

Reflection...



I am the New Year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time. I am the next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practise what you have learned about life during the last twelve months. All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good that you tried for but didn't achieve is mine to grant. All that you dreamed but did not dare to do, all that you hoped but did not obtain, all that faith that you claimed but did not have—these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of strong purpose. I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new".

To be a Christian is to have received a new life, to have become a new life. 'The old has passed away; behold the new has come!' Through Baptism, our old selves have been buried in the tomb of Christ and we have risen with Him to newness of life. To be a Christian is to believe in the new. To be a Christian is to believe in a God of newness, perpetually active among us, forever bringing the new out of the old...to be a Christian is to dare to attempt to see as God sees.

-J. Rupp

Closing Prayer... The New Year

Faithful Companion,

In this new year I pray:

To live deeply, with purpose,

To live freely, with detachment,

To live wisely, with humility,

To live justly, with compassion,

To live lovingly, with fidelity,

To live mindfully, with awareness,

To live gratefully, with generosity,

To live fully, with enthusiasm.

Help us to hold this vision and to daily renew it in our hearts, becoming ever more one with You, our truest Selves.

All: Amen.

-J. Rupp

Out of the Ordinary

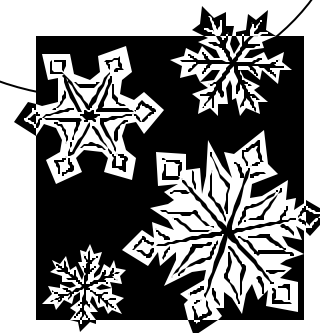


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"As you reflect on the past year, think of the new one to come, because most importantly the New Year is a time of birth, new beginnings, and the celebration of life".

-T. Addison

New Year Blessings



"Behold I make all things new..."

-Rev. 21:5



Introduction: A Time for New Beginnings

The New Year is a time for reflection as well as celebration. As you look back on the past year and all that has taken place in your life, remember:

each experience for the good that has come of it and for the knowledge you have gained.

Remember the efforts you have made and the goals you have reached.

Remember the love you have shared and the happiness you have brought.

Remember the laughter, the joy, the hard work, and the tears.

And as you reflect on the past year, also be thinking of the new one to come, because most importantly the New Year is a time of birth, new beginnings, and the celebration of life.

Opening Prayer...

Standing at the Gates of the New Year



Sacred Mystery, waiting on the threshold of this new year, You open the gates and beckon to us:

"Come! Come! Be not weary of what awaits you as you enter the unknown terrain, be not doubtful of your ability to grow from its joy and sorrows. For I am with you. I will be your Guide. I will be your Protector. You will never be alone".

Guardian of this new year, we set aside our fears, worries, concerns. We open our lives to mystery, to beauty, to hospitality, to questions, to the endless opportunity of discovering You in our relationships, and to all the silent wisps of wonder that will draw us to Your heart. We welcome Your unfailing presence and walk with hope into this new year.

All: Amen.



-J. Rupp

Out of the Ordinary

Scripture Reading...I saiah 43:14-19

Let us listen to words from the prophet I saiah.

Thus, says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior, they lie down, they cannot rise; they are extinguished, quenched like a wick; Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of the old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers of the desert.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

We invite the community at this time to share their own petitions for the new year...

"The sun is just rising on the morning of another day, the first day of the new year. What can I wish that this day, that this year, may bring to me..."

-W.R. Hunt