

R. R. A. T. T.

NEW YEAR EVE

New Year  
eve

London NW6 3QH

# Eucharist 2018 on a theme of Advent, and to celebrate Ianthe's 92<sup>nd</sup>

**Taize chant O Lord hear my prayer**

**Pass Galilee stone round, saying one's name and provenance**

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Litany of repentance (There should be a short pause after each response - participants take it in turn to act as reader, all responding)

Leader Our ancestors were asked to do penance in the desert to prepare for your coming on earth, O Lord. Help us, your faithful people, to turn back to God so that we may meet the light of your day

Reader Are our hearts and minds open to you, Lord?

All Help us to be ready for your coming (response throughout this litany)

Reader When can your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

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All Help us . .

Reader How much of our lives have we kept from you, O Lord?

All Help us . .

Reader Will we give up what we are doing when something else is needed?

All Help us . .

Reader Have we had the courage to proclaim that in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, bond nor free? -

All Help us..

Reader Have we colluded with the distorted view of women's role and failed to act prophetically?

All Help us . .

Reader Have we used the gifts you have given us to build up the body of Christ to its fullness?

All Help us . .

Reader Have we been ready to wander as a pilgrim searching for the truth, a foreign land?

All Help us .

Reader Have we lived as if we really expected you to return?

All Help us

**Pause for reflection** (on how far we have failed in personal or communal life)

### **General Absolution**

**Readings** 1. The desert will sing (Helder Camara, based on Isaiah 35 and Micah 4) first line read in turn round the room, all say the second line)

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The desert will sing and rejoice  
and the wilderness blossom with flowers

All will see the Lord's splendour,  
see the Lord's greatness and power

Tell everyone who is anxious:  
Be strong and don't be afraid.

The blind will be able to see:  
the deaf will be able to hear;

The lame will leap and dance  
those who can't speak will shout.

Thy will hammer their swords into ploughs  
and their spears into pruning knives;

The nations will live in peace;  
they will train for war no more.

This is the promise of God;  
God's promise will be fulfilled.

**Verse** Watchet Auf by Ann Lewin.(after hearing a Bach prelude)  
(Verses read round the room)

## Wachet Auf

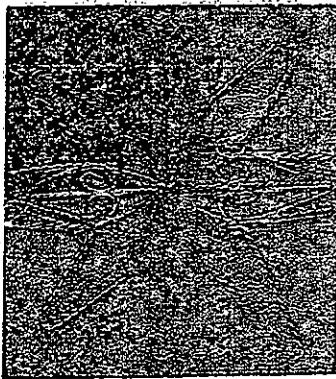
*After hearing Chorale Prelude by Bach*

Advent  
Season when  
Dual citizenship  
Holds us in  
Awkward tension.

The world, intent on  
Spending Christmas,  
Eats and drinks its way to  
Oblivion after dinner.

The Kingdom sounds  
Insistent warnings:  
Repent, be ready,  
Keep awake  
He comes.

Like some great fugue  
The themes entwine:  
The Christmas carols  
Demanding our attention



In shops and pubs,  
Bore their insistent way  
Through noise of traffic;  
Underneath, almost unheard,  
The steady, solemn theme of  
Advent.

With growing complexity,  
Clashing, bending,  
Rivals for our attention,  
Themes mingle and separate,  
Pulling us with increasing  
Urgency,  
Until in final resolution,  
The end attained,  
Harmony rests in awful  
Stillness, and  
The child is born.

All He comes,  
Both Child and Judge.

And will he find us  
Watching?

*Ann Lewin*

**O come Emmanuel (using the O antiphons)**

(on song sheet)

### 3. Prayer make us aware (Kate McIlhagga)

Prayer "Make us Aware" (Kate McIlhagga)  
(all to say last line of verses and the last verse)

Merciful God, forgive  
that we fall asleep  
when you call us to watch and pray.  
We fail to see the signs of your coming.

Christ our Saviour, forgive  
that we are not watchful  
we do not choose hope  
or plant the seeds of hopefulness.  
We fail to see the signs of your coming.

Forgiving Spirit, forgive  
that in the rush of the Christmas season  
we forget to stop and listen for the sound of angel  
voices  
we forget to stop and look for a star  
to guide us to Christ.  
We fail to see the signs of God's presence.

God over all  
Christ within us  
Spirit around us  
hear our prayer  
and send your messenger  
of peace to us and to your sleeping world.

#### Discussion (in place of Homily)

What place should Advent have in our lives?

**Prayer of the faithful** Contributed by the participants

*Touching place - song sheet (back)*

**EUCCHARISTIC Prayer of Vision** (on separate sheet

**The Active Love of God** version of Our Father (ed O Connell)

All We are asking, by the active love of God in us, to be delivered from all evil. For that to happen we must play our part: by resisting temptation; by forgiving the faults of others; by sharing our bread. These are the conditions to be fulfilled, the tasks to be carried out in the world, if the practice of God's will is to be achieved on earth as it is in heaven. Only then will God's Kingdom become a reality. Only then will God's name be kept holy in the practice of our lives. Only then will we be true sisters and brothers in our Creator.

