

Words by Minnie Louise Haskins, quoted by King George VI in his Christmas broadcast, 1939:

And I said to the man
who stood at the gate of the year:
'Give me a light
that I may tread safely into the unknown.'
And he replied:
**'Go out into the darkness
and put your hand into the hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light
and safer than a known way.'**

Now praise our God;
Our God is good, his mercy lasts for ever.

Step with confidence
through the gate of the year.
**We will seek to love and serve our God
on each and every day. Amen.**



BLESSING

God keep you in all your days.
Christ shield you in all your ways.
The Spirit bring you healing and peace.
The Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you
And pour upon you blessing and light. **Amen.**

Go in peace and in the name of the Lord,
renewed in love and service:
Thanks be to God.



The Church of
St James the Greater
Leicester



New Year Service

1st January, 2017

The Lady Chapel is in semi darkness

The congregation are seated in silence

Stand as the Officiant enters

BLESSING OF THE LIGHT

*Altar candles, & candelabra
are lit*



INTRODUCTION & OPENING PRAYERS

As we await the fulfilment
of the promise of glory, in
faith and trust we pray:

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMN NH&WS 163 Lord for the years ...

Sit

THANKSGIVING FOR THE YEAR PAST

Let us pray.

O God,
we thank you
for your patient and steadfast leading.
Help us ever to be grateful
for your covenant love.
Enable us to be the people
you desire us to be.
And beginning this night,
may we always strive to live
according to the covenant standards
you have given us. Amen.

Stand

PSALM 139 (see separate sheet)

Sit

READING Matthew 1. 18 - 25

READING Philippians 2. 1 - 11

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE NAMING OF JESUS

Stand

Hymn NH&WS 24 **Be still, my soul ...**

Sit or kneel

PRAYERS

RENEWAL OF THE COVENANT

Let us pray.

God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sins.

For the sin that has made us slow to learn from Christ, reluctant to follow him, and afraid to bear the cross.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has caused the poverty of our worship, the formality and selfishness of our prayers, our neglect of fellowship and the means of grace and our hesitating witness for Christ.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has led us to the misuse of your gifts, evade our responsibilities and fail to be good stewards of your creation.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has made us unwilling to overcome evil with good, tolerant of injustice, quick to condemn and selfish in sharing your love with others.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself, and cleanse us from all our sins. That we may behold the glory of his Son The Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Stand

Eternal God, in your faithful and enduring love you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ. In obedience we hear and accept your commands; in love we seek to do your perfect will; with joy we offer ourselves anew to you. We are no longer our own but yours.

**I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and all that I may endure;
when there is work for me
and when there is none;
when I am troubled
and when I am at peace.**

**Your will be done
when I am valued
and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment
and when it is lacking;
when I have all things
and when I have nothing.**

**I willingly offer all that I have and am
to serve you, as and when you choose.
Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
May it be so for ever.**

**Let this Covenant now made on earth
be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.**

Sit

DEALING WITH THE PAST

PAUSE for reflection

HYMN NH&WS 122

I the Lord of sea and sky ...

During which a collection is taken

Remain standing