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*Straight from the "Hart"*

December 31, 2024

**"Prepare to Own Your Faith"**

 HARTLAND

Sharing the journey  
to know, love, and serve

Welcome to Hartland UMC's "Straight from the "Hart"". We are glad you are here and participating in worship through this service script.



Donna Allmond (not pictured on piano) Kathy Novak, Randy Bell play before and after the worship service, the offering music, and accompany the music of the day.

They do this almost every week.

\* \* \*

**Affirmation for the New Year**

(All in Unison)

**God is the eternal rock.**

**From year's beginning to its end God is faithful.**

**In each day God is present.**

**In each action God comes close.**

**Through all eternity God is trustworthy;**

**Yesterday, today and forever:**

**Sustaining, enlivening, making all things new,**

**God is the eternal rock.**

"Affirmation for the New Year" by Christine Sine,  
[godspace.wordpress.com](http://godspace.wordpress.com)

**Opening Prayer**

Lord, on this New Year's Sunday when we lift our lives to you, renewing our love and commitment, come close to us, lest we wobble and fall short. We offer these gifts as we come seeking moments of awareness that you involved with our lives,

even as the year turns, we may not be entering a new time, but by your grace, perhaps we can see with new eyes and a new heart in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

loosely ad. from a portion of "I Hold My Life Up to You Now" by Ted Loder, in Guerillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle. Posted on [prayersandcreeds.wordpress.com](http://prayersandcreeds.wordpress.com)

## Call to Worship

The year has thinned. The light seems weaker. The year is tired and the season running out. Yet here we are in the place of life, for this place believes in things beyond time and season. We might live in the echo of stables and incarnation, holding onto faith in the year's last days. Yet [we come to] perform acts of renewal and rebirth, of baptism and hope, of seeking new life shaped in Jesus Christ.

So let us gather in what the world sees as the cusp of the year, yet [what we] know as another day in the eternity of love, and [let us] celebrate who we are, and who we are yet to be. Come let us be together --- and worship.

~ written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on Listening to the Stones, <http://newkilpatrickblog.typepad.com/nk-blogging/mucky-paws> Used by permission.

## Music

Like the shepherds and sages, who came to see and worship the sign of hope and help that lay in the manger, so we too are called to see in our worship the sign Christ's presence with us. Let's sing

### **We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding**

Words: Carl P Daw, Jr. © 1988 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: Roland H Pritchard; arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams

We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and holy place,  
where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God's grace.

Here we pray for a new assurance that our faith is not in vain,  
searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.

## Theme

The valley of Shechem. Because of how the sun and rains hit the mountains on either side of the valley, the mountain on one side was flush, green with plants and trees, the mountain on the other side was dry and barren. Joshua divided up the priests and half went up each mountain. Then people were gathered in the middle. The Covenant Renewal was now ready. I'm not sure if it was point-counterpoint (they went back and forth, or one side announced all, and then the other -- but the gist of it was the blessings of obeying the Lord's rules were pronounced from the

mountain that bountiful with foliage, and from the barren side, the curses, or today we would call them the natural consequences of bad choices, of choosing to go against God's loving rules. It was a powerful visual – especially for an agricultural based nation. Let's hear the essence of this story responsively.

(P – Pastor, C – Congregation)

P: The Lord said, "I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant. Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods [others] worship... and serve the Lord."

Joshua said, "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

**C: Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other Gods! We too will serve the Lord because he is our God.**

P: Now then, throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord.

**C: We will serve the Lord our God and obey Him.**

P: 2023 has brought celebrations and crises, rewards and consequences. And so, we stand at the dawn of a new year, and the will of God is once again placed before us.

Or as the Lord said it at Shechem: "This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him."

