

Aveleigh's First Sunday After Christmas
December 30, 2018
Conclusion of YEAR OF THE BIBLE
Sermon: WHAT COMES NEXT
Texts: Is. 9:2, 6-7 p.742 & Luke 2:41-51 p. 1101

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, people of God. Let us give thanks for these holy days of Christmas.

People: Here we have come to worship the God of new beginnings and new opportunities.

Leader: Come, people of God. Let us celebrate and rejoice for the wondrous gifts given to us.

People: Here in our worship, we look to the future as we are filled with the gifts of Christmas: love, hope, peace, joy!

All: Now we again sing the joyous carols of Christmas and witness to our Savior's birth.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we thank you. We thank you for new life in Christ. And we thank you for your Word. It teaches us how to see things. It gives us a new perspective. We thank you for your mercy and your forgiveness. We thank you for your grace that gives us the strength to get back up when we fall. We thank you for the church and the gift of love and friendship and for brothers and sisters in Christ who can encourage us as we follow you. And we thank you Lord for inviting us to be a part of what you are doing in the world around us. And we give you thanks. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mitch's pastoral prayer.....Lord God of Christmas, we stand on the threshold of another year. We thank you for giving us another year of life. You have given us many gifts during the last year; and yet we realize that we have often failed to use those gifts or our lives as creatively and constructively as we might have.

Now give us the care to shape the moments of this next year into tender, gentle expressions of concern. May the year be fulfilled with achievements: wrongs corrected, friendships deepened, the disheartened encouraged. Help us to energize your love, even as you became love to us. For we ask these things in Jesus. Amen.

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- **1. GET A NEW PERSPECTIVE.**

“Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

“Be made new in the attitude of your minds, and put on the new self.” Ephesians 4:23-24 (NIV)

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” Colossians 3:1-3 (NIV)

- **2. IF YOU FALL DOWN, GET UP.**

“The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.” 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT)

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:15-16 (NIV)

- **3. RIDE WITH YOUR BUDDIES.**

“We should not stop gathering together with other believers, as some of you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other even more as we see the day of the Lord coming.” Hebrews 10:25 (GW)

“Let us spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” Hebrews 10:24 (NIV)

- **4. DREAM, WHAT IF? IT STARTS WITH A, WHY NOT?**

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

“God will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the kingdom of God your primary concern.” Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

My New Perspective, A DAILY SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE FOR 2019

I believe Jesus Christ died for my sins and rose again from the dead on the third day.
1 Corinthians 15:3-4

I am crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. Galatians 2:20

I count myself dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 6:1-14

I am a new creation in Christ; the old life is gone, a new life has begun. 2 Corinthians 5:17

“The Son has set me free. I am free indeed!” John 8:36

There is now no condemnation for me because I am in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1

Nothing can ever separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:38-39

My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:19

The Word of God is at work in me. 1 Thessalonians 2:13

I am being transformed into Christ’s likeness with ever increasing glory. 2 Corinthians 3:18

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13

He who began a good work in me will be faithful to complete it. Philippians 1:6

God is faithful. He will not let me be tempted beyond what I can bear. 1 Corinthians 10:13

He is able to keep me from falling. Jude 1:24

Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world. 1 John 4:4

God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7

My light and momentary troubles are achieving for me an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 2 Corinthians 4:17.

In all things God works for the good of those who love him. Romans 8:28

God is able to do immeasurably more than all I ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within me. Ephesians 3:20

God is for me! Who can be against me? Romans 8

