

Daily Devotion For January 2, 2023

“For I am with you always, even to the ends of the age.” Matthew 28:20

The New Year can often bring a mixed bag of emotions and memories for many of us. The events of 2022 including the ongoing effects of the coronavirus, high inflation, joblessness, growing homelessness and political battles created an unprecedented time of unrest and anxiety. While some may have just experienced the best year ever and look forward to an even greater one ahead, others may have just trudged through one deep struggle after another.

The turning of the calendar to a new year brings hope for things to be better, with an ache for the still-fresh wounds to slowly begin their process of healing. Praying at the start of the New Year doesn't always bring immediate change at the stroke of midnight, but it begins the opening of our hearts to God's Words of hope and peace.

Whether you've just walked through the greatest year of your life, or are incredibly glad to see this one finally over, one truth still rings clear amidst it all. You are not alone. The last words that Jesus spoke to his disciples before He ascended into heaven was “I am with you always, even to the ends of the age.”

Thought For Today: Has 2022 been an unforgettable year for you or a year that you would like to forget? As we begin a new year, remember God's promise is that he is with you always and that you will not be alone in 2023.

Today's Prayer Focus: It was shared at church yesterday that Kazuko Matsuyama passed away on New Year's Eve. Let's pray for comfort for the family and continue to pray for the many in our congregation going through times of sorrow and grief. Continue to pray for those in need of God's healing touch. Deo Volente.