## Sign of Peace

Song - Love -  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$

## Lamb of God

**Communion (handed round the room)**

## Silent prayer

## Final words from the Celebrant

## Ending Song

Commitment to Creation  
(Danny Boy tune)

## NEW YEAR'S EVE LITURGY

The Candle of the old year is lit.

Prayer    The opening Door - from Celtic night prayer  
(first open the door)

Reader A As we step into 1998, grant us to know the love of Christ, and in our uncertainty to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner self.

Reader O loving Creator, your ways are higher than our ways and your thoughts longer than our thoughts. You are from everlasting to everlasting and a thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone.

Reader Yet you have in love reached down to touch our little time with your eternity, and our life with life everlasting in Christ.

Reader Go with us now into the future you have in mind for us. Cast out our fear; fill us with faith and hope and love; through the grace of Jesus your Son, our Saviour.

Scripture Reading Rev 21, 1-4 (new heaven and new earth)

Song "Let there be love"

Let there be love shared among us  
let there be love in our eyes  
may now your love sweep this nation  
cause us , O Lord, to arise  
Give us a fresh understanding  
a sisterly love that is real  
let there be love shared among us  
Let there be love

in the following verses replace the underlined word with

- 2 Peace
- 3 hope
- 4 faith
- 5 joy

Prayer (from WCC Vancouver meeting Jesus Christ the  
Life of the World)

All: Creator God  
breathing your own life into our being.  
you gave us the gift of life;  
you placed us on this earth  
with its minerals and waters,  
flowers and fruits.  
living creatures of grace and beauty!

Reader Today you call us;  
Where are you; what have you done?

(silence)

All: We hide in utter shame, for we are naked  
we violate the earth and plunder it;  
we refuse to share the earth's resources;  
we seek to own what is not ours, but yours.

Forgive us, creator God, and reconcile us to your  
creation

Reader C O God of love  
You gave us the gift of peoples-  
of cultures, races and colours,  
to love, to care for, to share our lives with.

Litany

Reader At the end of one year and the beginning of the  
next, let us turn to Christ, our promise of new life, and  
ask our Saviour's help as we traverse the coming year with  
its opportunities and set backs, its hopes and fears.

Reader Give us perseverance so that we do not give up in  
the face of discouragement and difficulty

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader Help us to see you in our neighbour's need

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader Renew in us a desire to work for your kingdom on this earth

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader Show us the way to go when faced with complex decisions

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader C Let us find joy and healing in our faith in you

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader A Teach us to love ourselves and so be able to love others

All: Lord, guide us on our way.

Short silence

Song The touching place (Iona)

All say God be in my head, and in my understanding  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart and in my thinking;  
God be at my end and at my departing.

(The old candle is put out and the new one lit)

All say May your light shine before us during the coming year and help us reflect you in our lives.

*Blessing*

All: Bless, O loving Creator, this fruit of the vine we drink in celebration of the passing of the old year and the coming of the new, remembering the new wine of Cana that was given as a sign of the renewal of creation. Let us go forth rejoicing into the New Year, to love and serve the Lord.

Bless this christmas tide bread, that the food you give us may sustain us in the journey we take during this coming year. Help our pilgrimage to be fruitful, that we may grow in love for one another and for you, source of all love.

Final song ~~My shepherd is the Lord~~ (Gelineau)

*God the all Holy  
one more step (words in goose green song book)*

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Reader Yet you have in love reached down to touch our little time with your eternity, and our life with life everlasting in Christ.

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# Christmas Eve Liturgy 04

## A CAROL FOR CHRISTMAS NIGHT

1. This is the long night of white drifting snow,  
White snow that will be there till it is day,  
White moon that will be there till it is morn,  
And the bells of paradise, I heard them ring.  
Born on this night is the root of our joy,  
Gleaming this night is the sun o'er the hills;  
Gleaming this night are the shore and the sea,  
And I love my Lord Jesus above anything.
2. Eve of nativity, great mystery,  
Eve of the birth of the Virgin's own Son,  
Jesus is born on this glorious night,  
And I love my Lord Jesus above anything.  
Ere came the news that the pain had been borne,  
Ere came the message that born was her child,  
Heard was the song of the angels of peace.  
And the bells of Paradise, I heard them ring.
3. Ere it was heard that the glory had come,  
Ere it was heard that his foot had reached earth,  
Heard was the wave breaking full on the shore,  
And the bells of Paradise, I heard them ring.