**C: We will for the Lord is our life, and he will give to us many years in the land.**

In this Christmas season, angels proclaimed peace. Peace is more than absence of war and conflict. It is a fullness, completeness, a contented satisfaction... While those who reject him will live with the consequences of that choice, those who choose to believe in and follow Jesus will receive the blessings of that choice -- salvation, and a peace that is beyond explaining and beyond imagination. Last week we heard the promises God makes in the name of Emmanuel, and of Jesus. This week begins with Mary and Joseph following their traditions and bringing the baby to the Temple for his b'rit-milah – which, traditionally includes, minimally, a circumcision which is done while certain prayers are said dedicating the baby as a covenant child of God, as well as

additional prayers, readings and blessings, an official naming of the child, (and often the parents talk about why they chose the name), and a feast follows which includes additional prayers of blessing in the grace after the meal. There were also purification rites that have to be accomplished later on. Luke seems to have lumped them all together.

### **Responsive Bible Reading 1**

Now join in on the bold font while Pat leads on the white and summarizes the events surrounding these sacred traditions in the life of Jesus.

**R:** Eight days after Christmas, Joseph and Mary took baby Jesus to Jerusalem so that he could be formally named, presented and consecrated to God, circumcised, and give an offering on behalf of the mother.



**C: This fulfills the Law of Moses.**

**R:** Simeon lived in prayerful expectancy of the "Relief of Israel". The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Lord's Christ before he died. He was led to enter the Temple just as Jesus' parents arrived to carry out these rites. Simeon took Jesus into his arms and praised God, saying:

**C: Now I've seen your promised salvation - a light revealing God to the nations, and the glory of your people.**

**R:** Then he told Mary, "This child will be a sign that is destined to cause the rising and falling of many people. Joyfully received by many, but also rejected by many to their own undoing. Through their response,

**C: God will reveal the thoughts of many hearts."**

**R:** Anna the aged prophetess was always worshiping with fasting and praying in the Temple area. Just as Simeon was blessing Joseph and Mary, she came up and broke into an anthem of praise to God.

**C: She talked about Jesus to all who were waiting for redemption through the promised King.**

(summary of Luke 2:21-38)

**Music** Simeon desired and was promised that he would see Israel's pride and joy, the Messiah, before he would be laid to rest. He saw the baby Jesus and his hope came true, and he was ready to go to God in peace, Let's sing...

**My Master, See, The Time Has Come**  
**(to tune of O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing)**

Words: Luke 2:29-32 by permission of AP Watt Ltd.

Music: Carl G. Glaser; arr. by Lowell Mason

1. My Master, see, the time has come  
to give your servant leave  
to go in peace, long waited for,  
your promise now fulfilled.
2. For I have seen salvation, Lord.  
Now may the whole world see  
that light which is your Israel's boast  
enlightening ev'ry land.



**Music** Last week, we heard about the power and promises in the name of Jesus. Let's prepare our hearts for prayer by singing His Name is Wonderful...

**His Name is Wonderful**

Words and Music: Audrey Mieir, 1959

© renewed 1987 Manna Music, Inc.

His name is wonderful, his name is wonderful,  
his name is wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.  
He is the mighty King, Master of everything;  
his name is wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.  
He's the great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages, almighty God is he;  
bow down before him, love and adore him,  
his name is wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.

**Prayers**

O God, you are King of the world and ruler of our hearts; yet you are our Covenant Friend. You have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives. We thank you for your loving care which has brought us to this time and place. You have comforted us with family and friends, you have satisfied our hungry hearts and given us your peace. You have been our light in darkness and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation. You remember us even when we forget you. You stay with us with we flee from you. When we come to our senses and return to you, you meet us with overflowing grace, patience, and forgiveness. You redeem us and give us a high calling in Jesus, and then enable it by the gift of your Spirit and the fellowship of your people in your church. **Petitions** And for these people we pray today: for those with economic challenges, \* for Jan Martin, \* for Randy Melville as

they continue with treatments and recovery, \* for peace in the world and in our lives. I know there are many others who have not been named out loud, but who are hurting in some way – those who have been or are under the weather, who are fighting temptations and vices, who are working on relationship challenges, who are facing pressures and stresses from all kinds of circumstances and forces beyond our control, but they are not beyond yours....and so Almighty God, you who search our hearts, who formed us as a people and claimed us as your own. We have come to recognize and receive your power and your grace for all our needs today, and to answer the call to live just as your Son taught us to pray.

