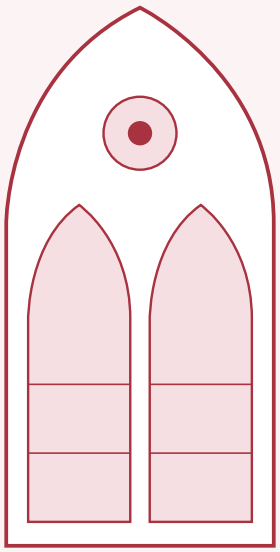
ORDER OF SERVICE

Watch night service

A 60-minute order for Thursday, December 31, 2026, from 11:00 PM to midnight, with readings, prayers and hymns.



IN THIS ORDER

Call to worship *11:00 PM, 1 minute* . . . 2
Opening hymn *11:01 PM, 4 minutes* . . . 2
A prayer of thanks for the year *11:05 PM, 1 minute* . . . 2
Psalm 90:3-12 *11:06 PM, 2 minutes* . . . 3
A time of testimony *11:08 PM, 7 minutes* . . . 3
Readings *11:15 PM, 4 minutes* . . . 4
Sermon *11:19 PM, 20 minutes* . . . 5
Hymn of response *11:39 PM, 4 minutes* . . . 5
Prayers for the year ahead *11:43 PM, 8 minutes* . . . 5
A prayer of confession *11:51 PM, 4 minutes* . . . 5
The assurance *11:55 PM, 1 minute* . . . 6
Silent prayer before midnight *11:56 PM, 4 minutes* . . . 6
The prayer at midnight *12:00 AM, 1 minute* . . . 6
Closing hymn *12:01 AM, 4 minutes* . . . 6
The blessing *12:05 AM, 1 minute* . . . 6

The leader reads the lines in regular type. The people answer with the lines in bold. Instructions are in red italic and are not read aloud.

Scripture from the Berean Standard Bible, dedicated to the public domain. Prayers by Church Posting. Any church may copy them.

churchposting.com/resources/worship/watch-night-service/

11:00 PM, 1 MINUTE

Call to worship

LEADER Lord, You have been our dwelling place through all generations.

PEOPLE **Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.**

11:01 PM, 4 MINUTES

Opening hymn

SING O God, Our Help in Ages Past

11:05 PM, 1 MINUTE

A prayer of thanks for the year

PRAYER Father, you have been our dwelling place through all generations, and through every day of this year. Thank you for food and work, for the church that prayed for us, and for every answer to prayer. Thank you most for Jesus Christ. In his name. Amen.

11:06 PM, 2 MINUTES

Psalm 90:3-12

LEADER You return man to dust, saying, “Return, O sons of mortals.”

PEOPLE **For in Your sight a thousand years are but a day that passes, or a watch of the night.**

LEADER You sweep them away in their sleep; they are like the new grass of the morning–

PEOPLE **in the morning it springs up new, but by evening it fades and withers.**

LEADER For we are consumed by Your anger and terrified by Your wrath.

PEOPLE **You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.**

LEADER For all our days decline in Your fury; we finish our years with a sigh.

PEOPLE **The length of our days is seventy years–or eighty if we are strong–yet their pride is but labor and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.**

LEADER Who knows the power of Your anger? Your wrath matches the fear You are due.

PEOPLE **So teach us to number our days, that we may present a heart of wisdom.**

11:08 PM, 7 MINUTES

A time of testimony

Three people come forward, one at a time, and each speaks for two minutes. Each says one thing God did this year.

11:15 PM, 4 MINUTES

Readings

READ ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8

1 To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven: 2 a time
to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, 3 a time to kill and a
time to heal, a time to break down and a time to build, 4 a time to weep and a time to
laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, 5 a time to cast away stones and a time to
gather stones together, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, 6 a
time to search and a time to count as lost, a time to keep and a time to discard, 7 a
time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, 8 a time to
love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

READ LAMENTATIONS 3:19-26

19 Remember my affliction and wandering, the wormwood and the gall. 20 Surely my
soul remembers and is humbled within me. 21 Yet I call this to mind, and therefore I
have hope: 22 Because of the loving devotion of the LORD we are not consumed, for
His mercies never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness!
24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him." 25 The
LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. 26 It is good to
wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

READ LUKE 12:35-40

35 Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning. 36 Then you will be like
servants waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that when
he comes and knocks, they can open the door for him at once. 37 Blessed are those
servants whom the master finds on watch when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will
dress himself to serve and will have them recline at the table, and he himself will
come and wait on them. 38 Even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night
and finds them alert, those servants will be blessed. 39 But understand this: If the
homeowner had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his
house be broken into. 40 You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at
an hour you do not expect."

11:19 PM, 20 MINUTES

Sermon

The preacher preaches on Luke 12:35-40 for twenty minutes: the servants keep their lamps burning and wait for the Master to return.

11:39 PM, 4 MINUTES

Hymn of response

SING Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand

11:43 PM, 8 MINUTES

Prayers for the year ahead

For seven minutes the people name the needs they carry into the year: work, family, health, the church and its neighbors. The leader prays for each, then prays this prayer.

PRAYER Father, we bring the year ahead to you. Provide for those who look for work, comfort the sick and grieving, and give our church courage to speak to our neighbors. Give those in authority wisdom and justice. Keep us faithful to Jesus Christ until he comes. In his name. Amen.

11:51 PM, 4 MINUTES

A prayer of confession

Three minutes of silent confession, then the prayer of confession together.

ALL PRAY **Father, we confess that this year we watched for many things and not for Christ. We trusted our plans more than your Word and loved our comfort more than your kingdom. Forgive our unbelief and hard hearts, and make us ready for your Son's return. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

11:55 PM, 1 MINUTE

The assurance

1 JOHN 1:9

> [9]If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

11:56 PM, 4 MINUTES

Silent prayer before midnight

From 11:56 PM until the clock turns at midnight, the room keeps silence. At midnight the leader prays aloud.

12:00 AM, 1 MINUTE

The prayer at midnight

PRAYER Father, the clock has turned and a new year has begun. You are God from everlasting to everlasting, and your Son reigns with you. Hold our church in your care, and keep us ready for Christ's return. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

12:01 AM, 4 MINUTES

Closing hymn

SING Now Thank We All Our God

12:05 AM, 1 MINUTE

The blessing

The pastor faces the people and gives the blessing.

NUMBERS 6:24-26

> [24]‘May the LORD bless you and keep you; [25]may the LORD cause His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; [26]may the LORD lift up His countenance toward you and give you peace.’