Reader A Shout for joy, you heavens, for the Lord has been at work  
Shout aloud, you earth below!  
Shout for joy, you mountains,  
And you, forests and all your trees!  
For the Lord has redeemed Jacob  
And displayed his glory in Israel

Reader B On this holy night we pray to you, O Creator, to bless this tree that we have  
decorated in honour of the coming of your anointed one to bring us out of the darkness  
into the joy and light of the new Creation

(the lights on the tree are turned on)

All: Let the wilderness and the dry lands be glad  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom  
let it bring forth flowers like the lily.  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is given to it  
the beauty of Carmel and Sharon  
all shall see the glory of the Lord  
the splendour of our God,

Take courage, do not be afraid any more  
Look, your God is coming to save you.  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf shall be unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,

# Song - will you come and see the light

Brian Wren

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?  
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.  
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.  
Will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you step into the light that can free the slave?  
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.  
By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed.  
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?  
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.  
When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope alight in a young girl's eyes  
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?  
When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,  
will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?  
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,  
and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Reader C: May the light of Christ shine in our lives through all that we think and do and say.

All: Christ, come into our hearts and light our way

Reader D: May the real meaning of Christmas guide us in the coming year

All: Christ, come into our hearts and light our way

Reader B: For our sake, you emptied yourself and became vulnerable to suffering and death. May we too learn to open ourselves to the needs and suffering of others.

## Reading - Groups A & B

### Come, Christmas God

A When it's cold and wet  
and we long for the light  
come Christmas.

B Come to bring warmth and joy  
to inn-keepers and travellers  
to shepherds and kings;  
Come to bring hope and peace  
to refugees and security forces;  
Come to comfort the lonely  
and wipe the tear from the cheek  
of those who are sad.

A Immanuel - God with us  
let your light shine  
into the dark recesses  
of our minds and our cities.  
Let your warmth  
bring forth harvests of joy.  
Let your peace  
enter the hearts  
of those who struggle and plot  
for power and advantage over others.

All Come, Christmas God  
Christ Child of Bethlehem  
Spirit of wonder  
be born in us and your world  
once more  
that joy may be shared  
peace proclaimed  
and love abound:

Kate McIlhagga

## BLESSING OF THE CRIB

All Bless, Lord, this crib which has been prepared to honour Jesus, our Saviour, our brother and redeemer. Through taking on our humanity, he has brought us new life,

(the figure of the christ child is placed in the crib)

Reader Let all creation rejoice at this good news

All Blessed be God from whom all goodness comes

Reader For Christ came that we might learn your ways

All Glory to God in the highest, the bringer of peace and reconciliation

Reader As Christmas has no meaning without Easter, let us rejoice in our redemption by singing

Alleluia Amen (3 times)

Song: Roots (June Boyce Tillman)

Trees stand firm, roots reach down,  
Grounded in the earth's deep warming.

Branch and leaf stretching out  
Draw their Wisdom from connecting.

We abide in love  
Firmly found in human friendship.

We can stand unafraid  
Rooted in a God incarnate

Homeless Christ, form our roots,  
So our branches blossom freely

Christmas John Betjeman (read or Donald Swann on tape)

All greet each other with the **Peace**

**In Dulci Jubilo adapted by June Boyce-Tillman**

In dulci jubilo,  
Let love within us glow;  
See the Christ child lying  
Within praesepio,  
Who shares our joy and crying,  
Matris in gremio.  
Alpha es O.

O patris caritas  
O nati lenitas  
We were told we're guilty  
Per nostra crimina;  
But we were birthed in beauty  
Coelorum gaudia  
Our own births were blessed.

Ubi sunt gaudia  
But here with human friends;  
We hear angels singing  
Nova cantica;  
With these our songs are mingling  
In regis curia.  
We can share that joy.

## New Year's Eve Liturgy 02

### 6. All That Is Hidden (4:01)

*Cantors: Mary Blanche-Viktor,  
Kevin Walsh*

If you would follow me,  
Follow where life will lead;  
Do not look for me among the dead,  
For I am hidden in pain,  
Risen in love,  
There is no harvest  
Without sowing of grain.

*All that is hidden will be made clear,  
All that is dark now will be revealed,  
What you have heard in the dark  
Proclaim in the light;  
What you hear in whispers  
Proclaim from the house-tops.*

If you would honor me,  
Honor the least of these;  
You will not find me dressed in finery,  
My Word cries out to be heard,  
Breaks through the world:  
My Word is on your lips  
And lives in your heart.

If you would speak of me,  
Live all your life in me;  
My ways are not the ways  
That you would choose;  
My thoughts are far beyond yours,  
As heaven from earth:  
If you believe in me,  
My voice will be heard.

If you would rise with me,  
Rise through your destiny,  
Do not refuse the death  
Which brings you life,  
For as the grain in the earth  
Must die for rebirth,  
So I have planted your life  
Deep within mine.

(Text and music by Bernadette Farrell. © 1986, 1988.)

### Prayer

This is the season of hope! Let the Spirit of Hope surround you.  
Let your spirit rise to bless this new year.  
O Great Spirit of Hope, blessed be your holy seasons.  
Blessed be this season when we move to a new year.  
Blessed be this magical time for new beginnings and fond farewells.  
Blessed be this 'crack between the worlds' that we encounter at this season.  
Blessed be this threshold place of transition between inside and outside.  
Blessed be this transformation when spirits of hope and change gather.  
Blessed be this passage from past securities to uncharted uncertainties.  
Blessed be this shifting of emotions.  
Blessed be this letting go of old hurts and pains.  
Blessed be this reliable balancing act of nature.  
Blessed be this rededication of values and meaning of life.  
Oh Great Spirit of Hope, blessed be your holy season.