## Lord's Prayer

### Intro to and Bible Reading 2

After Mary and Joseph fulfilled all the requirements of the Law in Jerusalem, they returned home to Nazareth. It was probably after this that the Magi arrived with their gifts. Luke does not tell us that story. Instead, he uses one transitional sentence to get us from Jesus as a baby to Jesus as a 12-year-old attending the annual trip to Jerusalem for Passover. This year's trip was significant because 12 is when boys began preparing to take their place in the religious community. The following year Jesus would have his bar mitzvah and be considered a "son of the commandment", an adult who was now responsible and accountable for his own choices and actions. Hear Luke's description of this story:



The child [Jesus] grew and became strong and filled with wisdom — God's favor was upon him. Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the festival, as custom required. But after the festival was over, when his parents returned, Jesus remained in Jerusalem. They didn't realize this; supposing that he was somewhere in the caravan, they spent a whole day on the road before they began searching for him among their relatives and friends. Failing to find him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. On the third day they found him — he was sitting in the Temple court among the rabbis, not only listening to them but questioning what they said; and everyone who heard him was astonished at his insight and his responses. When his parents saw him, they were shocked; and his mother

said to him, “Son! Why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been terribly worried looking for you!” He said to them, “Why did you have to look for me? Didn’t you know that I had to be concerning myself with my Father’s affairs?” But they didn’t understand what he meant.

So he went with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them. But his mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew both in wisdom and in stature, gaining favor both with other people and with God.

Luke 2:40-52 (CJB with formal names from NIV)

**Music** And as Jesus grew, with the passing years it became more and more clear that there was a new start in the ways of faith. And there can be a new start for anyone who needs, or chooses to have one. As we turn the corner into a new year, let’s sing...

### **This is a Day of New Beginnings**

Words: Brian Wren, 1978; alt. 1987 © 1983,1987 Hope Publishing Co

Music: Carlton R. Young, 1984 © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

1. This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.
3. Then let us, with the spirits daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.
4. Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

### **Sermon Prepare to Own Your Faith**

Last Sunday night we concluded by saying that the Light of the World has come to us in the manger, and he calls us to receive his light, but also to let that light shine through us so that we are like stars in the night of this dark world. Sometimes we do that well, sometimes, not so much.

One family treasured a very old vase that they kept on the mantle where everybody could see it. Mother came in from shopping late one afternoon. Her daughter said: "Mother, you know that vase that has been handed down from generation to generation?"

"Yes. What about it?"

"Well, this generation just dropped it."

On the other hand, there is (or was – it is an old story now) the annual lighting ceremony at the ski slope in Sun Valley, Idaho. The snow is deep and crisp, much like the cold night air. Look to the top of the mountain. You can see a faint light,

and then another and then a lot of them. Gradually, down the slope the skiers with their torches came and, as they descended, they lighted stationary torches along the way, until a lovely design of warm, glowing light stretched across the frozen snow. You cannot even glimpse the torchbearers, but you can see the progression of the light.

Hold that image as an image of the Christian faith. We ourselves may not be seen, no preacher or author or friend may lift us to a mantle or pedestal; or drop our name -- (and crashing it like the vase 😊) -- as a treasured legacy. Nevertheless, each one of us has a torch to light and a light to carry. We leave some light behind us as we go, so with others we help form the guiding path for others to move meaningfully through life, finding God's hope, peace, joy, and love.

Now that we are looking to a New Year, we want to make sure that we don't drop the torch -- the flame of faith... the Light of Christ. But exactly what is it that we are carrying? What is this light, who is this baby? Why is He so important to us?

Outside of his b'rit-milah and pre bar-mitzvah stories, there are scattered stories and legends outside the Bible about Jesus as a child and as a young man before He enters ministry. But it is hard to determine what if any were historical and what was fiction. So mostly, authoritatively, what we are left with is huge gaps and that leaves the imagination wide open as to what Jesus was really like as a child and teen.

Today's second story about going to the Temple at 12 is sandwiched between two statements which try to summarize all those years about which we know so little. God's special grace was on Jesus, and so he grew strong and wise in body and in spirit, and because of that, he was well-liked by God and by people. A generalized statement, for soon after he started ministry, we discover that he certainly wasn't well liked by all, some disliked Him so much that they put him on a cross.

