

January 1, 2021

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! You may want to use last week's [guide for end of year reflection](#) to keep it real as you begin this new year. Facing grief, celebrating the good, and trusting God will help us be well in 2021 no matter what the year holds. We need each other's support to grieve well, give thanks and trust God. May we be a community of Christ-followers with no need to polish up before we show up to God and to each other. To have to polish up before we show up is anti-gospel – bad news and false news.

The good news – the gospel – is that God is with us. God has come our way through Christ while we were entirely unpolished. He is not surprised by our lives. He lived a human life. He shouldered our burdens – sin – everything that isolates us from the goodness and life of God. He succumbed to our inevitable death. And he demonstrated God's superiority over death by being raised to life. When we attach to Christ – when we trust him, we are no longer cut off from God, from ourselves, or from each other. We are raised to eternal life with him, starting now.

**Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.**

On Sunday, we will look to Ephesians 1:3-14 to brag about our common Christmas presents. Regardless of your situation (financial or otherwise), these gifts have your name on them.

Please [email me](#) for a link to our Zoom service.

For this week's scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday's bulletin](#).

**Peace**

I leave you with these words from the prophet Isaiah, also part of my readings this past week: "You [God] will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself is the Rock eternal." (Isaiah 26:3-4)

God be with you.

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)