(Diann L. Neu)

Reader Give us perseverance so that we do not give up in the face of discouragement and difficulty

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader C Help us to see you in our neighbour's need

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader A Renew in us a desire to work for your kingdom on this earth

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader B Show us the way to go when faced with complex decisions

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader C Let us find joy and healing in our faith in you

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader A Teach us to love ourselves and so be able to love others

All: Lord, guide us on our way.

#### Short silence

#### Prayer

All: God be in my head, and in my understanding  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart and in my thinking;  
God be at my end and at my departing.

Psalm My shepherd is the Lord (Gelineau)

#### Blessing

All: Bless, O Lord, this fruit of the vine we drink in celebration of the passing of the old year and the coming of the new, remembering the new wine of Cana that was given as a sign of the renewal of creation. Let us go forth rejoicing into the New Year, to love and serve the Lord.

(The Peace is offered all round)

Reader Give us perseverance so that we do not give up in the face of discouragement and difficulty

All: Lord, guide us on our way

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#### Short silence

#### Prayer

All: God be in my head, and in my understanding  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
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(The Peace is offered all round)

# Reading Rev: 21: 2-4

## Litany

**Reader A** At the end of one year and the beginning of the next, let us turn to Christ, our promise of new life, and ask his help as we traverse the coming year with its opportunities and set backs, its hopes and fears.

**Reader B** Give us perseverance so that we do not give up in the face of discouragement and difficulty

**All:** Lord, guide us on our way

**Reader C** Help us to see you in our neighbour's need

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**Reader A** Teach us to love ourselves and so be able to love others

**All:** Lord, guide us on our way.

**A.** God of all ages, maker of time, mark of the alpha and point to the omega, Creator, Sustainer of everything living, touching us all who hold a hope with a vision that breaks through boundaries to grasp the blurred horizon. You gave your promise. A blessing of joy to those who have lost their faith in you. [Now time is poised with renewed expectation of Emmanuel, God with us. To know our time of proclaimed favour, we make again the pledge you ask: 'Share justly the good things I give you. Reconcile with peace the rule of abuse. Give courage to those who voice the words of lives that have been silenced.'

**A.** Send us to carry your 'Good News' to those burdened with debt. Transfer their chains into clasps of love, of prayer, concern and then action.

**All** Aware of your Spirit always among us, we sustain your purpose with passion. Increase our endeavour to do what you ask, that 'where there are wrongs, they be righted'. Now is the time. It will be achieved in acting justly, in loving tenderly and in walking humbly with you, our God.

(Lala Winkley, based on Matthew 11:2-5; Luke 4:17-19; Micah 6:8)

## Final prayer (All)

At the departing times,  
The coldest times  
Of our lives;  
And the times of expectancy  
At the times of intersection, when hard choices  
Have to be made  
Be with us Prince of Peace

Grant us warmth  
Grant us calm  
Grant us hope  
On our journey into the New Year

Kate McIlhaga

Final Song: Churle

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## NEW YEAR'S EVE LITURGY

<sup>adapted</sup>  
Prayer from "There's a time and place" p33-4

**Reader A** As we step into 1986, grant us to know the love of Christ, and in our uncertainty to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner self.

**Reader B** O loving Creator, your ways are higher than our ways and your thoughts longer than our thoughts. You are from everlasting to everlasting and a thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone.

**Reader C** Yet you have in love reached down to touch our little time with your eternity, and our life with life everlasting in Christ.

**Reader A** Go with us now into the future you have in mind for us.  
Cast out our fear; fill us with faith and hope and love; through the grace of Jesus your Son, our Saviour.

Scripture Reading Rev 21, 1-4 (new heaven and new earth)

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Prayer from WCC Vancouver meeting Jesus Christ the Life of the World.

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breathing your own life into our being,  
you gave us the gift of life;  
you placed us on this earth  
with its minerals and waters,  
flowers and fruits,  
living creatures of grace and beauty!

**Reader B** Today you call us;  
Where are you; what have you done?

(silence)

**All:** We hide in utter shame, for we are naked  
we violate the earth and plunder it;  
we refuse to share the earth's resources;  
we seek to own what is not ours, but yours.

Forgive us, creator God, and reconcile us to your creation

**Reader C** O God of love

You gave us the gift of peoples-  
of cultures, races and colours,  
to love, to care for, to share our lives with.

**All:** today you ask us;  
where is your brother, your sister?

(silence)

**Reader C** We hide ourselves in shame and fear;  
poverty, hunger, hatred and war rule the earth;  
the refugees, the oppressed and the voiceless cry out to you.

**All:** Forgive us, O God of love, and reconcile us to yourself and to one another.  
Teach us, O creator God of love, that the earth and all its fullness is yours.  
The world and those who dwell on it. Call us yet again to safeguard the gift  
of life.