Of the people who were paying attention, they were really for him, or really against him, and there wasn't a whole lot in between. He polarized people, just as Simeon prophesied in the responsive reading – with the rising and falling of many people on account of him. This Light of the world would reveal the deep thoughts of the hearts of many people – revealing how much they loved God and its resulting joy; or hated God, and the undoing that would result in their life. Therefore, the first obvious application is: Which side of the pole do we take our stand? Do our hearts speak against this sign in the manger? Or will we love him, enthrone him, and follow him still – even into 2024?



And one of the primary reasons followers follow, Luke names here, is that he was a bright boy. We value intelligence, but not when it comes with a know-it-all attitude. We enjoy people who are quirky smart, who offer relevant, interesting, helpful truth in a way that is non-offensive or demeaning.

Enter Jesus at the Passover festival. This wasn't just a popular event. Jews from all across --- everywhere, if it was at all possible, made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. They shared meals stretching on for hours. Conversations focused on theology, culture and religious life. As the annual event drew to a close, everyone headed out and traveled long distances home. Well, everyone, but Jesus. As it turns out, the only people who were carefully watching Jesus were the best and brightest of Jerusalem's religious leadership. It is interesting that the way young Jesus reveals his growing wisdom is by what questions he asked, and by how he listened. There are a couple ways to apply this:

We should listen to ourselves, and especially to our questions. When Isidor Rabi won the 1944 Nobel Prize in physics, he said he owed it all to his mother. "When we got out of school, all the mothers would ask their children what they had learned that day. My mother would inquire instead, "What did you ask today in class?"

Perhaps, if we pay attention to the questions we ask, God will reveal much about our attitudes, how mature we are, how wise we are, how spiritual we are, and if we are desiring to grow on to deeper things. Think about what questions you ask of God, others, and yourself, and what do those questions (and the way you ask them) reveal about yourself and areas for growth in your life?

A second way to look at this is this: We often ask God for answers to our questions, but do we ever stop to meditate and allow Jesus to question us? Questions that if we chose to hear and answer, we might realize how quickly he can get to the heart of the issues in our lives? and not only the issues, but also the potential solutions...

There was an unwritten rule among Chicago economists: If you have a difficult problem, you must try to solve it for at least three concentrated, focused, uninterrupted days — before you call Kevin Murphy.

Robert Topel, professor in urban and labor economics [at the University of Chicago], had such a problem, a programming issue involving job search and human capital. It was very complex with lots of conditions. He struggled with it for substantially more than three days, thought he had it licked, or at least came close, and he was proud of how he had gotten there. So, just to be sure, he called Murphy.

Topel says, “I explain the problem and he starts talking me through it. Overall, I had done quite well. But before long, Kevin Murphy mentions a few subtle aspects of the problem that I hadn’t seen. As we talk, I’m thinking, ‘Good old Kevin.’; and I imagine him sitting at his kitchen table, pencil in hand, scribbling equations on a napkin.

He’s dropped everything to help me with my problem, and in 10 minutes he’s explaining aspects of it to me that I would never have seen. Then I hear a splash, and a squeal, then another splash, and it dawns on me: There’s no pencil, no paper, no quickly scribbled equations. Kevin’s holding the phone to his left ear with his shoulder while he’s giving his kid a bath.”

Our vastly complicated and nuanced issues are simplified and solved by a Christ who can easily see through things so much more clearly than we ourselves can see it or say it. In fact, it was Kevin Murphy who said "A really smart person will come up with what you would come up with, only faster. A genius will come up with something that you would never come up with, no matter how long you worked on it. Jesus appealed to people because he was / is a practical genius.

Maybe Isaac Asimov has the best description of human genius. He said: The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is **not** “Eureka!” (I found it!) but “Hmmm, that’s funny...” When it comes to the more complicated things, more often than not, we accidentally stumble across solutions through trial and error than by a carefully crafted strategy – which not to say we should not try to plan and strategize our lives. But it does tell me that solutions will come much faster by implementing something than by only planning and talking and never implementing any of the plans, by never trying.

Wisdom is more than being smart. Ever hear someone comment: "When are we ever going to need to know this stuff? What's the point?" Wisdom, by definition, always has a point. Wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge in specific and practical ways of living.

