

## **WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR**

Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>  
at seven o'clock in the evening

**SAINT MARGARET'S CHAPEL**  
**30 HARDEN HILL ROAD**

*This last evening of the year 2022, we gather silently in the darkened chapel to prepare our hearts and minds through scripture, prayer, and song to enter a new year of grace, 2023.*

---

## LUCERNARIUM

*All stand at the sounding of the bell.*

*Officiant*      Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

*The sisters sing the Phos Hilaron while the candles are lit and the light is shared.*

### HYMN

1 O God, whom nei - ther time nor space can lim - it, hold, or bind,  
2 An - oth - er year its course has run; thy lov - ing care re - new:  
3 In doubt or dan - ger, all our days, be near to guard us still;  
4 O help us here on earth to live from self - ish pas - sions free;

look down from heaven, thy dwell - ing - place, with love for hu - man - kind.  
for - give the ill that we have done, the good we failed to do.  
let all our thoughts and all our ways be gov - erned by thy will.  
to us at last in mer - cy give e - ter - nal life with thee.

Words: Horace Smith (1836-1922) and others  
Music: *London New*, melody from *The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter*, 1635, alt.; harm. John Playford (1623-1686)

### Prayer for Light

Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The candles are extinguished.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Please be seated for the readings and stand for the hymns and collects.*

### **The Hebrew Year**

Exodus 23: 9-16, 20-21

You shall not oppress a resident alien; you know the heart of an alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield; but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave the wild animals may eat. You shall do the same with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard.

For six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may have relief, and your home-born slave and the resident alien may be refreshed. Be attentive to all that I have said to you. Do not invoke the names of other gods; do not let them be heard on your lips.

Three times in the year you shall hold a festival for me. You shall observe the festival of unleavened bread; as I commanded you, you shall eat unleavened bread for seven days at the appointed time in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. No one shall appear before me empty-handed.

You shall observe the festival of harvest, of the first fruits of your labour, of what you sow in the field. You shall observe the festival of ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labour.

I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. Be attentive to him and listen to his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression; for my name is in him.

HYMN

*Unison*



1 O God of Beth - el, by whose hand thy peo - ple still are fed;  
 2 Our vows, our prayers, we now pre - sent be - fore thy throne of grace:  
 3 Through each per - plex - ing path of life our wan - dering foot - steps guide;  
 4 O spread thy shel - tering wings a - round, till all our wan - derings cease,  
 5 Such bless - ings from thy gra - cious hand our hum - ble prayers im - plore;



1 who through this earth - ly pil - grim - age hast all thine Is - rael led:  
 2 O God of Is - rael, be the God of this suc - ceed - ing race.  
 3 give us each day our dai - ly bread, and rai - ment fit pro - vide.  
 4 and at our Fa - ther's loved a - bode our souls ar - rive in peace!  
 5 and thou shalt be our cov - enant God and por - tion ev - er - more.

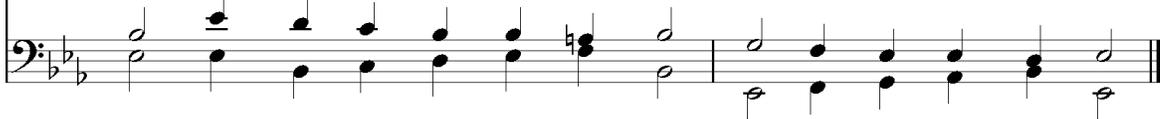
*Harmony (the melody is in the tenor)*



1 O God of Beth - el, by whose hand thy peo - ple still are fed;  
 2 Our vows, our prayers, we now pre - sent be - fore thy throne of grace:  
 3 Through each per - plex - ing path of life our wan - dering foot - steps guide;  
 4 O spread thy shel - tering wings a - round, till all our wan - derings cease,  
 5 Such bless - ings from thy gra - cious hand our hum - ble prayers im - plore;



1 who through this earth - ly pil - grim - age hast all thine Is - rael led:  
 2 O God of Is - rael, be the God of this suc - ceed - ing race.  
 3 give us each day our dai - ly bread, and rai - ment fit pro - vide.  
 4 and at our Fa - ther's loved a - bode our souls ar - rive in peace!  
 5 and thou shalt be our cov - enant God and por - tion ev - er - more.



Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751), alt.  
 Music: Dundee, melody from *The CL Psalms of David*, 1615; fauxbourdon *The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter*, 1635

Let us pray.

O God our Creator, you have divided our life into days and seasons, and called us to acknowledge your providence year after year: Accept your people who come to offer their praises, and, in your mercy, receive their prayer; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Keep, then, this entire commandment that I am commanding you today, so that you may have strength to go in and occupy the land that you are crossing over to occupy, and so that you may live long in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give to them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey. For the land that you are about to enter to occupy is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sow your seed and irrigate by foot like a vegetable garden. But the land that you are crossing over to occupy is a land of hills and valleys, watered by rain from the sky, a land that the Lord your God looks after. The eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn from the way that I am commanding you today, to follow other gods that you have not known.

HYMN

1 Praise our great and gra - cious Lord, call up - on his ho - ly Name;  
 2 God has given the cloud by day, given the mov - ing fire by night;

raisi - ng hymns in glad ac - cord, all his might - y acts pro - claim:  
 guides his Is - rael on their way from the dark - ness in - to light.

how he leads his cho - sen un - to Ca - naan's prom - ised land,  
 God it is who grants us sure re - treat and re - fuge nigh;

how the word we have heard firm and change - less still shall stand.  
 light of dawn leads us on: 'tis the Day - spring from on high.

Words: Harriet Auber (1773-1862), alt.  
 Music: *Maoz Zur*, Hebrew melody; adapt. and arr. Eric Werner (1901-1988)

Let us pray.

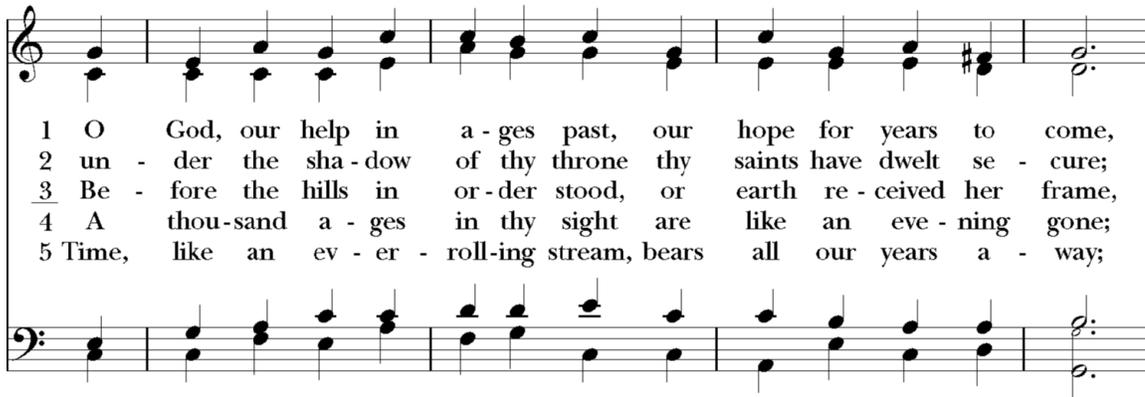
Almighty God, the source of all life, giver of all blessings, and savior of all who turn to you: Have mercy upon this nation; deliver us from falsehood, malice, and disobedience; turn our feet into your paths; and grant that we may serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

