son shield you in all your ways.
May God the Spirit bring you healing and peace.
May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you
and pour upon you blessing and light.
Amen.

Benediction for the New Year

Go in peace,
love and care for one another in the name of Christ,

and may the blessing of God
who established heaven and earth
fill your hearts and pour forth from you upon all people,

may the blessing of the Lord
who is born anew
call you towards a new tomorrow;

and may the blessing of the Spirit
who refreshes and renews all creation
guide and lead you as you enter the new year. Amen.

(~ posted on Rev. Richard J. Fairchild's **Kirshalom** website. <http://www.rockies.net/>)

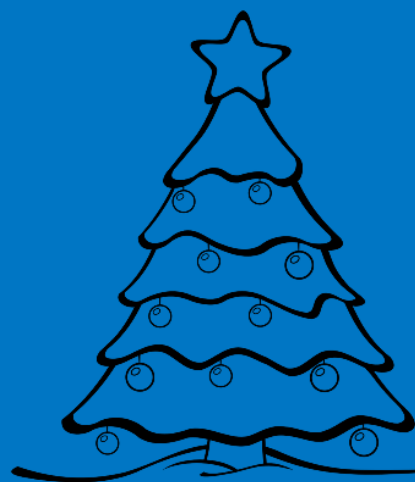
Announcements

(see below)

Postlude

The service is inspired by <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons-0>

Wed, January 5, 2022	<h3>Evening Prayer on Wednesdays</h3> <p>9pm (for 20-30min)</p> <p>(Please use the usual Sunday service link.)</p>
Sun, January 9, 2022	<p>Look forward to our next Communion Service with Rev'd. Vinod Victor</p> <p>The First Sunday of Epiphany 11:30 hrs, Zoom link see website and in person in the church 😊</p>



HELP WANTED!

The Petrusgemeinde has asked if two or three ACF members could lend a hand with **taking down the Christmas tree at church on Monday, 10th January.** Please contact us if you can help! We will then pass on your contact details to Frau Springmann from the Petrusgemeinde for arranging a time that is convenient for all.

Thank you in advance for supporting the church in this very practical way!



The Anglican Church in Freiburg is entirely dependent on voluntary donations to pay stipends, for all activities and the upkeep of its programmes.

Donations can be made directly to the church account:

IBAN: DE 29 6805 0101 0002 5119 20

- Please mark Verwendungszweck as 'Spende' and provide an address if you wish to receive a tax certificate.

Or you go to betterplace.org and use the easy system there. Thank you for your generosity!