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our promise of new life, and ask his help as we traverse the coming year with its  
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Prayer from "There's a time and place" p34

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a sisterly (or brotherly) love that is real  
let there be love shared among us  
Let there be love

in the following verses replace the underlined word with

2 Peace

3 hope

4 faith

5 joy

Prayer from WCC Vancouver meeting Jesus Christ the Life of the World.

All: Creator God  
breathing your own life into our being,  
you gave us the gift of life;  
you placed us on this earth  
with its minerals and waters,  
flowers and fruits,  
living creatures of grace and beauty!

Reader Today you call us;  
Where are you; what have you done?

(silence)

All: We hide in utter shame, for we are naked  
we violate the earth and plunder it;  
we refuse to share the earth's resources;  
we seek to own what is not ours, but yours.

Forgive us, creator God, and reconcile us to your creation

Reader C O God of love

You gave us the gift of peoples--  
of cultures, races and colours,  
to love, to care for, to share our lives with.

### Litany

Reader At the end of one year and the beginning of the next, let us turn to Christ, our promise of new life, and ask our Saviour's help as we traverse the coming year with its opportunities and set backs, its hopes and fears.

Reader Give us perseverance so that we do not give up in the face of discouragement and difficulty

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader Help us to see you in our neighbour's need

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader Renew in us a desire to work for your kingdom on this earth

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader Show us the way to go when faced with complex decisions

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader C Let us find joy and healing in our faith in you

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader A Teach us to love ourselves and so be able to love others

P

All: Lord, guide us on our way.

### Short silence

All: God be in my head, and in my understanding  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart and in my thinking;  
God be at my end and at my departing.

Psalm My shepherd is the Lord (Gelineau)

### Blessing

All: Bless, O Lord, this fruit of the vine we drink in celebration of the passing of the old year and the coming of the new, remembering the new wine of Cana that was given as a sign of the renewal of creation. Let us go forth rejoicing into the New Year, to love and serve the Lord.

(The Peace is offered all round)

## NEW YEAR'S EVE LITURGY

Prayer "God with us. Go with us" taken from "There's a Time and Place" J Wallace  
p34

Reader A As we step into 1988, grant us to know the love of Christ, and in our uncertainty to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner self.

Reader O loving Creator, your ways are higher than our ways and your thoughts longer than our thoughts. You are from everlasting to everlasting and a thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone.

Reader Yet you have in love reached down to touch our little time with your eternity, and our life with life everlasting in Christ.

Reader Go with us now into the future you have in mind for us.  
Cast out our fear; fill us with faith and hope and love; through the grace of Jesus your Son, our Saviour.

Scripture Reading Rev 21, 1-4 (new heaven and new earth)

Song "Let there be love"

Let there be love shared among us  
let there be love in our eyes  
may now your love sweep this nation  
cause us , O Lord, to arise  
Give us a fresh understanding  
a sisterly/brotherly love that is real  
let there be love shared among us  
Let there be love

in the following verses replace the underlined word with

- 2 Peace
- 3 hope
- 4 faith
- 5 joy

Prayer no 4 from WCC Vancouver meeting worship book "Jesus Christ the Life of the World".

All: Creator God  
breathing your own life into our being.  
you gave us the gift of life; .....  
:..... Call us yet again to safeguard the  
gift of life.

## Litany

Reader At the end of one year and the beginning of the next , let us turn to Christ, our promise of new life, and ask our Saviour's help as we traverse the coming year with its opportunities and set backs; its hopes and fears.

Reader Give us perseverance so that we do not give up in the face of discouragement and difficulty

All: Lord, guide us on our way

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All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader A Renew in us a desire to work for your kingdom on this earth

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader B Show us the way to go when faced with complex decisions

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader C Let us find joy and healing in our faith in you

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader A Teach us to love ourselves and so be able to love others

All: Lord, guide us on our way.

Short silence

Prayer

All: God be in my head, and in my understanding  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart and in my thinking;  
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Blessing

All: Bless, O Lord, this fruit of the vine we drink in celebration of the passing of the old year and the coming of the new, remembering the new wine of Cana that was given as a sign of the renewal of creation. Let us go forth rejoicing into the New Year, to love and serve the Lord.

(The Peace is offered all round)

## NEW YEAR'S EVE LITURGY

The Candle of the old year is lit.

*Prayer* from "There's a time and place" p34

*Reader A* As we step into 1988, grant us to know the love of Christ, uncertainty to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner self.

*Reader* O loving Creator, your ways are higher than our ways and your thoughts are higher than our thoughts. You are from everlasting to everlasting and a thousand sights are like an evening gone.

*Reader* Yet you have in love reached down to touch our little time with yours, and our life with life everlasting in Christ.

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*Song* "Let there be love"

Let there be *love* shared among us  
let there be *love* in our eyes  
may now your *love* sweep this nation  
cause us, O Lord, to arise  
Give us a fresh understanding  
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Let there be *love*

in the following verses replace the underlined word with

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flowers and fruits.  
living creatures of grace and beauty!

