

A HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2021

ORDER of SERVICE

WELCOME - To our New Year Songs of Praise. A selection from the congregation apologies not all could be chosen - **Muriel**

OPENING PRAYER & LORDS PRAYER - HEATHER

Dear God, Thank you that you make all things **new**. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past **year**, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us with your Holy Spirit every single day. We **pray** for your Spirit to lead us each step of this **New Year**. As we pray together the prayer you taught us: Our Father ...
Lord's Prayer... Amen



CALL TO WORSHIP - Muriel

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

We finished our previous songs of praise at the Birth of Jesus, so what better way to start a New Year by singing John Mackay's choice, **John is one of the many Session Clerks who have served here at St Nicholas.**

READING - JOHN MACKAY

At the dawn of the **new year** we are filled with hope for what is to come, and have thankfulness in our hearts for what has already passed. We pray that we will keep our focus where it needs to be this **year** and that we'll all have a **year** filled with joy, love and happiness.



HYMN / SONG - CHILD IN A MANGER

Wise Men went seeking Jesus, probably from an area around the Yemen. Although they are often called the 'Three Kings', the Bible does not say how many there were. One theory is that they might have been Kings of Yemen, because they were Jews.

Three is only a guess because they brought with them 3 gifts: there is no exact time when the Wisemen did visit JESUS. *Its like good friends, you are able to visit or telephone them at anytime. You are always made welcome. More importantly it is like prayer, when we can speak to God at anytime of the day or night.* Christians believe that they had the following meanings:

Gold: is associated with Kings for Jesus is the King of Kings.

Frankincense: in some churches it is used as a symbol during worship

Myrrh: is a perfume to embalm bodies, showing that one day Jesus would suffer and die.

The wise men did not return to Herod but went back a different route.

Due to present restrictions we may have had to stay indoors, some days we are truly thankful, but let us remember our family, friends and members who have continued to work throughout 2020.

Heather, our Clerk to the Board being one of them, Heather has chosen one of her favourite hymns which allows our souls to sing - How Great Thou Art, but firstly she will lead us in our OPENING PRAYER

HYMN / SONG - HOW GREAT THOU ART

Gerry (Property Convener) along with the Fabric Team have maintained & prepared the buildings for our return will now read from the OT.

READING - GERRY

Psalm 96: 1-3 - 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

2. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples.

This week we have seen snow and it looked bleak, a bit like 2020, but a new year awaits us. As we sing the final verse of Margaret Mackay's favourite carol - let us give our hearts to Jesus.

HYMN / SONG - IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

READING - ANN

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Ann & Ian have chosen their favourite also a favourite in Blenheim House, we remember them as we sing.

HYMN / SONG - WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

Tom, our ever willing and diligent Minister will lead us in the closing Prayer, but before doing so we will sing his favourite Hymn.

HYMN / SONG - GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Our closing Carol is chosen by Margaret Dingsdale, one of the faithful gardeners, who continue to maintain our grounds, so let us go into this New Year to welcome others into our fellowship.

HYMN / SONG - O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

FINAL BLESSING - ALL: O God, your days are without beginning and without end. You are Alpha and Omega. We dedicate this coming year to you. Help us to Glorify your Name in all we do and say..

NEW YEAR PRAYER FOR LOVE - TOM

Father we thank you that you are a loving, gracious God. Thank you that you've offered us forgiveness and the gift of new life in you. Thank you that your love is perfect, it never fails, and that nothing can separate us from your love.

We pray that our lives would be filled and overflowing with the power of your love so we can make a difference in this world and bring honour to you. We ask for your help in reminding us that the most important things are not what we do outwardly, it's not based on any talent or gift, but the most significant thing we can do in this life is simply to love you and to choose to love others.

Help us to love as you love. Fill us with your Spirit so that we can choose what is best. We are weak Lord, but we know also, that even when we are weak, you are strong within us. Thank you that it's not all up to us. Thank you that you equip us to face each day with the power of your love, your forgiveness, and your grace We love you Lord, and we need you today, and every day, In Jesus' Name, Amen.