

1/5/97

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God, in these days of a new year - filled with challenge and hope, problems and potential - we come before you in gratitude for your provision and your presence. We thank you for the gift of a new year, with all the opportunities it re-  
presents - opportunities to love and be loved; opportunities to enjoy new discoveries to find and to be reminded of precious truths; opportunities to find our true and better selves even as we give ourselves in your service. We thank you most of all for your presence among us. Just as you demonstrated your blessing on Jesus at his baptism, so you have blessed us with the presence of your Spirit. May we live in faithfulness to that blessing and your presence each day during this new year, for we ask in the name of the One who blesses us day by day, even our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us when we pray to say -

Opening prayer:

God of all grace and blessing, grant that your face may shine upon us, that your way may be made known, and your people may praise you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.