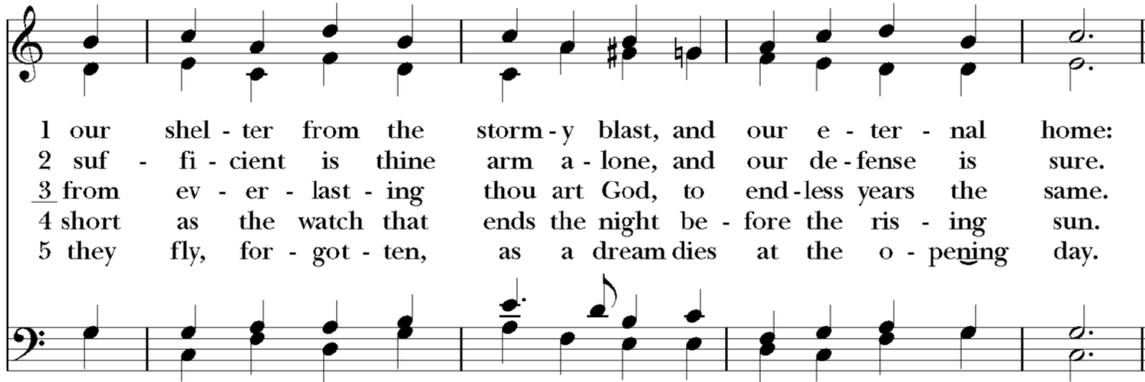
a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them 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. I know that whatever God does endures for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

HYMN



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
 2 un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,  
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;  
 5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;



1 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
 2 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 3 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
 4 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
 5 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
 our hope for years to come,

be thou our guide while life shall last,  
 and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90  
 Music: *St. Anne*, melody att. William Croft (1678-1727), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

Let us pray.

In your wisdom, O Lord our God, you have made all things, and have allotted to each of us the days of our life: Grant that we may live in your presence, be guided by your Holy Spirit, and offer all our works to your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The pride of the higher realms is the clear vault of the sky, as glorious to behold as the sight of the heavens. The sun, when it appears, proclaims as it rises what a marvellous instrument it is, the work of the Most High. At noon it parches the land, and who can withstand its burning heat? A man tending a furnace works in burning heat, but three times as hot is the sun scorching the mountains; it breathes out fiery vapours, and its bright rays blind the eyes. Great is the Lord who made it; at his orders it hurries on its course.

It is the moon that marks the changing seasons, governing the times, their everlasting sign. From the moon comes the sign for festal days, a light that wanes when it completes its course. The new moon, as its name suggests, renews itself; how marvellous it is in this change, a beacon to the hosts on high, shining in the vault of the heavens!

The glory of the stars is the beauty of heaven, a glittering array in the heights of the Lord. On the orders of the Holy One they stand in their appointed places; they never relax in their watches. Look at the rainbow, and praise him who made it; it is exceedingly beautiful in its brightness. It encircles the sky with its glorious arc; the hands of the Most High have stretched it out.

By his command he sends the driving snow and speeds the lightnings of his judgement. Therefore the storehouses are opened, and the clouds fly out like birds. In his majesty he gives the clouds their strength, and the hailstones are broken in pieces. The voice of his thunder rebukes the earth; when he appears, the mountains shake. At his will the south wind blows; so do the storm from the north and the whirlwind. He scatters the snow like birds flying down, and its descent is like locusts alighting. The eye is dazzled by the beauty of its whiteness, and the mind is amazed as it falls. He pours frost over the earth like salt, and icicles form like pointed thorns. The cold north wind blows, and ice freezes on the water; it settles on every pool of water, and the water puts it on like a breastplate.

He consumes the mountains and burns up the wilderness, and withers the tender grass like fire. A mist quickly heals all things; the falling dew gives refreshment from the heat.

Awesome is the Lord and very great, and marvellous is his power. Glorify the Lord and exalt him as much as you can, for he surpasses even that. When you exalt him, summon all your strength, and do not grow weary, for you cannot praise him enough. Who has seen him and can describe him? Or who can extol him as he is? Many things greater than these lie hidden, for I have seen but few of his works. For the Lord has made all things, and to the godly he has given wisdom.