As Jesus prepared for his bar mitzvah, it is important to realize that in rabbinical education, relatively little value was placed on possessing information *about* God and Scripture, and I say that realizing that as children, they probably know their Scripture better than many of us know ours as adults. But rabbis wanted to know if students had internalized, wrestled with, and understood the information, until they took ownership of it. It was no longer their parents’ faith they were learning; it was their own. Relevance was not in the facts, but in the application. This 12-

year-old boy didn't just know a lot about God. He knew God. And he knew what that meant for his life. In the education that was part of his divine-human experience, Jesus had personalized and internalized who God was. He was able to put a practical flesh and blood application to words that the so-called experts had heard and known, but not been able to clearly apply to life, or at least, successfully live it. They saw a glimmer in Jesus that he would become the genius of living holistically. Use the *w* or *don't* on that word, for he lived a holy life and a wholistic and fulfilling life.

Then, when Mary finally tracked him down, Jesus responded to her by asking "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house doing His business?"

Mustn't we, too? It isn't enough to be children of God, we must be about His business -- learning spiritual wisdom, which, by definition, means applying it to our life. As Jesus grew older, three things were true of him: The Bible text says (1) he increased in wisdom, (2) people liked him and (3) God was pleased with him. He was smart, he was popular, and he pleased God. So, over time, how are we doing: getting spiritually wiser? becoming more influential because of our diligent application of God's wisdom and pleasing God?

As we prepare for a New Year and perhaps making specific resolutions, what would it mean if we were to act in a similar fashion as young Jesus? What would it mean to live, not according to human expectations or cultural patterns, but according to God's questions *of* us and his solutions *for* us? What does it mean to become spiritually wiser, growing in influence, and pleasing God as we go about *his* business.

Let's consider lifting our eyes to resolutions to live in the light of divine intentions, to be a part of our heavenly Father's business for our lives.

Someone suggested this kind of a praxis: **First**, we must go deeply into the Word, to get hold of those questions we ask and are being asked -- and to let it reveal something of God and of ourselves. **Second**, we must go widely into the world, allowing God's will to work in us and through us. We cannot be a part of transforming the world unless we stand in its midst. Or to put it simply, we must get more God in us, so we can get more God out of us...

A fresh New Year lies unblemished before us. What will we resolve to begin becoming in 2024? What will we do to prepare our life for living fully for the coming year?

## Covenant Renewal

Whatever we do, and whatever happens, may we at least recognize that we are his people, and he is our God, and we will strive to do our best for him because he first has always done what is best for us. Let's prepare for this covenant renewal ceremony – abridged (because otherwise the service would probably be a couple hours long, and even though the Lions are done for the week, we probably don't want to stay that long 😊) and it is also adapted out of John Wesley's Old English. His designed this for the Methodist movement from a chapter in a Puritan book – to be a watchnight service for the new year. Of course, we already heard that the basic idea goes back at least as far as Joshua. Join me on the bold font when they appear. [Pastor puts on stole] But first, let's prepare our hearts by singing a song Charles Wesley wrote specifically for this occasion. let's sing



**Come Let Us Use the Grace Divine  
to tune: It Came Upon a Midnight clear**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1762

Music: Richard Storr Willis, 1850

1. Come, let us use the grace divine, and all with one accord,  
in a perpetual cov'nant join ourselves to Christ the Lord;  
Give up ourselves, thru Jesus' power, his name to glorify;  
and promise, in this sacred hour, for God to live and die.
2. The cov'nant we this moment make be ever kept in mind;  
we will no more our God forsake, or cast these words behind.  
We never will throw off the fear of God who hears our vow;  
and if thou art well pleased to hear, come down and meet us now.

Brothers and sisters in Christ. We are saved from sin and set apart to God. Jesus mediates our entrance into this covenant life. He seals it with his own blood that it might last forever. From time to time, we meet, as the generations before us have met to renew and reaffirm the covenant that binds us to God. Let us make this covenant of God our own: God promises to give us new life in Christ. We pledge to live not for ourselves but only for Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us. Commit yourselves to Christ.

Give yourselves to Christ that you may belong to him as his committed servants.