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Where are you; what have you done?

(silence)

*All:* We hide in utter shame, for we are naked  
we violate the earth and plunder it;  
we refuse to share the earth's resources;

# WE SING A LOVE (Tell out my soul)

Text June Boyce-Tillman

1 We sing a love that sets all people free,  
That blows like wind, that burns like scorching flame,  
Enfolds like earth, springs up like water clear.  
Come, living love, live in our hearts today.

2 We sing a love that seeks another's good,  
That longs to serve and not to count the cost,  
A love that, yielding, finds itself made new.  
Come, caring love, live in our hearts today.

3 We sing a love, unflinching, unafraid  
To be itself, despite another's wrath,  
A love that stands alone and undismayed.  
Come, strength'ning love, live in our hearts today

4 We sing a love that, wand'ring, will not rest  
Until it finds its way, its home, its source,  
Through joy and sadness pressing on refreshed  
Come, pilgrim love, live in our hearts today.

5 We sing a burning, fiery, Holy Ghost  
That seeks out shades of ancient bitterness,  
Transfig'ring these, as Christ in ev'ry heart.  
Come joyful love, live in our hearts today.

## 10. URBAN SPIRIT

1. Holy Spirit, list'ning, loving,  
Breathe within our city stress;  
Fill the hearts of all the lonely  
With a sense of loveliness;  
And enable all who listen  
To respond within your breath.

(Tape)

2. Holy Spirit, caring, sharing,  
Warm the anonymity;  
Make of labyrinthine mazes  
Patterns of community;  
And enable all the caring  
To respond within your warmth.

4. Holy Spirit, driving, powerful,  
Blow around our city towers,  
Guide the strong, support the weakened  
And direct the path of power;  
And enable all who govern  
To respond within your strength.

3. Holy Spirit, washing, cleansing,  
Flow among our city streets;  
Purify the trace of evil,  
Cleanse the structures of disease;  
And enable all reformers  
To respond within your flow.

5. Holy Spirit, singing, leaping,  
Set on fire our city's heart;  
Make of vibrant celebrations  
A pulsating, dancing art;  
And enable all creators  
To respond within your fire.

## 26. SPIRIT OF FIRE

1. Spirit of fire, you lead the way (Tape)  
Through mountain and abyss,  
A path that's safe, which we can trust  
To lead us to our bliss.

5. Spirit of fire, from you air flows,  
And rivers lead their streams;  
The character of burnished stones  
Is hidden in your dreams.

2. Holy you are in giving life  
To everything we know;  
And, holy, too because your love  
Through weeping wounds can flow.

6. Spirit of fire, you teach the wise  
Your Wisdom to employ;  
Their earnestness you purify;  
They laugh within your joy.

3. Spirit of fire, infuse our hearts  
With aromatic balm;  
Anoint our lives with healing oil;  
Preserve us from all harm.

7. Praise must be sung by all to you,  
Who are their melody;  
For you are life's symphonic song  
That fills eternity.

4. Spirit of fire, you fit us well;  
We need not be afraid;  
As your firm garment gives support  
For each one's tailor-made.

## WALK IN THE LIGHT

The Spirit lives to set us free  
walk, walk in the light  
who binds us all in unity  
walk, walk in the light

chorus Walk ~~walk~~ in the light (x3)  
walk in the light of the Lord.

Jesus promised life to all  
walk, walk in the light  
to save the lost like you and me,  
walk, walk in the light.

chorus

We know his death was not the end  
walk, walk in the light  
He gave his Spirit to be our friend  
walk, walk in the light

chorus

The Spirit lives in you and me  
walk, walk in the light  
Whose light will shine for all to see,  
walk, walk in the light.

chorus.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,  
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night, Both  
waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word  
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord  
Be thou my great parent and I thy true child  
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, not others' false praise  
Be thou my inheritance now and always,  
Be thou and thou only first in my heart,  
O sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

## Peace Flowing outward (Tune: Lord of All hopefulness)

1. Peace flowing outward and peace flowing in.  
Draw peace from the centre in which we begin;  
Find peace in the ending, the close of the day;  
Let peace in the heart, wipe the evil away.
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Draw strength from the centre in which we begin;  
Find strength in the ending, the close of the day;  
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3. Hope flowing outward .....
4. Joy flowing outward....
5. Love flowing outward.....

(New The Green Blade RyeTH tune)

1. Your supporting presence guides us through the night  
So we can approach You, sparkling Source of light;  
Shine through the mists, the dead'ning heavy clay.  
Purifying Spirit, burn the dross away.

ie.)

2. You are gentler weather after winter's rains,  
And a wayside restplace soothing journey's strains;  
Though out in front, protect us with Yourself,  
You're our Destination and the Road itself.

7BT

## WE SHALL GO OUT (Londonderry Air)

- 1 We shall go out with hope of resurrection,  
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on,  
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,  
Tales of a love that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted,  
We'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed,  
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
Within the vision of a Christ who sets us free.

