



## **Sermon Notes**

**Date:** January 4, 2026 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Christmas

**Sermon Series:** A Long Obedience: Small Steps Toward a Flourishing Life

**Proclaimer:** Dr. Bob Lee

**Sermon Title:** “A New Direction for a New Year”

**Scripture(s) for Sermon:** Psalm 120

**Creative Theme:** Real change begins not with a resolution but with repentance — a God-led turning toward life and peace.

## **Reflections on Becoming Persons who Pursue Peace**

**1. Be the Change: A “No” that is a “Yes”** – Saying no to the world’s lies and saying yes to the things of God through repentance.

- Saying “no” to deceit, hurry, condemnation and hate, retaliation and noise.
- Saying “yes” to truth, prayer, honesty, love and God’s peace. In other words, saying “yes” to a life modeled after Jesus himself.

**2. Choose to Flourish:** Connect with God | Connect with Others

- Flourishing always happens in community.
- Encourage worship attendance, small groups, prayer and relationships.

**3. Be Resolute:** Determine your small wins...

- One small step toward God daily: Read your Bible every day; pray every day.
- One small step toward others daily: Seek one random act of kindness every day.
- One small step away from the world's "siren voices"<sup>1</sup> daily: Resist the quick fix; stop the clamoring; "Watch the videotape" and seek small wins.

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<sup>1</sup> Eugene Peterson, *The Contemplative Pastor*, p. 139.