He has many services to be done. Some are easy, some difficult. Some are honored, some are not. Some fit with our natural tendencies and interests, some do not. In some, we may please Christ and please ourselves. But in other works of service, we can please Christ only by denying ourselves.

Deliberate, then; what it means to follow Christ, let's read responsively.

**Lord, let us be your servants. We are no longer our own. We put ourselves fully into your hands in all things.**

Trust that Christ shall give you just the right place and work. Lord, make us what you will. Put us to doing. Put us to suffering. Let us be employed for you or laid aside for you. Let us be full. Let us be empty. Let us have all things. Let us have nothing.

**We freely and with willing hearts give our lives to your pleasure and disposal.**

Christ will force no one to serve without their consent but will not accept anything less than *full* consent to *all* that he requires.

**Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.**

Carefully consider the conditions needed to make this covenant a reality in your life. (1) First, resolve to spend regular time alone with God, giving your life to Christ, confessing your sins, and choosing to follow *only* and *all* his holy laws. Earnestly seek God's special assistance and gracious acceptance of you.

**We will be clear in these things, that we will not lie to God or ourselves.**

(2) Second, resolve to practice your faith in a spirit of holy awe and reverence. (3) Third, claim God's covenant – resolve to rely on his grace and strength so you can keep your promise.

**We will not trust our own strength and power.**

(4) Fourth. Resolve to be faithful. You have given your hearts to the Lord. You have confessed with words and you have dedicated yourself to God.

**With God's power, we will never go back.**

(5) Finally, then; renew your covenant with the Lord. Humble yourselves, open your hearts, and draw near to God, who forgives our unfaithfulness in not having done his will.

**God promises mercy if we turn to him with our whole heart.**

God requires that you shall put away all idols.

**We renounce them all and will guard against any temptation that leads us away from him. We will allow no known sin into our lives.**

Through Christ, God offers to be our God. Before all heaven and earth, acknowledge him.

**We take him as our God; and promise to give up ourselves -- body, soul, mind, and strength; to serve him in holiness all the days of our lives.**

God has given his holy, just and good laws as the rule of life.

**We accept them as the rule for our words, thoughts, and actions. We promise that we will strive to order our whole lives according to his directions, and not allow ourselves to neglect anything we know to be our duty.**

The Almighty God searches and knows your heart and desires to be your covenant friend.

**To the best of our ability, we make this covenant without deceit or reservation. If any falsehood should be in it, may God guide us and help us to set it right.**

Father, Son, Holy Spirit -- has now become our Covenant Friend. And we, through his infinite grace, have become his covenant servants.

**So be it. And let the covenant we have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

**Music** Now we are going to sing what God's people have been saying since the days of Joshua – that we will resolve that there is no other God and that we will be his people who seek him above all other priorities. (and as most long time Christians have discovered – with that prioritization, life is no easier, nor tragedies necessarily avoided, (though some self-inflicted ones may be as we follow God guidance away from those errant choices, but life somehow falls into its proper place when we rush to come to and put God first in our life... the words with music are on the bulletin insert or on the TVs. If comfortable, let's stand and sing

### **I Am Resolved**

Words: Palmer Hartsough, 1886

Music: James H Fillmore, 1896

I am resolved no longer to linger, charmed by the world's delight;  
things that are higher, things that are nobler, these have allured my sight.

Refrain:

I will hasten to Him, hasten so glad and free;  
Jesus, greatest, highest, I will come to Thee.

I am resolved to go to the Savior, leaving my sin and strife;  
He is the true One, He is the just One, He has the words of life.

[Refrain]

I am resolved to follow the Savior, faithful and true each day,  
heed what he sayeth, do what he willeth; he is the living Way.

[Refrain]

**Blessing** Let us look for Christ wherever we go. Let us never stop seeking, believing that there is a light that shines in the darkness which the darkness shall not overcome. And may the love of the Creator, the joy of the Spirit, and the peace of the Christ-child be with you this New Year, and evermore.

~ by Cara Heafey, UK. Posted on Worship Words at [worshipwords.co.uk/new-year-blessing-cara-heafey-uk](http://worshipwords.co.uk/new-year-blessing-cara-heafey-uk)