



Happy New Year! The turning over of the calendar always seems to be an important event: taking the old calendar down and transferring all the birthdays and anniversaries into the new one. We look into the future months to come and have hopes and dreams of what will happen then. Perhaps it's a special milestone for someone near and dear or it might even be a holiday long in the planning, or your first child to head off to university. Oh yes, there are many hopes, dreams, fears, and even anxieties!

Yet it is important to remember there is always one constant: the promises of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

“Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God,” (Psalm 90:1-2 ESV).

“Therefore do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!” (Luke 12:22-24 ESV).

“I will never leave you nor forsake you,” (Deuteronomy 31: 6 and Hebrews 13:5 ESV).

The hopes and dreams, the worries and anxieties of the coming year are not to be thought of as little, but rather to be placed into the hands of our ever-loving Lord Jesus. Our Triune God has loved us throughout the past years faithfully. Our Lord has seen us through all those days we'd rather forget ever happened, but more importantly He also blessed us with all those good memories and happenings we still recall with a smile and maybe even a tear of joy. So what about our future? Jesus will still be there with us in those days, too!

The great gift of the Christian Faith is that we have a God who truly cares about our every endeavour. We have a Father in heaven who made

all this earth and everything in it for our good and for our enjoyment; do we ever suppose He will forget us and leave us to fend through life on our own?

Not a chance! When our fore-parents Adam and Eve brought sin and death into the world, the entire world should have been destroyed. Yet our God is not a vindictive God; He is merciful and loving. Instead of destroying us, He rescued us!

Our greatest need for salvation from eternal damnation has been accomplished through His only-begotten Son, Jesus! That salvation event doesn't just change the timelines of history from B.C. (Before Christ) to A.D. (Anno Domini – In the year of our Lord), but it truly changes our entire future!

Christ's blood-bought gift of salvation covers us continually! We are now a creation in Jesus! Forgiven! Redeemed! Bought back to live in His grace!

We can look forward to milestone birthdays, plan trips in God's great creation to enjoy the world He made for us, eagerly take in hand a new job opportunity or educational venture, knowing that our Lord who made the heavens and the earth is with us to bless us in Christ's mercy and forgiveness. When we falter and sin, Jesus' forgiveness is there to wash us clean; when we despair, the Holy Spirit will guide us in the Holy Words of Scripture to seek the Father's face of mercy; and through it all, by God's divine providential hand, we know we live in God's eternal kingdom of grace!

Happy New Year! And may the God of all grace and mercy be with you wherever the year takes you!

In Christ's service,
Rev Joel V. Kuhl, Pastor