

CITYWEST CHURCH

04.01.26 - 10 AM

THERE IS A THRONE.

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.⁴ Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits^[a] of God.⁶ Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back.⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

“Holy, holy, holy

is the Lord God Almighty,^[b]

who was, and is, and is to come.”

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever,¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

11

“You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being.”

Every new year carries the same temptation: start by looking at ourselves. Our goals. Our fears. Our plans. Our pressures.

But Revelation begins differently. Before God ever shows John the future, He shows him the throne.

Eugene Peterson says,

“Worship is the strategy by which we interrupt our preoccupation with ourselves and attend to the presence of God.”

At the start of 2026, before anything else, God invites us to lift our eyes.

1. THERE IS A THRONE.

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

Rev 4:1-2 (NIV)

The first thing John sees isn't chaos, judgment, or fear. It's a throne, fixed, unmoved, unthreatened.

*Not an empty chair. Not a committee. Not an election cycle.
Someone is sitting on it.*

This is the steady centre of the universe.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.

Isa 6:1-2 (NIV)

Speaking of God and his great power Paul in Eph 1 :20-21 speaks of God raising Jesus from the dead and seating him at his right hand.

...and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Eph 1:20-21 (NIV)

Your year has not begun with your circumstances. It has begun with His throne.

2. HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come.”

Rev 4:8b (NIV)

*The holiness of God is not just moral purity; it is otherness.
Completely unique. Completely trustworthy. Completely above the noise.*

A.W. Tozer wrote,

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

John Calvin said,

*“Our hearts are idol factories.”
Which means: we shrink God down until He fits our anxiety.*

But Revelation refuses to shrink Him. It enlarges our vision so our faith can expand again.

The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

Psalm 99:1 (NIV)

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

Col 1:15-16 (NIV)

When you see God’s holiness, you also see His stability. He is not panicked about your year, so you don’t have to be either.

3. THE LAMB REIGNS — LOVE IS ON THE THRONE

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Rev 5:6 (NIV)

And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

Rev 5:9-10 (NIV)

This is the centre of Christianity: The One on the throne has scars.

God rules not through domination but through sacrificial love.

N.T. Wright says,

“The victory of God is the victory of the Lamb; power is redefined around the cross.”

Tim Keller said,

“You are more sinful than you could dare imagine, yet more loved than you could ever dare hope.”

The throne is occupied by mercy. By love. By One who has already gone to the lowest place.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isa 53:5-6 (NIV)

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

1 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

You start the year not trying to earn God's approval. You start with a throne already covered in grace.

*Revelation does not start with fear or confusion. It starts with worship.
With a throne. With a King who reigns through love.*

So as you enter 2026:

Lift your eyes. Fix your heart. Behold the throne.

1. Worship Instead of Worry

Worry shrinks your world to the size of your problems.
Worship enlarges your world to the size of God.

Start each day this week with one simple prayer:
“Jesus, You’re on the throne — and I trust You today.”

2. Surrender Instead of Striving

The throne tells us: You are not the centre.
And that’s good news.

Write down the one area this year you’re trying hardest to control —
and place it before God in prayer.

3. Live With Confidence, Not Uncertainty

Choose one bold step of obedience for January —
forgiveness, hospitality, generosity, a conversation, or a “yes” to God’s nudge.