

Happy New Year's!  
Celia & Pastor Ben Metz  
Stewey, Sarah & Ethan



New Year's Day, January 1, 2023

## Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

***The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul. —Gilbert K. Chesterton***

When you were a child, your parents probably made you take their hands before crossing a street, and they reminded you to “look both ways.”

New Year's Day is a good time to look both ways — backwards and forwards. What do you see when you look back on the past 365 days?

Perhaps the year 2022 seemed to go by rather quickly. As oldsters, this is a common impression. It doesn't seem to matter how we spend the time. We can waste it or put it to good use. One day, we wake up and it's a new year, and just like that — we're speeding forward into a new year!

*Tempus fugit.* Yes, time flies, but, as someone said, fortunately, you're the pilot.

Maybe. Often, I feel as though I don't have much control as to the course I am flying and that, when flying into the future, I find that the destination is always changing. Truth is, usually I am not certain about where the flight is going to end up, and I am a bit nervous about it..

This is what it is like when we try to look forward into the coming year. The writer of Ecclesiastes tells us that we can expect almost anything to happen.

As we gaze into 2023, let's remember to put the controls in the hands of the only Pilot who knows the way, who in fact once said, “I am the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6).

Edward Hopper, the 19<sup>th</sup>-century hymnwriter and pastor of the Church of Sea and Land, a church for sailors, wrote a hymn that might be in your hymnal:

*Jesus, Savior, pilot me, / Over life's tempestuous sea:  
Unknown waves before me roll, / Hiding rocks and treach'rous shoal;  
Chart and compass come from Thee — / Jesus, Savior, pilot me!*

*When at last I near the shore, / And the fearful breakers roar  
'Twixt me and the peaceful rest — Then, while leaning on Thy breast,  
May I hear Thee say to me, / “Fear not— I will pilot thee!”*

May 2023 be a year of God's richest blessings for you and those you love!

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for being at the controls, for knowing the way, for charting my course and for being my Pilot “over life's tempestuous seas.” Amen.*