HYMN

(♩. = c. 68) Unison

1. Dark and come - ly, eve - ning veils all the  
 2. Speech - less night un - furls the stars hid - den  
 3. Might - y an - gels tend this night those who

glare and glare of day, slows down fran - tic  
 by the blaz - ing sun, stark re - buke when  
 work or watch or weep, and to all in

bus - y - ness, bids the faith - ful pause to pray:  
 hu - man pride thinks our world the on - ly one.  
 grief or pain bring the pre - cious balm of sleep.

"Glo - rious, thrill - ing gleam of God, Je - sus  
 Vast and dis - tant plan - ets dance far be -  
 Guard us night and day, O God; guide our

Christ, blest ho - ly Light, bright - er far than  
 yond our prob - ing sense, tell - ing us how  
 dreams, our words, our deeds; give us grace to

ves - per lamps, fill and form our hymns to - night."  
 small we are, how un - earned God's prov - i - dence.  
 fill our lives with the Light this world still needs.

Words: Carl P. Daw Jr.  
 Music: Stookey; Carlton R. Young

Let us pray.

Almighty Father, you give the sun for a light by day, and the moon and the stars by night: Graciously receive us, this night and always, into your favor and protection, defending us from all harm and governing us with your Holy Spirit, that every shadow of ignorance, every failure of faith or weakness of heart, every evil or wrong desire may be removed far from us; so that we, being justified in our Lord Jesus Christ, may be sanctified by your Spirit, and glorified by your infinite mercies in the day of the glorious appearing of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## The Acceptable Time

2 Corinthians 5: 17 - 6: 2

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.' See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

### HYMN

1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, and hope in him through  
2 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing; so do thine own part

all thy ways, he'll give thee strength what - e'er be - tide thee,  
faith - ful - ly, and trust his word, though un - de - serv - ing;

and bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in God's un -  
thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God nev - er yet for -

chang - ing love builds on a rock that nought can move.  
sook in need the soul that trust - ed him in - deed.

Words: Georg Neumark (1621-1681); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878), alt.  
Music: *Wer nur den lieben Gott*, Georg Neumark (1621-1681)

Let us pray.

Most gracious and merciful God, you have reconciled us to yourself through Jesus Christ your Son, and called us to new life in him: Grant that we, who begin this year in his Name, may complete it to his honor and glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death.'

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, 'Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.' And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal. It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

HYMN



1 All my hope on God is found - ed; he doth still my  
 2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -  
 3 God's great good - ness e'er en - dur - eth, deep his wis - dom  
 4 Dai - ly doth the al - might - y Giv - er boun - teous gifts on  
 5 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



1 trust re - new, me through change and chance he  
 2 tray our trust; though with care and toil we  
 3 pass - ing thought: splen - dor, light, and life at -  
 4 us be - stow; his de - sire our soul de -  
 5 praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es



1 guid - eth, on - ly good and on - ly true. God un -  
 2 build them, tower and tem - ple fall to dust. But God's  
 3 tend him, beau - ty spring - eth out of nought. Ev - e -  
 4 ligh - teth, plea - sure leads us where we go. Love doth  
 5 prais - ing for the gift of Christ, his Son. Christ doth



1 known, he a - lone calls my heart to be his own.  
 2 power, hour by hour, is my tem - ple and my tower.  
 3 rmore from his store new-born worlds rise and a - dore.  
 4 stand at his hand; joy doth wait on his com - mand.  
 5 call one and all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

Words: Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930), alt.; after Joachim Neander (1650-1680)  
 Music: *Michael*, Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, you have willed to make all things new: Grant that we may be renewed by your Holy Spirit, and may come at last to that heavenly country where your people hunger and thirst no more, and the tears are wiped away from every eye; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Intercessions**

In a world of change and hope, of fear and adventure,  
**God of possibility, be with us.**

In human rebellion and obedience, in our seeking and our finding,  
**God of promise, be with us.**

In the common life of our society, in prosperity and need,  
**God of justice, be with us.**

