Sermon: **Gospel and Hope for the New Year**
Date: **January 1, 2017**
Delivered by: **Rev. Josh Stringer**, pastor of discipleship

Bible text explored: **Psalm 130**

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!
　　²O Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
　　to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

³If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
　　O Lord, who could stand?
⁴But with you there is forgiveness,
　　that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
　　and in his word I hope;
⁶my soul waits for the Lord
　　more than watchmen for the morning,
　　more than watchmen for the morning.

⁷O Israel, hope in the LORD!
　　For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
　　and with him is plentiful redemption.
⁸And he will redeem Israel
　　from all his iniquities.　　　　[ESV]

Review and application:

Pastor Stringer candidly acknowledged wrestling, during the year just completed, with a sense of inadequacy.

1. With what "depths" experienced this past year (*v. 1*) are you still struggling? (See also Ps. 69:2.)

   Have these troubles (*v. 2*) led you to call to God for help?

2. Why (*v. 3*) must we begin by admitting that we are broken and cannot escape our record of sins on our own?

3. What (*v. 4*) about the nature of God is the only real source for hope? (See Exod. 34:6-7.)

   What quality of "fear" should grasping this forgiveness produce?

4. Why (*v. 5*) is acknowledging our dependence on God, and waiting for him to provide relief in his own time and way, an essential step of faith we must take?

   On what basis can we wait with confidence?
   (See Ps. 111:9; Isaiah 43:1-3a; Hebrews 9:12.)

5. How does this psalm's repeated line (*v. 6*) convey the difference between passive and active waiting for God's rescue operation?

6. We can make a fresh start in our lives, Pastor Josh stressed, not because of the calendar but because of the gospel. What divine attributes (*v. 7*) make this possible?

   How does verse 8 define the "plentiful" nature of God's redemption?