



New Year's Prayer

Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-SDd73WiJs>
Blessings of Life to You (Jan Novotka)

Opening prayer:

Creator and Creative God, we come to you as one year ends and a new one begins. We thank you for your faithful love that we have experienced in so many ways this past year. We open ourselves to the blessings You are waiting to give us in the year ahead. Help us to grow in our awareness of your loving Providence, leading us and guiding us into a future that You hold in your hands. Amen.

Readings:

- *Be alert! I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*
Isaiah 43:19
- *The simplest lesson I know ... is to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow. Let us take one day in hands at a time, merely making a resolve for tomorrow, thus we may hope to get on taking short careful steps, not great strides.*
Catherine McAuley
- *Living well has something to do with the spirituality of wholeheartedness, of seeing life more as a grace than as a penance, a time to be lived with eager expectation of its goodness, not in dread of its challenges.* Joan Chittister

Personal Reflection:

1. *As I look back over 2023, what am I most grateful for? What was the most valuable lesson I learned?*
2. *As I look to 2024, what is my greatest hope? What is my greatest challenge?*

Closing Prayer:

God of all time, God of my life,
I entrust myself and this world which is of your making to your loving care and compassion. Bless all your people, especially those who do not see a future for themselves or their children. Grant that those who hold power may come to see the needs of all who live in situations of poverty, discrimination, war and violence, as well as the pain of our suffering Earth-home. Help all of us to see one another as sisters and brothers, all children of your loving heart. We ask this, confident in your love for us and for all You have created. Amen.