

JANUARY 1, 2025
NEW YEAR'S EVE,
NEW YEAR'S DAY



God is at work for our good pleasure.

NEW YEAR'S DAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your New Year's Day observances.

Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	For everything there is a season
	Revelation 21:1-6a	New heaven and new earth
Wednesday	Psalms 8	God-given dignity to humans
	Matthew 25:31-46	The great judgment

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

I know that there is nothing better for them [everyone] than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for New Year's Day:

Dear God, you who are the creator of all things, help us to take delight in the new year by enjoying the simple pleasures of food, drink, and fellowship with others through Jesus Christ, the one who promises to care for us always. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this meal filled with food and drink that comes as a gift of your love for us through Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with joy and pleasure.



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HYMN FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

*O God, Our Help in
Ages Past*



NEW YEAR'S DAY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something that brought you joy and pleasure in the past year?
- What is something you hope for in the new year?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13.

This scripture reading recognizes that daily life includes a wide variety of events. Life is filled with experiences that are very different from one another: joy and sadness, life and death, planting and harvesting. Through it all, God is at work in ways that we cannot fully grasp. The searching mind wonders how to understand the meaning and importance of our daily activities. Instead of trying to pry open the mystery of God, Ecclesiastes recommends the simple pursuit of enjoying the day, knowing that God has created us for simple pleasures such as eating and drinking (activities often done in community) and enjoying our labors, whatever they are. As we begin a new year, we can trust that God is at work for our good pleasure and we are created to enjoy and share that good pleasure with others. For us, that is a life of faith in Christ that enjoys our calling each day to love God and neighbor.

Discuss: How have you experienced joy in your life through God's presence?

Pray: **Almighty God, we give thanks for your presence in our daily lives and your gift of food, drink, and pleasure in our work through Jesus Christ, the Alpha and the Omega. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the New Year's Bible Readings and theme for this day, how might you help someone find joy and pleasure in their work?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The anticipation of a new year can be a reminder of how God promises to make all things new. In Revelation 21:2, this promise is filled with great love like *"a bride adorned for her husband."* Take a moment to reflect on 2024 and think about the year ahead. Write a list of your blessings. Pause for a moment as you look at the list.

Pray: **Lord God, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. You promise to make all things new. We give thanks for how you care for us now and always. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org