- 2 We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken,  
We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed,  
We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,  
Vibrating love alive in every heart.  
We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping  
Chant hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief  
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story  
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7BT

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And enable all who listen  
To respond within your breath.

(Tape)

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Warm the anonymity;  
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(Now the Green Blade Runeth tune)

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Purifying Spirit, burn the dross away.

le.)

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JBT

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7BT

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7BT

## Poems from 'Living, Loving, Longing'

### Trees

Ann Lewin

Bare tracery against a  
Flawless sky; promise of  
Spring, sap-rising, bursting  
Into leaf; fulness of  
Flower at summer's height;  
Flowers, fruit and then  
Fulfilment in the autumn  
Fire. Symbol of life and  
Death and resurrection,  
Endlessly repeated,  
Growing to completion.

Standing deep-rooted,  
Moving with the wind,  
Offering shelter and  
Strength to all who come,  
Embodying ageless wisdom.

Here I will rest, and let the  
Silence penetrate my depths,  
Giving me timeless space  
To grow and be.

From *Watching for the Kingfisher*, 2004

### HOUSE AND HOME

#### The welcome

Mary Chowen

Oh Lord  
I welcome you  
come and stay in my home today.

May I recognise your coming  
in my friend, in my neighbour,  
or the casual caller.

I will not lock the door,  
you do not need a key.

I have a place at my table,  
laid ready for your visit . . .  
I want to share a meal with you,  
I need your company.

Welcome to you my Lord,  
my friend, my brother and casual caller.

Make my house your home today.

*Network*, October 1998

It takes hands to build a house but only hearts to build a home.  
Author unknown

## A BLESSING AS YOU JOURNEY INTO THE NEW YEAR

May your eyes be opened to the wonder of the daily miracles around you  
and your sense of mystery be deepened.

May you be aware of the light that shines in the darkness,  
and that the darkness can never put out.

May you be blessed with companions on the journey,  
friends who will listen to you and encourage you with their presence.

May you learn to live with what is unsolved in your heart,  
daring to face the questions and holding them  
until, one day, they find their answers.

May you find the still, quiet place inside yourself  
where you can know and experience the peace that passes understanding.

May love flow in you and through you to those who need your care.

May you continue to dream dreams and to reach out into the future  
with a deeper understanding of God's way for you. Amen

Lynda Wright

### The earth as mother

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

The earth is at the same time mother,  
She is mother of all  
For contained in her  
Are the seeds of all.  
The earth of humankind  
Contains moistness  
All verdancy  
All germinating power.  
It is in some many ways fruitful  
Yet it forms not only the basic  
Raw material for humankind  
But also the substance of God's Son.

### Earth

#### Her Creation

Is us and not us.

We are kin to all that lives,  
The pounding seas and breathing plants,  
The myriad species that have their being  
Giving glory to God in their very existence.  
Who are we to tear asunder  
The fragile eco-balance,  
Call down desolation  
And destruction?

I.P.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE LITURGY

Prayer from "There's a time and place" p34

Reader A As we step into 1988, grant us to know the love of Christ, and in our uncertainty to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner self.

Reader O loving Creator, your ways are higher than our ways and your thoughts longer than our thoughts. You are from everlasting to everlasting and a thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone.

Reader Yet you have in love reached down to touch our little time with your eternity, and our life with life everlasting in Christ.

Reader Go with us now into the future you have in mind for us.  
Cast out our fear; fill us with faith and hope and love; through the grace of Jesus your Son, our Saviour.

Scripture Reading Rev 21, 1-4 (new heaven and new earth)

Song "Let there be love"

Let there be love shared among us  
let there be love in our eyes  
may now your love sweep this nation  
cause us, O Lord, to arise  
Give us a fresh understanding  
a sisterly (or brotherly) love that is real  
let there be love shared among us  
Let there be love

in the following verses replace the underlined word with

2 Peace

3 hope

4 faith

5 joy

Prayer from WCC Vancouver meeting Jesus Christ the Life of the World.

All: Creator God  
breathing your own life into our being,  
you gave us the gift of life;  
you placed us on this earth  
with its minerals and waters,  
flowers and fruits,  
living creatures of grace and beauty!

Reader Today you call us;  
Where are you; what have you done?

(silence)

All: We hide in utter shame, for we are naked  
we violate the earth and plunder it;  
we refuse to share the earth's resources;  
we seek to own what is not ours, but yours.

Forgive us, creator God, and reconcile us to your creation

Reader C O God of love .

You gave us the gift of peoples-  
of cultures, races and colours,  
to love, to care for, to share our lives with.

### Litany

Reader At the end of one year and the beginning of the next , let us turn to Christ,  
our promise of new life, and ask our Saviour's help as we traverse the coming year with its  
opportunities and set backs, its hopes and fears.

