



Dear God,

Thank you for being with us today in this new year.

Perhaps some of us have made new year's resolutions to exercise more or to eat healthier or to be more industrious, resolutions that are meant to be those of self-improvement. These, of course, are worthy but perhaps, God, we could include you in some of our resolutions.

I wonder if we could consider aspiring to be better people in the Christian sense. What would happen if we tried harder to espouse the Christian virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. Could we work towards them in our personal lives this year?

Could we work towards faith in trusting you more, in giving our deepest problems over to you? And regarding hope, can we believe in and hope for everlasting life? Considering Charity, can we live lives that are more charitable and loving to others? Please help us with these resolutions for the new year.

Yesterday, the United States took over the democratic country of Venezuela. God, please show us how to protect our country in these uncertain times. Please show us how to protect our democracy, our rule of law and our natural resources. Please show us how to be more vigilant.

In this 2026, we continue to pray to you for the people of Ukraine. Please give them justice in a war they didn't start. Please give them comfort as winter closes in and electricity is short.

We also pray particularly for the people in Gaza as they see their food supplies dwindle once again, as they cope with life in sodden refugee camps and as settler violence increases in the West Bank. Please be with these people who need your help so desperately. Please show the world how to help them.

We also pray for all who are coping with illness both at home and in underdeveloped countries where help is negligible. Please be with them and their loved ones.

As we go out the door into a new week, God, let us consider a new year's resolution that we can make towards making a difference in the lives of those around us and in our relationship with you through giving greater emphasis in our lives to Faith, Hope and Love.

V. Lowenberger

January 4, 2026

