



SANCTUARY REFLECTION GUIDE

January 5, 2025

Title: This Year, A Butterfly

Preacher: Rev. Chip Robertson

Scripture: Lamentations 3:22-24; Romans 8:28-30

The start of a new year is all about vision-casting for the future in our culture. We set goals, we make resolutions, and we dream about who we might be when this year comes to its end. Yet no matter how much we plan, there is always uncertainty about what awaits us in the year ahead, and navigating that can be difficult. What do we do when life doesn't go as planned? Where is God when we are wading through challenges and facing disappointment?

In Lamentations 3:22-24, we see the words of the prophet Jeremiah ringing out from a Jerusalem in ruins. Somehow, when there was every reason to despair, he still clung to hope. In this sermon, we will explore how, like Jeremiah, we can trust that God is at work in every moment—the good, bad, and mundane—transforming us into something new and giving us hope.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you about this sermon? Was there an idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. Are you a fan of making New Year's resolutions? What do you notice about our society's attitude towards resolutions and the types of resolutions we tend to make?
3. Re-read Lamentations 3:22-24 together. Jeremiah declares that God's mercy and faithfulness are new every morning, even amid Jerusalem's devastation. How do

these verses shape your view of God's character? And how can reflecting on His character give us hope in times of hardship, uncertainty, and disappointment?

4. What are the ways we try to define ourselves and our identity? How are they different from the way God sees us?
5. What does it mean to you that God uses all circumstances—good, bad, and mundane—to shape us to be more like Jesus? How might this perspective change how you view challenges or everyday routines?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

This week, we invite you to choose kindness by **doing something kind for someone who is struggling**.

Think of someone you know who is experiencing hardship and struggle. Consider bringing them a meal, writing an encouraging note, offering to pray in person with them, or anything else you think might bless them where they are. How can you stand by their side while waiting to see how God works through their challenging circumstances?