Reader Give us perseverance so that we do not give up in the face of discouragement and  
difficulty

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader Help us to see you in our neighbour's need

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader Renew in us a desire to work for your kingdom on this earth

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader Show us the way to go when faced with complex decisions

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader C Let us find joy and healing in our faith in you

All: Lord, guide us on our way

Reader A Teach us to love ourselves and so be able to love others

P

All: Lord, guide us on our way.

### Short silence

All: God be in my head, and in my understanding  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart and in my thinking;  
God be at my end and at my departing.

Psalm My shepherd is the Lord (Gelineau)

### Blessing

All: Bless, O Lord, this fruit of the vine we drink in celebration of the passing of the  
old year and the coming of the new, remembering the new wine of Cana that was given as a  
sign of the renewal of creation. Let us go forth rejoicing into the New Year, to love and  
serve the Lord.

(The Peace is offered all round)

## NEW YEAR'S EVE LITURGY

*adapted*Prayer from "There's a time and place" p33-4

Reader A As we step into 1986, grant us to know the love of Christ, and in our uncertainty to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner self.

Reader B *O loving Creator*, your ways are higher than our ways and your thoughts longer than our thoughts. You are from everlasting to everlasting and a thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone.

Reader C Yet you have in love reached down to touch our little time with your eternity, and our life with life everlasting in Christ.

Reader A Go with us now into the future you have in mind for us. Cast out our fear; fill us with faith and hope and love; through the grace of Jesus your Son, our Saviour.

Scripture Reading Rev 21, 1-4 (new heaven and new earth)

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 Give us a fresh understanding  
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in the following verses replace the underlined word with

- 2 Peace
- 3 hope
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Prayer from WCC Vancouver meeting Jesus Christ the Life of the World.

All: Creator God  
 breathing your own life into our being,  
 you gave us the gift of life;  
 you placed us on this earth  
 with its minerals and waters,  
 flowers and fruits,  
 living creatures of grace and beauty!

Reader B Today you call us;  
 Where are you; what have you done?

(silence)

All: We hide in utter shame, for we are naked  
 we violate the earth and plunder it;  
 we refuse to share the earth's resources;  
 we seek to own what is not ours, but yours.

Forgive us, creator God, and reconcile us to your creation

**Reader C** O God of love

You gave us the gift of peoples-  
of cultures, races and colours,  
to love, to care for, to share our lives with.

**All:** today you ask us;  
where is your brother, your sister?

(silence)

**Reader C** We hide ourselves in shame and fear;  
poverty, hunger, hatred and war rule the earth;  
the refugees, the oppressed and the voiceless cry out to you.

**All:** Forgive us, O God of love, and reconcile us to yourself and to one another.  
Teach us, O creator God of love, that the earth and all its fullness is yours.  
The world and those who dwell on it. Call us yet again to safeguard the gift  
of life.

### Litany

**Reader A** At the end of one year and the beginning of the next, let us turn to Christ,  
our promise of new life, and ask his help as we traverse the coming year with its  
opportunities and set backs, its hopes and fears.

**Reader B** Give us perseverance so that we do not give up in the face of discouragement and  
difficulty

**All:** Lord, guide us on our way

**Reader C** Help us to see you in our neighbour's need

**All:** Lord, guide us on our way

**Reader A** Renew in us a desire to work for your kingdom on this earth

**All:** Lord, guide us on our way

**Reader B** Show us the way to go when faced with complex decisions

**All:** Lord, guide us on our way

**Reader C** Let us find joy and healing in our faith in you

**All:** Lord, guide us on our way

**Reader A** Teach us to love ourselves and so be able to love others

**All:** Lord, guide us on our way.

### Short silence

### Prayer

**All:** God be in my head, and in my understanding  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart and in my thinking;  
God be at my end and at my departing.

### 3 New Year and Epiphany

#### Setting

A large square table set in a festive manner, with a small decorated Christmas tree in the centre, and lit with many candles (low night lights).

#### Elements

A bowl of nuts and figs  
Gold foil wrapped chocolates  
Sachets of Myrrh and Frankincense  
Coloured papers and pens  
The meal had already been prepared.  
*A third of the candles were lit.*

#### Speaker 1.

Welcome to our liturgy which is a meal to celebrate the new year and the feast of the Epiphany.

*Participants, in a circle, said their names*

#### PRAYER

All This is the season of hope! Let the Spirit of Hope surround you. Let your spirit rise to bless this new year.

O Great Spirit of Hope, blessed be your holy seasons.  
Blessed be this season when we move to a new year.

Blessed be this magical time for new beginnings and fond farewells.

Blessed be this 'crack between the worlds' that we encounter at this season.

Blessed be this threshold place of transition between inside and outside.

Blessed be this transformation when spirits of hope and change gather.

Blessed be this passage from past securities to uncharted uncertainties.

Blessed be this shifting of emotions.

Blessed be this letting go of old hurts and pains.

Blessed be this reliable balancing act of nature.

Blessed be this rededication of values and meaning of life.

Oh Great Spirit of Hope, blessed be your holy season.

(Diann L Neu)