As your Church proclaims your goodness in words and actions,  
**God of grace, be with us.**

Among our friends and in our homes,  
**God of love, be with us.**

As we reach out to those in need,  
**God of compassion, be with us.**

In our times of joy, in our days of sorrow,  
**God of change, be with us.**

In our strengths and triumphs, in our weakness and at our death,  
**God of all, be with us.**

In your saints in glory and on the day of Christ's coming,  
**God of eternity, be with us.**

Gracious God, as we celebrate our past and rejoice in our present, we also look forward with eager eyes to the future. We pray that you would continue to make your love known among us. Give us a zeal for mission. Help us to look beyond our walls to those who do not know you. Make this community a blessing to those around us, and embolden us to move forward with strength toward what lies ahead.

And now to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

# Responsory For New Year's Eve

*sung by the sisters*

What shall we offer God today - our dreams of what we cannot see,  
Or, with eyes fastened to the past, our dread of what is yet to be?  
The God of all eternity unbound by space yet always near,  
Is present where his people meet to celebrate the coming year.

God does not share our doubts or fears, nor shrinks from the unknown or strange:  
The one who fashioned heaven and earth, makes all things new and ushers change.

Let faith or fortune rise or fall, let dreams and dread both have their day;  
Those whom God loves walk unafraid, with Christ their Guide and Christ their way.

God grant that we, in this new year, may show the world the Kingdom's face,  
And let our work and worship thrive, as signs of hope and means of grace.

*All stand for the collect.*

Let us pray.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: Let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds; that we may pass the coming year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## HYMN



1 Now greet the swift - ly chang - ing year with  
2 For Je - sus came to wage sin's war; this  
3 His love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds the  
4 With such a Lord to lead our way in  
5 "All glo - ry be to God on high and



1 joy and pen - i - tence sin - cere; re - jice, re-joyce, with  
2 Name of names for us he bore; re - jice, re-joyce, with  
3 vol - ume of a whole year's needs; re - jice, re-joyce, with  
4 haz - ard and pros - per - i - ty, what need we fear in  
5 peace on earth," the an - gels cry; re - jice, re-joyce, with



1 thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.  
2 thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.  
3 thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.  
4 earth or space in this new year of grace?  
5 thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.

Words: Slovak, 17th cent.; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda (b. 1919), alt.

Music: *Sixth Night*, Alfred V. Fedak (b. 1953), alt.

Copyright: Words: © 1969, Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. Music: © 1984, Alfred V Fedak.

## Final Prayer

May dawn find us awake and alert,  
approaching our new day with dreams, possibilities, and promises.  
May evening find us gracious and fulfilled,  
as we go into the night blessed, sheltered, and protected.  
May we know God's peace. **Amen.**

*The service concludes with the following.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all  
evermore. **Amen.**

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

---

We wish you a blessed New Year, and we thank you for your presence and participation in this service. We  
look forward to greeting you during a time of FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP in the Convent, 50 Harden Hill  
Road, out the door and to your left.

Tomorrow, January 1, 2023, is the FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS. The Holy Eucharist will be  
celebrated in the chapel at 2:00 pm. All are welcome.

OFFERINGS may be left in the bowl on the porch of the chapel. The ministry of the Sisters of Saint Margaret is  
funded through the generosity of associates, friends and visitors. We encourage and deeply appreciate your  
generosity.

If you would like to donate online, please can scan the QR code below.



*All music used and reprinted by RiteSong, a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.  
© 2022 The Society of Saint Margaret, all rights reserved.*

## **SOCIETY OF ST. MARGARET**

mission focused sisters living an ancient tradition with a modern outlook

50 Harden Hill Road  
sisters@smbos.org

Post Office Box C  
781-934-9477

Duxbury, MA 02331  
www.smbos.org

**BOSTON** ▪ **DUXBURY** ▪ **HAITI** ▪ **NEW YORK CITY**

*The Society of Saint Margaret is a Religious Order in the Episcopal Church*

