

A PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE NEW YEAR

Praise – Honor God for who he is and what he has done.

Psalm 100:4 *Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.*

Isaiah 25:1 *O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.*

Account for what God has done in your life and in our church during 2011.

Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit we praise you as triune God; the one who is Almighty, Eternal, the King of Kings, above all Gods. You are Creator, Defender, Shepherd, and Friend. We praise you as our Mighty Fortress, our Hope, our Rock, our Refuge and Strength. You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life, our Wonderful Counselor, our Prince of Peace. We praise you as Savior, Redeemer, and Lord, the one who loves us with an everlasting love, unchangeable and unequal. You are faithful and true, our Burden-Bearer, a personal God who cares about the details of our lives, the Great Physician who heals, restores and renews with Living Bread. You are the Author and Finisher of our faith, the beginning and the end.

“O Lord, God of Israel, you are enthroned between the mighty cherubim! You alone are God of all the kingdoms of the earth. You alone created the heavens and the earth (2 Kings 19:15).” Because of you, all creation is blessed and we give you praise. Amen.

Repent – Confess your sin and find God’s forgiveness in Jesus.

Psalm 66:18 *“If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.”*

Prayer: Merciful God, we confess that we have hungered after things that do not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted your power to protect us; we have hurt those you have asked us to love.

Forgive us for each thought and action inspired by anger, pride, impatience, deception, unfaithfulness, greed, obscenity, thoughtlessness, ingratitude, laziness and forcefulness. Forgive us for our lack of faith. Have mercy on us in our weakness.

Give us eyes to see the ways we grieve or resist you. Lead and direct our paths. Restore trust and love within us so that we eagerly walk in your ways and delight in doing your will. We desire to be obedient and pure in our love for you and for each other.

– open prayer time –

We are grateful, Lord God, for the indescribable gift of your Son Jesus and his willing death that has paid for our sins. We claim with joy your word that, *“If we confess our sins, (you are) faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1John 1:9).”* Amen.

Ask – Make requests for yourself and for others.

Psalm 38:9 *“All my longings lie open before you, O Lord; my sighing is not hidden from you.”*

Make note of some hopes and dreams for yourself and some for our church that you bring before God at the start of 2012.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, unite us so we glorify you with one heart and voice. Equip us with every spiritual gift for ministering your grace and love. Keep us outwardly focused so we don’t become self-absorbed. Enable us to extend mercy to others in need. Make grace abound so we have the finances we need to do every good work you call us to. Give us generous hearts.

Protect us from evil. Show us how to recognize the enemy’s schemes so he doesn’t outwit us. Thank you for doing away with sin on the cross so we are no longer its slaves.

Lord, make us a house of prayer for all nations. Awaken us to see that prayer is what you want for all of us, not just a few. Inspire us to pray first, always, and continually with thanksgiving. Revive us Lord, give us singleness of heart. Open our minds to your Word and set our hearts ablaze for you.

Generous God, we bring our requests expecting that you will bless us. We take to heart the words of your Son, Jesus who said, *“You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it (John 14:14).”* It is in Jesus’ name that we pray. Amen.

Yield – Submit your own will to the perfect will of God.

Psalm 143:8 *“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.”*

Prayer: Lord God, may all that is of you be first in our lives. Make your kingdom come. Cause your will to be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Take our understandings, our wills, our desires, our bodies, our skills, our worldly goods, our credit and our reputations – they are all yours. Use them for your purposes.

– open prayer time –

Tune our hearts, Lord God, so we will always say with the Psalm writer, *“Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire other than you (Psalm 73:25).”* Amen.