



FROM
EVERLASTING
YOU ARE
GOD



A Service for the
New Year



FROM EVERLASTING YOU ARE GOD

A Service for the New Year

INDEX

Notes	5
Newsletter/Bulletin Notices	6
Order of Service.....	7-13
Complete Script For Leaders.....	14-24
Music Guide	25-38

By Mark Zimmermann. Cover image: Adobe Stock. © 2024 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved. Purchase of this service gives the purchaser the copyright release to use the material in any format for use in worship. Creative Communications is not responsible for the change or removal of any links listed from other sites.

FROM EVERLASTING YOU ARE GOD

A Service for the New Year

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

In this worship service for the New Year, we pause to remember that God is present now as he has been in years past and will be unto everlasting life. Hymns, Scripture and the spoken word in this service remind us that though things inevitably change in this world, our God remains the same, bringing us comfort, grace and forgiveness day after day.

This service contains: a complete order of service, a sermon, a children's sermon, prayers, hymns, music for the accompanist, newsletter/bulletin notices, visual media recommendations, contemporary music song suggestions, text of the entire worship service in .pdf (portable document format) and .rtf (rich text format) and PowerPoint documents of the service with images and text (along with a copyright release) for use on screens.

have a graduation or an anniversary celebration to go to in the spring or summer. We add these to the calendar too. But as you can see there are many squares on this calendar that have no events or activities on them at all right now. We don't know what will happen on those days, do we? But we have a God who reminds us that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). And Jesus himself told us, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). Wherever we go and whatever we do in the new year, Jesus will be with us. He will help us and guide us and keep us safe. And he will be with us not just this year, but every year after that and even when we are in heaven. Think of each day on this calendar as being more time that we get to be with Jesus. He has great plans for us on this earth, and he is preparing a place for us in heaven to be with him there. We will never be alone, and our time with Christ will never end. Let us pray:

Dear God, thank you for the gift of this new year and the blessings of all the years to come when we will get to know you and your Son, Jesus, more and more. Amen.

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Foundation 11 11 11 11, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"The souls that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never, forsake!

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"Throughout all their lifetime my people will prove
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in my bosom be borne."

- **The Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 40:25-31, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

- **The Epistle Reading**, Romans 8:19-25, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

- **The Gospel Reading**, Matthew 5:1-12, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Vienna 77 77, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Thine forever! God of love, hear us from thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be here and in eternity.

Thine forever! Lord of life, shield us through our earthly strife;
Thou the Life, the Truth, the Way, guide us to the realms of day.

Thine forever! O how blest they who find in thee their rest!
Savior, guardian, heavenly friend, O defend us to the end.

Thine forever! Shepherd, keep us thy frail and trembling sheep;
Safe alone beneath thy care, let us all thy goodness share.

Thine forever! Thou our guide, all our wants by thee supplied,
All our sins by thee forgiven, lead us, Lord, from earth to heaven.

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:

☐ Grace, mercy and peace be with you. We celebrate in this service the end of one year and the start of a new one. There can be a mixture of emotions during this time of year. There is gratitude for the events that were good and went well over the last year, and there is sadness over things that did not go well or that did not go as you had planned. Then there is great hope for what might happen in the new year as well as some fear of the unknown.

All of these emotions are natural and a regular part of the human condition when we encounter change or uncertainty or the reality of the passage of time. The disciples were no strangers to this mix of emotions when Jesus revealed changes that were on the horizon for them. For example when Jesus said, “A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me” (John 16:16), the disciples wondered to each other, “What is this that he says to us?” (John 16:17). Others were more direct: “We do not know what he is talking about” (John 16:18). Jesus eased their doubts and confusion by saying, “When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you” (John 16:21-22).

Jesus was saying that when his hour comes to give birth to salvation through his death on the cross, his disciples will be sad, but he assures them that joy will come after he has gone away into the grave for a time. He will return on Easter alive, and they will be filled with everlasting joy in his forgiveness and salvation in the days that follow.